

## WMELS Expands

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Big News! The Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards have been expanded! The second edition of the document is now available on the Wisconsin Early Childhood Collaborating Partners web page:

[http://www.collaboratingpartners.com/EarlyLS\\_docs.htm](http://www.collaboratingpartners.com/EarlyLS_docs.htm) in a PDF format. It is also available for purchase from the Wisconsin Child Care Information Center at a cost of \$3.00 per book, with a minimum order of 3 copies for a total cost of \$9.00. This price will allow the book to continue to be printed, and to be available to the early care and education workforce. Books can be ordered at:

Wisconsin Child Care Information Center

2109 S. Stoughton Road

Madison, WI 53716

[ccic@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:ccic@dpi.wi.gov)

1-800-362-7353 or 608-224-5388



The Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards include developmental domains, developmental sub-domains, developmental expectations, performance standards, and include a new developmental continuum, samples of child activities and sample adult strategies. The second edition has been broadened to provide standards for children birth to first grade. This new second edition clearly identifies how the standards are intended to be used, and how they should NOT be used.

The new developmental continuum provides a predictable but not rigid sequence of accomplishments which describes the progressive levels of performance in the order in which they emerge in most children, based on current research. The developmental continuums begin at an early developmental level and continue through developmental levels that would be typical to first grade. Observable “samples” of what children might do as they demonstrate accomplishments at each level of the developmental continuum are included for each of the developmental continuums linked to each performance standard. Sample strategies of what adults might do to assist the child to gain knowledge or learn skills at each level of the developmental continuum are included as well.

An expanded resource section has also been included for parents and child care teachers and providers. The appendix section now includes information on how the Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards align with the Wisconsin Model Academic Standards, and a section on IDEA Early Childhood Outcomes.

Feedback on the new standards can be submitted via the feedback form that will be included on the Wisconsin Early Childhood Collaborating Partners (WECCP) web page shortly. In addition to this feedback form, other new materials that will be housed on the WECCP web page include the 2007 training report summary, updated WMELS regional training opportunities, approved WMELS trainer listings, and updated materials for approved trainers.

The Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards Steering Committee, and the early childhood consultants that worked tirelessly on the enhancements to the second edition of the standards believe that this tool will provide exciting opportunities for promoting dialogue across settings and can become a basis for conversation and learning opportunities. The standards can inform the development of program standards across early learning environments, and provide opportunities for local communities to develop local benchmarks, and make decisions about the curriculum and assessment tools that will be used in individual programs. Our hope is that this second edition will be useful to communities and programs to create quality early care and education environments that promote early learning. ☺