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*Professional Learning Module*  
*Developing a Reflective Practice through Quality Teaching and Learning*

## **Elements of a Quality Preschool Program**

The quality of a preschool program can significantly influence academic and social development of young children. The following elements are included in a quality preschool program.

### **Effective Educators**

A critical component of a high-quality preschool program is the character of its teachers. Personality, general nature, disposition, temperament, and outlook on life impact who we are as an educator. Effective educators are self-reflective about who they are and how their character impacts the children they teach.



### **Classroom Climate**

Social and emotional readiness is critical to a child's successful kindergarten transition, early school success and later well-being. These skills are rooted in relationships with adults who provide a safe and loving environment where children's curiosity, exploration and love of learning is nurtured.

### **Florida Standards**

Knowledge of the *Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards: Birth to Kindergarten (2017)* provides a framework for what children need to know and be able to do by the end of their age-related timeframe. In order to address all children's needs, it is important for educators to have a specific purpose for learning every day. Knowing where children are developmentally and what they need to know along the learning continuum supports quality instruction.

### **Ongoing Assessment**

Assessment is a method for collecting information about something you want to measure to determine if children are achieving expected learning outcomes. Educators assess their children both formally and informally. Educators use these assessments to monitor children's progress and plan for instruction.

### **Purposeful Planning**

Planning requires teachers to think about specific skills before they teach them. Effective educators have a plan in mind each day but are flexible and able to adapt and modify their plans to meet the needs of children. When planning, it's important to think about the following questions:

- What do I want children to know and do?
- How will concepts be integrated across domains?
- How can connections be made to link concepts and ideas?
- What thinking questions are important to ask children in order to stretch their thinking?

These four questions help educators become purposeful in their planning and intentional in their teaching. It's important to have goals for learning every day in order for children to meet expected developmental outcomes.

### **Intentional Instruction**

Purposeful planning leads to intentional teaching and provides a specific path for learning that ensures all children will achieve developmental outcomes based on the standards. Educator's knowledge of developmentally appropriate practices is important when interacting with children in multi-aged classrooms. Effective educators are able to take a child where they are developmentally and bring them forward to achieve at their expected age-level. It's important to know each child's strengths, interests and abilities in order to anticipate and scaffold their learning.