



## ECE Competency Key Concepts from “Why Quality?” Training Series

**ECE Competency list:** The California Early Childhood Educator (ECE) Competencies describe the knowledge, skills and dispositions that early childhood educators need in order to provide high quality care and education to young children and their families. The California ECE Competencies are organized into twelve overlapping areas:

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| ■ Child Development and Learning                       | ■ Special Needs and Inclusion             |
| ■ Culture, Diversity and Equity                        | ■ Learning Environments and Curriculum    |
| ■ Relationships, Interactions and Guidance             | ■ Health, Safety and Nutrition            |
| ■ Family and Community Engagement                      | ■ Leadership in Early Childhood Education |
| ■ Dual-Language Development                            | ■ Professionalism                         |
| ■ Observation, Screening, Assessment and Documentation | ■ Administration and Supervision          |

### Child Development and Learning

- The interrelatedness of developmental domains
- The significance of relationships in supporting children’s healthy development and learning
- The sequential nature and individual variability of early childhood development
- The role of play as a key context for development and learning

### Culture Diversity & Equity

- How culture shapes a person’s values, beliefs, worldview, experiences, and behavior
- How values and beliefs influence child-rearing practices, teaching practices and family–school interactions for children of all abilities
- How equitable practices provide meaningful learning experiences and support a sense of identity, belonging, and self-esteem
- How sensitivity to culture, diversity and equity supports the engagement of families in everyday learning experiences

### Relationship, Interactions, and Guidance

- How socialization and guidance are ongoing processes that include a variety of strategies to help children learn appropriate behaviors and problem-solving techniques
- Why relationships with families are crucial to building relationships with children
- How children’s development and learning is aided by supportive, consistent, and responsive relationships
- How positive interactions and guidance help children build competence in solving problems

For more information on ECE Competency Key Concepts visit [ececampsat.org](http://ececampsat.org)!



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### Family and Community Engagement

- Acknowledgment that children develop in the context of families and communities
- Building relationships with families is an integral part of competent and professional early childhood practice
- Providing information about community resources is an important component of supporting families

### Dual Language Development

- Acknowledgment of young children's ability to develop proficiency in both English and the home language
- Recognition of the home language as the vehicle by which children are socialized into their families and communities
- Understanding that a multilingual environment that is reflective of a child's culture creates a positive learning environment in support of language and literacy development for children and adults

### Observation, Screening, Assessment, and Documentation

- An understanding of the goals, uses, benefits, and limitations of various assessment approaches
- The importance of, and strategies for, working with families when using observation, screening and assessment
- Principles of developmentally appropriate, culturally and linguistically sensitive, individually meaningful observation, screening and assessment
- The relationship between observation, screening, assessment and decision making and planning
- Confidentiality and privacy

### Special Needs and Inclusion

- Policies and requirements for inclusive practice
- Program philosophies that promote full participation by all children
- Collaboration with families and other service providers
- Personalization of practices to meet children's individual and family needs

### Learning Environment and Curriculum

- How environments promote exploration, discovery, learning, health and safety for all children
- Understanding that curriculum includes personal-care routines, schedules, environments and interactions that meet children's individual needs and reflect diverse perspectives and interests
- How curriculum supports children's learning and development by incorporating their interests and experiences and encouraging their curiosity

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### Health, Safety and Nutrition

- Children have individual health, safety, nutrition and physical requirements.
- Families have different values, beliefs, and practices about health, safety and nutrition.
- Health, safety, and nutrition policies and practices are designed to keep children and adults safe and healthy.
- Young children are best supported through efforts to promote their resilience and reduce their risk.

### Leadership in Early Childhood Education

- Understanding that the quality of any profession or organization depends on the quality of its leaders.
- Recognizing the demands facing today’s early childhood educators, and honing the skills to identify opportunities in cultivating leaders at all levels within the profession.
- How leadership requires understanding that Early Care and Education is part of a larger system beyond individual programs.
- The importance of having knowledge of the existing complex issues that impact the profession to improve the quality of early care and education services.
- And how leaders working collaboratively across many types of services is imperative for developing an improved system that ensures the success of all children and families.

### Professionalism

- The benefit children receive from high-quality experiences and environments in the context of secure relationships with capable, educated professionals.
- The importance that professionals are knowledgeable, operate with integrity, and follow ethical standards.
- How a shared and specialized body of knowledge grounded in child development informs professional practice.
- The critical work that early childhood education professionals perform that impacts society, and the importance for them to understand their role as professionals.

### Administration and Supervision

- How effective administrative practices are crucial for ensuring high-quality outcomes for children and families.
- The fact that effective administrative systems and practices are needed to sustain high-quality interactions and learning environments.