

Proposed Teaching Performance Expectations for PK-3 ECE Specialist Instruction Preliminary Credential Candidates

Domain 7: Effective Literacy Instruction in PK-3 Settings

- 7.1 Plan and implement evidence-based literacy^{1 2} instruction appropriate to children’s age, grade, and development (including children’s linguistic, cognitive, and social strengths) that is grounded in an understanding of California’s English Language Arts and Literacy Standards, English Language Development Standards, and Preschool Learning Foundations; the themes of the *English Language Arts/English Language Development Framework* (Foundational Skills, Meaning Making, Language Development, Effective Expression, and Content Knowledge) and their integration; and the *Preschool Curriculum Framework*.
- 7.2 Plan and implement evidence-based literacy instruction appropriate to children’s age, grade, and development (including children’s linguistic, cognitive, and social strengths) that is grounded in an understanding of Universal Design for Learning; California’s Multi-Tiered System of Support (Tier 1—Best first instruction, Tier 2—Targeted, supplemental instruction, and Tier 3—Referrals for intensive intervention); and the *California Dyslexia Guidelines*, including the definition and characteristics of dyslexia and structured literacy (i.e., instruction for children at risk for and with dyslexia that is comprehensive, systematic, explicit, cumulative, and multimodal and that includes phonology, orthography, phonics, morphology, syntax, and semantics).
- 7.3 Incorporate asset-based pedagogies³ and inclusive approaches and culturally and linguistically affirming and sustaining practices in literacy instruction, recognizing and

¹ Literacy comprises reading, writing, speaking, and listening; these processes are closely intertwined and should be understood to include oral, written, multimodal, and visual communication. The themes of the *ELA/ELD Framework* (Foundational Skills, Meaning Making, Language Development, Effective Expression, and Content Knowledge) crosscut the four strands of the ELA/literacy standards (Reading [Literature, Informational Text, Foundational Skills], Writing, Speaking and Listening, and Language) and the three parts of the ELD standards (Interacting in Meaningful Ways [Communicative Modes], Learning About How English Works [Language Processes], and Using Foundational Literacy Skills). In practice, these themes and standards are overlapping and should be integrated.

² For children with disabilities the terms reading, writing, listening, and speaking should be broadly interpreted. For example, reading could include the use of braille, screen-reader technology, or other communication technologies or assistive devices, while writing could include the use of a scribe, computer, or speech to text technology. In a similar vein, speaking and listening could include American Sign Language, sign-supported speech, or other means of communication.

³[Asset-based pedagogies](#) view the diversity that children bring to the classroom, including culture, language, disability, socio-economic status, immigration status, and sexuality as characteristics that add value and strength to classrooms and communities. Culturally relevant pedagogy, culturally responsive teaching, culturally sustaining pedagogy, and funds of knowledge are all approaches that affirm children’s cultural lives—both family and community—and incorporate this knowledge into the classroom and collectively deem children’s lived experiences as assets. These practices affirm the diversity that children bring to the classroom and include instructional approaches that leverage the cultural and linguistic experiences of children to make learning more relevant and effective.

incorporating the diversity of children’s cultures, languages, dialects, and home communities. Promote children’s literacy development in languages other than English in multilingual (dual language and bilingual education) programs.⁴

- 7.4 Provide literacy instruction for all children that is active, motivating, and engaging; responsive to children’s age, language and literacy development, and literacy goals; reflective of family engagement, social and emotional learning, and trauma-informed practices; and based on children’s assessed learning strengths and needs, analysis of instructional materials and tasks, and identified academic standards. Create literacy environments for young children that encourage active, playful exploration; interaction with others; child-initiated, self-directed activities; and imaginative and dramatic play.
- 7.5 **Foundational Skills.**⁵ Develop children’s foundational skills according to standards and expectations specified for children’s age and grade. Develop children’s skills in print concepts, including letters of the alphabet; phonological awareness, including phonemic awareness; phonics, spelling, and word recognition, including letter-sound, spelling-sound, and sound-symbol correspondences; decoding and encoding; morphological awareness; and text reading fluency, including accuracy, prosody (expression), and rate (as an indicator of automaticity), through instruction that structured and organized as well as direct, systematic, and explicit and that includes practice in connected, decodable text. Create literacy environments that are print rich and that foster interest in print; engage young children actively and deliberately with games, books, poetry, oral storytelling, and songs that draw their attention to print, the manipulation of sounds, and alphabet letters. Provide instruction in text reading fluency that emphasizes spelling and syllable patterns, semantics, morphology, and syntax. Advance children’s progress in the elements of foundational skills, language, and cognitive skills that support them as they read and write increasingly complex disciplinary texts with comprehension and effective expression.
- 7.6 **Meaning Making.** Engage children in meaning making by building on prior knowledge and using age-appropriate literary and informational texts (print, digital, and oral) that are appropriately complex and that mirror children’s backgrounds, including their cultures, languages, genders, and abilities. Engage children in questioning and discussion to develop their literal and inferential comprehension, including the higher-order cognitive skills of reasoning, perspective taking, and critical listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Engage children in reading, listening, speaking, writing, and viewing closely to draw information from texts, ask and answer questions, and support analysis, reflection, and research. Ensure that literacy experiences for young children include reading aloud,

⁴ See updated [Bilingual Authorization Program Standards and new Bilingual Teaching Performance Expectations](#) for program standards and teaching expectations specific to multilingual programs.

⁵ See also the [Resource Guide to Foundational Skills of the California Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts](#).

modeling, and assisting children in making predictions, retelling and reenacting, and responding to and generating questions about stories, picture books, and other texts.

- 7.7 **Language Development.** Promote children’s oral and written language development by providing rich exposure to and experience with varied forms of language and responding attentively to children’s language use. Develop children’s language by attending to vocabulary knowledge and use, grammatical structures (e.g., syntax), and discourse-level understandings as children listen, speak, read, and write with comprehension and effective expression. Create environments that foster oral and written language development, including discipline-specific academic language. Enhance language development by engaging children in the creation of diverse print, oral, digital, and multimedia texts. Conduct instruction that leverages children’s existing linguistic repertoires, including home languages and dialects, and that accepts and encourages translanguaging.
- 7.8 **Effective Expression.** Develop children’s effective expression as they discuss, present, write, and use language conventions. Engage children in a range of formal and informal collaborative discussions, including extended conversations in which multiple conversational turns are taken, and writing for varied purposes, audiences, and contexts. Develop young children’s early writing skills by prompting them to share ideas, information, and stories using their developing knowledge of how print works. Teach children in ways appropriate for their age and development to plan, develop, provide feedback to peers, revise using peer and teacher feedback, edit, and produce their own writing and oral presentations in various genres, drawing on the modes of opinion, information, and narration. In transitional kindergarten and beyond, teach children letter formation/printing and related language conventions, such as capitalization and punctuation, in conjunction with applicable decoding skills. Develop children’s use of keyboarding, technology, and multimedia, as appropriate, and fluency in spelling, handwriting, and other language conventions to support writing and presentations.
- 7.9 **Content Knowledge.** Promote children’s content knowledge by engaging children in literacy instruction, in all pertinent content areas, that integrates reading, writing, listening, and speaking in discipline-specific ways, including through printed and digital texts and multimedia; discussions; experimentation; hands-on explorations; and wide and independent reading and read alouds and by providing choices that reflect and expand their interests. Teach children to navigate increasingly complex literary and informational texts relevant to the discipline, research questions of interest, and convey knowledge in a variety of ways. Promote digital literacy and the use of technology, including the ability to find, evaluate, use, share, analyze, create, and communicate digital resources safely and responsibly, and foster digital citizenship.⁶
- 7.10 Monitor children’s progress in literacy development using formative assessment practices, ongoing progress monitoring, and diagnostic techniques that inform

⁶ See [California Digital Learning Integration and Standards Guidance](#) for additional information.

instructional decision making.⁷ Understand how to use screening to determine children’s literacy profiles and identify potential reading and writing difficulties, including children’s risk for dyslexia and other literacy-related disabilities. Understand how to appropriately assess and interpret results for English learner students.⁸ If indicated, collaborate with families and guardians as well as with teachers, specialists, other professionals, and administrators from the school or district to facilitate comprehensive assessment for disabilities in English and as appropriate in the home language; plan and provide supplemental instruction in inclusive settings; and initiate referrals for children who need more intensive support.

- 7.11 Provide instruction in English language development (ELD) for children identified as English learner students based on an understanding of comprehensive ELD, which includes both integrated and designated ELD and is part of Tier 1 instruction. Understand how integrated and designated ELD are related and how designated ELD is taught in connection with (rather than isolated from) content areas and topics. Use ELA/literacy standards, Preschool Learning Foundations, or other content standards and ELD standards in tandem to plan instruction that attends to children’s literacy profiles, levels of English language proficiency, and prior educational experiences. Provide ELD instruction that builds on children’s cultural and linguistic assets and develops children’s abilities to use English purposefully, interact in meaningful ways, and understand how English works across the disciplines.

⁷ See proposed PK-3 ECE Specialist Teaching Performance Expectations, Domain 5: Assessing and Documenting Children’s Development and Learning, for additional details.

⁸ See [California Practitioners’ Guide for Educating English Learners with Disabilities](#) for additional information.