



Comparison of the IELS (2012) and the IELS 3rd edition (2017)

Format/Organization

Previously the standards were divided into two sections, Infant/Toddler and Preschool. Now the sections are presented as an area, i.e. Mathematics, with the entire progression from birth to age five represented

Previously the Area/Standard, Rationale, Benchmarks, Examples, Adult Supports, and References were represented for each area/standard in their entirety. Now, there are different sections for Rationale, Area/standard/benchmark/examples/adult supports (all together), and Reference.

The alignment of the IELS and the Iowa Core are still represented in a separate section.

Essential Considerations are still a separate section, however, the topics have been updated. Previously, these included brief sections on:

- The Importance of Children's Health and Well-Being
- The Importance of Caring Adults and Communities
- The Importance of Embracing Diversity
- The Importance of Play in Learning
- The Role of Technology and Interactive Media
- The Role of Assessment
- Understanding School Readiness

The 3rd edition includes:

- Intent of the Iowa Early Learning Standards
- The Role of Relationships in Learning
- The Importance of Physical and Mental Health
- Diversity and Inclusion
- The Importance of Play
- The Role of Technology and Interactive Media
- The Role of Observation and Monitoring Child's Development
- Understanding School Readiness

Content

There were previously seven areas of standards. Now there are eight areas; mathematics and science were separated and represented independently. Areas now include:

- Area 1: Social Emotional Development – Infant/Toddler and Preschool
- Area 2: Physical Well-Being and Motor Development – Infant/Toddler and Preschool
- Area 3: Approaches to Learning – Infant/Toddler and Preschool
- Area 4: Social Studies – Infant/Toddler and Preschool
- Area 5: Creative Arts – Infant/Toddler and Preschool
- Area 6: Communication, Language, and Literacy – Infant/Toddler and Preschool
- Area 7: Mathematics – Infant/Toddler and Preschool
- Area 8: Science – Infant/Toddler and Preschool

Examples and adult supports for the mathematical practices are still included in the content. These follow the alignment between the IELS and the Iowa Core for Mathematics pages.

The research base for the rationale and the references, in accordance, were updated. Benchmarks were updated based on the most current research in the respective area.

The alignment documents with the Iowa Core were expanded from two areas to five areas including:

- Overview
- Iowa Core Social Studies
- Iowa Core Fine Arts
- Iowa Core English Language Arts
- Iowa Core Mathematics
- Iowa Core Science

Supporting Documents, Resources

Early Childhood Iowa webpage

[Professional Development Products](#), including the Core Knowledge and IELS posters. IELS 3rd edition are posted as separate sections

- [Section 1 \(Table of Contents, Introduction, Acknowledgements, Essential Considerations, Rationale\)](#)
- [Section 2 \(Standards, Benchmarks, Examples and Adult Supports\)](#)
- [Section 3 \(Alignment with Iowa CORE Standards\)](#)
- [Section 4 \(References\)](#)

Iowa Department of Education webpage

[Early Childhood Standards IELS 3rd edition](#) (complete document)