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# Preschool Curriculum

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## **Program Scope and Sequence:**

The SAU #19 Preschool Curriculum consists of domains and benchmarks across ages 3, 4 and 5 that identify what students should know and be able to do at a particular age. The domains and benchmarks are based upon nationally recognized developmental scales and best practices in early childhood development. The domains and benchmarks provide practical reference points for instruction and assist teachers in setting goals for what children should be challenged, encouraged and expected to achieve. Teachers should provide learning opportunities to support all children in attaining these benchmarks.

## **Philosophical Perspective:**

A positive preschool learning environment enables children to acquire social, emotional, motor and cognitive skills that are the foundations for all future learning. Such an environment is based on the following beliefs:

1. Children grow and develop at different rates. Each child's rate is separate and distinct from that of any other child.
2. Each child is unique and is appreciated and valued for his or her individuality.
3. Children are naturally curious and eager to learn.
4. Early childhood educators attempt to achieve a balance between guiding a child's learning and following a child's lead.
5. Children work and learn through play.
6. Children learn from each other, and social interaction is an important component in learning.
7. A rich learning environment designed for exploration and discovery is essential in helping young children learn basic skills. Sensory experiences and concrete materials are vital in preschool programming. They are the learning tools of the young child.
8. A variety of creative approaches to teaching and learning is appropriate in basic skill development.
9. The development of relationships between adults and children, among children, among teachers, and between families and teachers promotes a caring community of learners.

## **Resources**

The SAU #19 Preschool Curriculum is based on a nationally recognized developmental scale and current best practices for preschoolers. The Revised- Brigance Diagnostic Inventory of Early Development was used throughout this document to determine appropriate benchmarks for 3, 4 and 5 year olds. The Revised- Brigance Diagnostic Inventory of Early Development brings together child growth and development, early childhood curriculum and assessment. Publications by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) were reviewed to assist the committee in determining the philosophical perspective presented in this document. NAEYC is a national organization recognized for their commitment to the growth and development of children from birth to age 8 and is a respected leader of best practices in early childhood education.

## **Organization of the Document**

The SAU #19 Preschool Curriculum is organized into eight domains representing all areas of growth and development in young children. The format of the document is the following:

1. Domain
2. Goal
3. Purpose
5. Benchmarks

The purpose of this format is to outline performance expectations across ages 3, 4 and 5.

## **Preschool Curriculum Domains**

### **Domain I. Social Skills**

The Social Skill Domain encompasses skills such as independence, confidence, responsibility, self-discipline, attentiveness and creativity, which enable a child to function both cooperatively and independently in work and play settings.

### **Domain II. Gross Motor Skills**

The Gross Motor Domain encompasses skills such as walking, running, jumping hopping and balancing which enable a child to move effectively and efficiently within his or her environment.

### **Domain III. Fine Motor Skills**

The Fine Motor Domain encompasses skills, which require eye/finger/hand coordination such as stacking, cutting, drawing and pre-handwriting. These skills prepare a child for handwriting and other higher level fine motor activities.

### **Domain IV. Self-Help Skills**

The Self-Help Domain encompasses skills such as eating, dressing, toileting and personal hygiene, which promote a child's functioning with the greatest degree of independence.

### **Domain V. Speech and Language Skills**

The Speech and Language Domain encompasses skills such as receptive and expressive language, articulation, vocabulary development and listening skills which enable a child to effectively communicate

### **Domain VI. General Knowledge and Comprehension**

The General Knowledge Domain encompasses skills such as knowledge of body parts, colors, shapes, quantitative concepts and classification of objects. These skills lay the groundwork for literacy, math, critical thinking and problem solving.

### **Domain VII. Early Literacy Skills**

The Early Literacy Domain encompasses skills such as recognition of the alphabet, visual discrimination, auditory discrimination and invented spelling which lay the groundwork for literacy.

### **Domain VIII. Math Skills**

The Math Domain encompasses skills such as number concepts, counting, number recognition, sequencing and time which lay the foundation for higher mathematical skills.

**Preschool ~ Ages 3-5**

**Domain I: Social Skills**

**Purpose:** The child will function cooperatively and independently within a group during work and play.

**Goal:** The child will better understand his or her own feelings, needs, wants and actions.

**Play and Work Benchmarks  
Age 3-0 to 3-11 years**

B1: Takes turns with assistance

B2: Separates easily from parents

B3: Plays cooperatively with assistance

B4: Uses blocks or other objects to build more complex enclosures such as a house, barn or garage

**Play and Work Benchmarks  
Age 4-0 to 4-11 years**

B1: Initiates play with peers

B2: Reacts to disappointment/failure in an acceptable matter

B3: Complies with class rules and activities

B4: Performs simple errands

B5: Usually remains with a 10-12 minute task until it is time to quit or change

**Preschool ~ Ages 3-5**

**Domain I: Social Skills** *continued*

**Play and Work Benchmarks**  
**Age 5-0 to 5-11 years**

B1: Takes turns with adult supervision

B2: Plays cooperatively with assistance in a small group

B3: Plays cooperatively in large group games

B4: Usually offers apologies for unintentional mistakes

B5: Incorporates verbal directions into play activities

B6: Plays a pretend career/professional play role

B7: Plays cooperatively with 1 or 2 children for at least 15 minutes

B8: Remains at a 15 minute task until it is time to quit or change

**Preschool ~ Ages 3-5**

**Domain II: Gross Motor Skills**

**Purpose:** The child will move effectively and efficiently within his or her environment.

**Goal:** The child will develop motor fitness including the component areas of speed, agility, strength and balance.

**Gross Motor Benchmarks  
Age 3-0 to 3-11 years**

B1: Walks upstairs alternating feet while holding the rail

B2: Walks downstairs alternating feet while holding the rail

B3: Runs leaning forward with most of weight on the balls of the feet and arms swinging at sides

B4: Broad jumps a distance of 10 inches

B5: Hops on preferred foot 5 hops

B6: Walks balance beam using hands to aid balance

B7: Catches a bounced playground ball with both hands

B8: Throws a playground ball by holding the ball above the shoulders, using almost exclusive arm movement, with no change in feet position and with little or no body rotation

**Preschool ~ Ages 3-5**

**Domain II: Gross Motor Skills** *continued*

**Gross Motor Benchmarks**  
Age 4-0 to 4-11 years

B1: Gallops but inefficiently

B2: Jumps forward 10 times

B3: Hops on nonpreferred foot 5 hops

B4: Does a coordinated kick with good backward and forward leg swing, arm opposition (movement) and follow through

B5: Walks balance beam with hands at sides

B6: Catches a thrown playground ball with both hands and arms extended

B7: Throws a tennis ball a distance of 10 feet

**Gross Motor Benchmarks**  
Age 5-0 to 5-11 years

B1: Skips, alternating feet

B2: Jumps backward 2 consecutive times

**Preschool ~ Ages 3-5**

**Domain II: Gross Motor Skills** *continued*

B3: Hops a distance of 10 feet on preferred foot

B4: Takes 2 or more coordinated steps and kicks a playground ball

B5: Walks balance beam heel to toe

B6: Catches a bounced tennis ball with both hands

B7: Throws a tennis ball a distance of 20 feet

**Preschool ~ Ages 3-5**

**Domain III: Fine Motor Skills**

**Purpose:** The child will develop correct habits for handwriting, keyboarding, art activities and other tasks that require refined, fine motor skills.

**Goal:** The child will improve eye/finger/hands coordination.

**Fine Motor Benchmarks  
Age 3-0 to 3-11 years**

B1: Uses one hand consistently in most activities

B2: Folds paper

B3: Sorts dissimilar objects

B4: Builds a 9-block tower (1" square blocks)

B5: Holds pencil/crayon with fingers, perhaps incorrectly, with hand not fisted

B6: Draws a somewhat recognizable picture that is meaningful to the child but perhaps not to an adult

B7: Copies forms including vertical line, horizontal line and circle

B8: Cuts a piece of paper 5" square in two

Preschool ~ Ages 3-5

Domain III: Fine Motor Skills *continued*

Fine Motor Benchmarks  
Age 4-0 to 4-11 years

B1: Creases paper

B2: Builds an 11-block tower (1" square blocks)

B3: Draws names and describes recognizable picture

B4: Traces easy uppercase/ lowercase letters

B5: Copies easy uppercase/ lowercase letters

B6: Draws a person including eight body parts

B7: Copies forms including +, X and a square

B8: Cuts a 5" line within ½" limits

B9: Moves paper while cutting

B10: Cuts a 5" circle within ¼" limits

**Preschool ~ Ages 3-5**

**Domain III: Fine Motor Skills** *continued*

**Fine Motor Benchmarks**  
**Age 5-0 to 5-11 years**

B1: Builds a 12-block tower (1" square blocks)

B2: Prints lowercase letters in sequence

B3: Prints uppercase letters in sequence

B4: Copies first and last name using initial uppercase followed by lowercase letters

B5: Prints first and last name using initial uppercase followed by lowercase letters

B6: Colors within lines

B7: Grasps pencil/crayon correctly using adult grasp between thumb and fingers

B8: Draws a person including 10 body parts

B9: Copies forms including rectangle and triangle

B10: Cuts a 5" curving line within ¼" limits

**Preschool ~ Ages 3-5**

**Domain IV: Self-Help Skills**

**Purpose:** The child will function with the greatest possible degree of independence.

**Goal:** The child will develop self-help skills including the component areas of eating, dressing and undressing, toileting, grooming and hygiene.

**Self-Help Benchmarks  
Age 3-0 to 3-11 years**

B1: Spoon-feeds without spilling

B2: Uses napkin

B3: Undresses self except for more difficult pullover garments

B4: Knows what shoe goes on what foot

B5: Puts on pullover garments

B6: Dresses with little supervision other than for help with more difficult fasteners

B7: Pulls down pants when in need of toileting

B8: Urinates without toileting assistance

B9: Attempts to wipe self

B10: Flushes toilet

**Preschool ~ Ages 3-5**

**Domain IV: Self-Help Skills** *continued*

B11: Washes hands with soap without assistance

B12: Dries hands without assistance

B13: Brushes teeth with assistance

**Self-Help Benchmarks**  
**Age 4-0 to 4-11 years**

B1: Holds utensils in fingers

B2: Uses knife/craft stick for spreading

B3: Removes pull-over garments

B4: Dresses unsupervised other than help for more difficult fasteners

B5: Manages clothes adequately on own after toileting

B6: Wipes self independently

B7: Brushes teeth without assistance

Preschool ~ Ages 3-5

Domain IV: Self-Help Skills *continued*

Self-Help Benchmarks  
Age 5-0 to 5-11 years

B1: Uses knife for cutting

B2: Totally cares for toileting needs, including flushing toilet and washing and drying hands

B3: Covers mouth and nose when coughing and sneezing

B4: Wipes nose without verbal cue

**Preschool ~ Ages 3-5**

**Domain V: Speech and Language Skills**

**Purpose:** The child will participate in classroom activities, group discussions and offer his or her ideas and opinions. The child will participate in social dialogue and articulate his or her wants and needs.

**Goal:** The child will develop speech and language skills including the component areas of receptive and expressive language, articulation, vocabulary development and listening skills.

**Speech and Language Benchmarks  
Age 3-0 to 3-11 years**

B1: Develops his/her vocabulary

B2: Expresses ideas/opinions in complete sentences (4+ words)

B3: Answers who/ what/ why/ where/ when questions appropriately

B4: Relates experiences with some understanding of sequence and ending

B5: Responds with full name, gender, age and names of siblings

B6: Follows one-step directions

**Speech and Language Benchmarks  
Age 4-0 to 4-11 years**

B1: Describes differences/ similarities in objects

B2: Responds with name of town and street address

B3: Follows two-step directions

**Preschool ~ Ages 3-5**

**Domain V: Speech and Language Skills** *continued*

**Speech and Language Benchmarks**  
**Age 5-0 to 5-11 years**

B1: Expresses ideas/ opinions in complete sentences (5+ words)

B2: Participates in conversation without monopolizing it

B3: Responds with birthday and parents' names

B4: Follows three-step directions

## Preschool ~ Ages 3-5

### Domain VI: General Knowledge and Comprehension

**Purpose:** The child will develop the foundations for literacy, math, critical thinking and problem solving.

**Goal:** The child will develop knowledge and comprehension as related to books, body parts, colors, shapes, quantitative concepts, directional/positional concepts and classification of objects.

#### General Knowledge and Comprehension Benchmarks Age 3-0 to 3-11 years

B1: Describes actions depicted in pictures

B2: Takes part in reading by filling in words and phrases

B3: Receptively identifies 20 body parts

B4: Expressively names 10 body parts

B5: Matches the 11 common colors (red, blue, yellow, green, orange, purple, brown, black, pink, gray, white)

B6: Points to red, blue, yellow, green, orange

B7: Names red and blue

B8: Matches circle and square

B9: Points to a circle

**Preschool ~ Ages 3-5**

**Domain VI: General Knowledge and Comprehension** *continued*

B10: Demonstrates an understanding of the quantitative concepts:

- empty /full
- light / heavy
- short /tall
- thin /fat
- less /more
- short/ long

B11: Demonstrates an understanding of the positional concepts:

- behind/ in front of
- bottom /top
- over /under

B12: Classifies items in the following groups:

- animals
- toys
- transportation
- clothes

B13: Takes part in classroom experiences that promote:

- knowledge of "what to do" in certain situations
- knowledge of the use of certain objects

**General Knowledge and Comprehension Benchmarks**  
**Age 4-0 to 4-11 years**

B1: Gains information from books about real things

B2: Attempts to read books from memory

B3: Follows along in a book being read

B4: Tells context of a story but may confuse the facts

Preschool ~ Ages 3-5

Domain VI: General Knowledge and Comprehension *continued*

B5: Receptively identifies 25 body parts

B6: Expressively names 15 body parts

B7: Points to 11 of 11 common colors

B8: Names red, blue, yellow, green, orange, purple, brown and black

B9: Matches circle, square, triangle and rectangle

B10: Points to circle, square and triangle

B11: Names circle and square

B12: Demonstrates an understanding of the quantitative concepts:

- slow /fast
- few / many
- thin /thick
- narrow /wide

B13: Demonstrates an understanding of the positional concepts:

- up /down
- forward /backward
- away from /toward
- low /high
- above /below

B14: Classifies items in the following groups:

- food
- dishes
- people
- pets

Preschool ~ Ages 3-5

Domain VI: General Knowledge and Comprehension *continued*

General Knowledge and Comprehension Benchmarks  
Age 5-0 to 5-11 years

B1: Retells a story from a picture book with reasonable accuracy

B2: Attempts to read by looking at pictures

B3: Reads some words by sight

B4: Receptively identifies 30 body parts

B5: Expressively names 20 body parts

B6: Names 11/11 common colors

B7: Matches 6/6 shapes (circle, square, triangle, rectangle, diamond and oval)

B8: Points to 6/6 shapes

B9: Names 6/6 shapes

B10: Demonstrates an understanding of the positional concepts:

- center /corner
- right /left

B11: Classifies items in the following groups:

- numbers
- things to read
- fruits
- vegetables

**Preschool ~ Ages 3-5**

**Domain VI: General Knowledge and Comprehension** *continued*

B12: Takes part in classroom experiences that promote:

- knowledge of community helpers
- knowledge of where to go for services

**Preschool ~ Ages 3-5**

**Domain VII: Early Literacy**

**Purpose:** The child will desire to read and acquire the foundation for literacy.

**Goal:** The student will explore written material such as books and charts and participate in auditory discrimination experiences such as rhyming and invented spelling.

**Early Literacy Benchmarks  
Age 5-0 to 5-11 years**

B1: Visually discriminates between two like or different uppercase letters

B2: Recites alphabet

B3: Matches uppercase letters

B4: Points to uppercase letters named

B5: Names uppercase letters pointed to

B6: Matches lowercase letters

B7: Points to lowercase letters named

B8: Names lowercase letters pointed to

B9: Begins to recognize basic sight words (a, and, at, can, come, do, down, get, go, I, in, is, it, look, me, the, to, with, what, were)

B10: Discriminates using auditory skill between initial and final consonant sounds

**Preschool ~ Ages 3-5**

**Domain VII: Early Literacy** *continued*

B11: Discriminates using auditory skill between rhyming and non-rhyming words

B12: Produces the initial consonant sound when presented with the consonant letter

**Preschool ~ Ages 3-5**

**Domain VIII: Math Skills**

**Purpose:** The child will be aware and appreciate the usefulness of math which will lay the foundation for computation, analytical problem solving and higher mathematical skills.

**Goal:** The child will understand our numeration system and patterns of mathematics through the use of manipulatives, the calendar, graphs and other concrete materials.

**Math Skills Benchmarks  
Age 3-0 to 3-11 years**

- B1: Demonstrates number concepts
- "just one"
  - counts (1 and 2)

**Math Skills Benchmarks  
Age 4-0 to 4-11 years**

B1: Counts objects through 10

B2: Names penny, nickel and dime

B3: Knows the part of the day (morning, noon, afternoon, etc.) for specific daily activities

B4: Sequences five daily activities and tells the part of the day when each occurs

**Math Skills Benchmarks  
Age 5-0 to 5-11 years**

B1: Counts by rote to 20

B2: Recognizes numerals to 10

**Preschool ~ Ages 3-5**

**Domain VIII: Math Skills** *continued*

B4: Matches quantity with symbols to 5

B5: Writes numerals in sequence from memory to 5

B6: Differentiates between the little and the big hands on a clock

B7: Names quarter, half dollar and dollar

## References

- Bredekamp, S., & Copple, C., eds. (1997). *Developmentally Appropriate Practices in Early Childhood Programs*. Revised ed. Washington, DC: National Association for the Education of Young Children.
- Bredekamp, S., & Rosegrant, T., eds. (1992). *Reaching Potentials: Appropriate Curriculum and Assessment for Young Children*, Vol. 1. Washington, DC: National Association for the Education of Young Children.
- Bredekamp, S., & Rosegrant, T., eds. (1995). *Reaching Potentials: Appropriate Curriculum and Assessment for Young Children*, Vol. 2. Washington, DC: National Association for the Education of Young Children.
- Brigance, Albert H., (1991). *Revised Brigance Diagnostic Inventory of Early Development*. North Billerica, MA: Curriculum Associates, Inc.



## Suggested Authors and Titles for Young Children

### Author

Alexander, Martha

### Title

*Blackboard Bear*  
*Maybe a Monster*  
*No Ducks in Our Bathtub*  
*We Never Get to Do Anything*

Anno, Mitsumasa

*Anno's Alphabet*  
*Anno's Counting Book*  
*Anno's Journey*

Asch, Frank

*Happy Birthday, Moon*  
*Mooncake*  
*Sandcake*  
Other Titles

Bang, Molly

*Dawn*  
*Ten, Nine, Eight*

Bemelmans, Ludwig

*Madeline*  
Other Madeline Titles

Brett, Jan

*The Mitten*

Brown, Marc

*Arthur*  
Other Arthur Titles

Brown, Marcia

*All Butterflies*  
*Once a Mouse*  
*The Three Billy Goats Gruff*

Brown, Margaret Wise

*Four Fur Feet*  
*Good Night Moon*  
*Nibble, Nibble*  
Other Titles