



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
and the
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

January, 2017

Dear Early Childhood Professionals,

It is with pleasure that we announce the release of the newly revised *New Hampshire Early Learning Standards*. We know the early years are the most profound time of growth and development for young children. These *Standards* reflect our collective goal to provide early childhood professionals with a statewide resource grounded in evidence based research and practice. The *Standards* promote a whole-child approach that affirms learning and development are interrelated and build upon previous knowledge. As New Hampshire's population continues to become increasingly diverse, it is essential that our *Standards* acknowledge, honor, and embrace the tremendous diversity and variation that exists for children and families in our state.

These *Standards* are the result of a highly collaborative process. Early childhood leaders with broad geographic and professional representation came together to revise the former NH Early Learning Guidelines. The revised *Standards* were comprehensively reviewed in three stages by renowned national child development experts Dr. Sharon Lynn Kagan, Dr. Catherine Scott-Little, and Dr. Jeanne L. Reid. These reviews covered content alignment, cultural parameters, and depth and appropriateness of developmental indicators.

The *Standards* are an integral part of NH's Quality Rating and Improvement System as they serve as a foundation for how children learn, grow, and develop. It is our intent for professionals working in early learning and family support settings to utilize the Standards in their practice as they work with children from birth to age five and their families.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Jeffrey A. Meyers in blue ink.

Jeffrey A. Meyers
Commissioner
NH Department of Health & Human Services

Handwritten signature of Virginia M. Barry in blue ink.

Virginia M. Barry
Commissioner
NH Department of Education