

Infant and Toddler

Maine Early Learning and Development Standards

Newly Released Standards



Maine Roads to Quality Professional Development Network and the Maine Office of Children and Family Services are pleased to release the *Infant and Toddler Maine Early Learning and Development Standards* (Infant Toddler MELDS). The new standards replace the previous guidelines titled *Supporting Maine's Infants & Toddlers: Guidelines for Learning and Development*. The new document includes updated content and a revised format which **aligns with the Pre-K MELDS and Maine's K-12 Learning Standards**.

The Importance of the First Three Years

The *Infant and Toddler Maine Early Learning and Development Standards* illustrates how the foundations of learning are established in the first three years of life.

Research states that supportive and stimulating environments, care provided by responsive adults, and the thoughtful planning of developmentally appropriate learning opportunities can have both short- and long-term benefits and have the potential to change the trajectory of a child's life.¹



The Infant Toddler MELDS Helps Families and Providers:

- Understand developmental milestones and a child's typical progression toward those milestones
- Recognize that infants and toddlers learn best through everyday routines and activities facilitated by a caring adult
- Support learning through play and the importance of discoveries that infants and toddlers make through play – both independently and with adult guidance
- Design inclusive environments and curriculum and build intentionality into their interactions with infants and toddlers
- Develop curriculum, conduct assessments, and provide early intervention for infants and toddlers within the larger context of Maine's learning and development standards for all children, ages birth through 12th grade

Infant Toddler MELDS Trainings

The MRTQ PDN 30-hour training *Supporting Maine's Infants and Toddlers* has been revised and will be offered in the Fall of 2021 as *Infant and Toddler Maine Early Learning Development Standards*.

The Bridge to Infant and Toddler Maine Early Learning and Development Standards (for those who have taken the previous 30-hour training) has been created as well and will be offered in July 2021.

¹ "Key Concepts—Science of Child Development." Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University, developingchild.harvard.edu/science/key-concepts/.