

Early Childhood Coordinating Council

Pre-K Education

Working Definition and Talking Points

Approved 5/1/2014

All Idaho children have access to an inclusive, high quality, evidence-based, age appropriate, education and development program for 3, 4, and 5 year olds that includes the whole child for ultimate preparation for success in life.

Pre-K allows parents/families to advocate for their children.

Pre-K allows parent/family choice to provide a comparable education.

Pre-K provides resources for families.

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The National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) <http://nieer.org/research/state-pre-k-evaluations> has developed a 10-point quality standard checklist for evaluating pre-K programs:

1. Comprehensive early learning standards
2. Lead teacher must have a BA degree
3. Lead teacher must have a specialization in early childhood education
4. Assistant teachers must have a CDA equivalent
5. Teachers must complete at least 15 hours of in-service training each year
6. Maximum class size of 20
7. Staff-child ratio of 1:10 or better
8. Vision, hearing, and health screening and referral are required, along with at least one family support service
9. At least one meal per day is offered
10. Required site visits by state monitors”

To read an article posted on the NAEYC website about pre-K please use the following link.

<http://www.naeyc.org/files/tyc/file/PreK-WhatExactlyIsIt.pdf>.

More research can be provided by request.