



Family Child Care Developmentally Appropriate Practices – Trainings

The Core Knowledge and Competencies for Early Childhood Professional identify specific knowledge areas that a professional must have and be able to apply when working with diverse children and their families and offer a framework for developing skills and continuing professional growth in offering quality early learning experiences for young children. Within each competency area are several topics that are available through Grow NJ Kids, your local Child Care Resource and Referral Agency (CCR&R), Child Care Aware, National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC), and through other state and local child care associations (NAEYC, NJAEYC). The Core Knowledge and specific topics within each area that directly relate to Family Child Care (FCC) Developmentally Appropriate Practices (DAP) are listed below.

Providers are encouraged to read through course descriptions when choosing trainings in the various core knowledge areas, as well as, utilize resources available within the QRIS system, in order to identify training that will support continuous quality improvement efforts and the particular ages the program serves.

In order to achieve a star rating, you must meet the following requirements:

- 3-Star Rating**
 - A minimum of five training hours in at least two core knowledge areas
 - One training must be in the topic area of “Physical Environment” under the Core Knowledge area: Learning Environment and Curriculum.
 - Training must have been completed within one year of the star rating application date

- 4-Star Rating**
 - A minimum of 10 training hours on at least three core Knowledge areas
 - One training must be in the topic area of “Physical Environment” under the Core Knowledge area: Learning Environment and Curriculum.
 - Training must have been completed within one year of the star rating application date

- 5-Star Rating**
 - A minimum of 20 training hours on at least 10 training topics
 - Required training topics include “Physical Environment” and “Language Arts and Literacy” under the Core Knowledge area: Learning Environment and Curriculum.
 - At least 10 training hours must have been completed in topics listed under Core Knowledge areas: Learning Environment and Curriculum and Child Growth and Development.
 - Training must have been completed within three years of the star rating application date



Core Knowledge Areas and Training Topics

The Core Knowledge areas listed below focus on Family Child Care (FCC) Developmentally Appropriate Practices (DAP) and may be used by Family Child Care providers to identify training that meets the requirements for GNJK standards: 2.3.2; 2.4.1; 2.5.1. Providers can search for training by specific Core Knowledge areas and review course descriptions to ensure specific training topics meet star rating requirements and their own professional development needs. Training topics should support providers in their work with children from birth through preschool as the age range of the children in care will vary.

Core Knowledge Area: Child Growth and Development

- Topics:**
- Theories and principles of child development
 - Interplay of multiple influences
 - Typical and atypical development
 - Play
 - Developmentally appropriate practices to support development

Core Knowledge Area: Family and Community Relationships

- Topics:**
- Family characteristics and influences
 - Respectful and reciprocal relationships with families
 - Family involvement
 - Community collaboration and relationships

Core Knowledge Area: Learning Environment and Curriculum

- Topics:**
- Physical environment
 - Materials and equipment
 - Curriculum: Philosophy, framework, and standards
 - Social and emotional development
 - Visual and performing arts
 - Language arts and literacy
 - Math and science
 - Social studies, family and life skills
 - Health, nutrition and physical education

Core Knowledge Area: Teaching-Learning Interactions and Approaches

- Topics:**
- Responsive relationships
 - Adult-child and peer interactions
 - Play-based approaches
 - Teaching-learning strategies
 - Developmentally appropriate guidance



Core Knowledge Area: Child Assessment

- Topics:**
- Principles of observation and assessment of children
 - Observation and assessment techniques and tools
 - Using child assessment information
 - Reporting and sharing assessment information

Core Knowledge Area: Child Wellness: Health, Safety, Nutrition and Physical Activity

- Topics:**
- Indoor and outdoor safety
 - Health and safety standards and program practices
 - Child abuse and neglect
 - Child and adult mental health
 - Nutritional needs of children

Core Knowledge Area: Serving Diverse Populations

- Topics:**
- Cultural, social and linguistic diversity
 - English language learners (dual language learners)
 - Children with special needs
 - Anti-bias practices

Star Rating Information

When you are ready to apply for a Grow NJ Kids star rating – you will need to provide evidence (or proof) that you have completed the required trainings.

Evidence (or proof) of your completion of a required training can be:

- Your training transcript from the NJ Workforce Registry
- The training certificate you received when you completed a training (in-person or online)

You may need to submit this evidence (or proof) electronically when you submit your rating paperwork, or you may be required to show the evidence (or proof) to the Reliable Rater during the on-site rating visit.