

North Hampton Preschool Standards and Benchmarks – APPROACHES TO LEARNING

As early as infancy, children display some of the disposition and styles of learning that lead to success in school. Some children seem to be born well organized and bursting with initiative while others require some structure and encouragement while they discover their unique capacity as learners. Adults must ensure that every child has the opportunity to take responsibility to direct his/her own learning.

When children complete a complex puzzle, construct an elaborate block structure, or ride a tricycle through a maze, they learn when to ask for assistance, seek additional resources, and take responsibility for the care of materials. A well-planned learning environment, carefully designed activities, and teachers who participate as co-learners will promote in children a willingness to try new experiences and persistence in completing projects. As children connect their learning each day to past experiences, they learn how to take the initiative to carry their knowledge and skills to a new level of mastery.

STANDARD	LEARNING GOALS	BENCHMARKS
<p>Children demonstrate positive attitudes, habits and learning styles.</p>	<p>1. PLAY Children engage in play as a means to develop their individual approach to learning.</p> <p>2. CURIOSITY Children demonstrate curiosity and a willingness to participate in tasks and challenges.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiate play with peers that is absorbing and long lasting. • Enter into and play cooperatively with other children. • Choose from a variety of play activities. • Demonstrate an eagerness and interest in learning through questioning and adding ideas. • Initiate questions about people, things, and the world around them. • Choose to participate in an increasing variety of activities, tasks, and play areas.

North Hampton Preschool Standards and Benchmarks- APPROACHES TO LEARNING

STANDARD	LEARNING GOALS	BENCHMARKS
<p>Children demonstrate positive attitudes, habits and learning styles.</p>	<p>3. PERSISTENCE Children will demonstrate an increased ability to show initiative, accept help, take risks, and work towards completing tasks.</p> <p>4. SELF-ORGANIZATION Children demonstrate an increased ability to establish goals, develop and follow through with plans.</p> <p>5. REASONING Children demonstrate an increased ability to identify, evaluate and provide possible solutions to problems.</p> <p>6. APPLICATION Children use their prior experiences, senses, and knowledge to learn in new ways.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invest time in an activity and pursue it for a meaningful period of time despite distractions and interruptions. • Seek and/or accept help from another child or adult when encountering a problem. • Increase their ability to understand a task as a series of steps. • Increase their ability to organize themselves and materials. • Follow through to complete tasks and activities. • Increase their ability to generate several approaches to carry out a task. • Pursue alternative approaches to problem-solving. • Reflect upon events and experiences. • Use prior knowledge to understand new experiences.

North Hampton Preschool Standards and Benchmarks – SOCIAL EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Children are dependent upon their interactions with peers and adults to construct a sense of self and to view themselves as learners. As toddlers, children begin to notice differences among people. They willingly explore these differences as they mature. This natural curiosity about other people helps children to develop a strong sense of identity.

Ideas of citizenship are based upon meaningful daily events and a classroom environment that ensures that children are aware of and respect another person’s interests, preferences, and cultural background. Teachers and family members who help children negotiate the rules, responsibilities, and challenging issues that characterize a vibrant learning environment can expose children to a community based upon kindness, equality, and justice.

STANDARD	LEARNING GOALS	BENCHMARKS
<p>Children will demonstrate a strong and positive self-concept, appropriate self-control, and growth in their awareness of their responsibilities when interacting with others.</p>	<p>1. PLAY Children will use play as a vehicle to build relationships and to develop an appreciation for their own abilities and accomplishments.</p> <p>2. SELF-CONTROL Children will increase their capacity for self-control and to deal with frustrations and increase their awareness of their own abilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in a variety of individual and group play experiences. • Play cooperatively with others by developing rules, resolving disagreements, and dealing with frustrations and limitations. • Explore and understand new experiences and differences among people. • Understand, accept, and follow rules and routines within the learning environment. • Use materials purposefully, respectfully, and safely. • Effectively manage transitions between activities. • Progress in expressing feelings, needs, and opinions. • Begin to cope with frustration and disappointment.

North Hampton Preschool Standards and Benchmarks- SOCIAL EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

STANDARD	LEARNING GOALS	BENCHMARKS
<p>Children will demonstrate a strong and positive self-concept, appropriate self-control, and growth in their awareness of their responsibilities when interacting with others.</p>	<p>3. INTERACTIONS WITH OTHERS Children will develop successful relationships with members of their learning community.</p> <p>4. SENSE OF COMMUNITY Children will increasingly demonstrate a sense of belonging to the classroom, family, and community.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play, work, and interact easily with one or more children and/or adults. • Develop friendships with peers. • Demonstrate empathy and caring for others. • Develop ability to take turns and to interact without being overly submissive or directive. • Participate in resolving conflicts and disagreements with others. • Begin to understand the rights of others. • Demonstrate a growing understanding and appreciation of the relationships, people, and places that make up their communities. • Participate in the maintenance of the classroom environment. • Demonstrate progress toward an understanding and valuing of similarities and differences among people. • Recognize the needs of others and offer help.

North Hampton Preschool Standards and Benchmarks – LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT and COMMUNICATION

Research confirms that language has an essential impact on the rapid development of a child’s brain that occurs during the first years of life. When an adult speaks with children in a timely, responsive manner, the brain is shaped so that children understand the construction of speech, learn new words, and become capable conversationalists. It is important that young children have many opportunities to learn language and practice communication skills in order to obtain information and express themselves in a variety of ways and settings. Children increase their language and communication skills by engaging in meaningful experiences that require them to effectively express their ideas and feelings, listen, and understand others.

STANDARD	LEARNING GOALS	BENCHMARKS
<p>Children will develop skills in listening and in expressing their thoughts and ideas.</p>	<p>1. PLAY Children will engage in play as a means to develop their listening and expressive language skills.</p> <p>2. LISTENING AND UNDERSTANDING Children will develop skills in listening and in understanding language.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and experiment with conversation during daily activities and interactions. • Represent stories and experiences through play. • Think and talk about play experiences. • Listen and understand stories, songs, and poems. • Listen and increasingly understand directions, conversations, and questions. • Follow directions that involve multiple steps. • Learn to wait and take turns during conversations.

North Hampton Preschool Standards and Benchmarks- LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT and COMMUNICATION

STANDARD	LEARNING GOALS	BENCHMARKS
<p>Children will develop skills in listening and in expressing their thoughts and ideas.</p>	<p>3. SPEAKING AND COMMUNICATING Children will use verbal and non-verbal language to express and to communicate information.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate needs or thoughts through non-verbal gestures, actions, expressions, or words. • Participate in communication around a topic. • Use more complex and longer sentences. • Speak clearly enough to be understood by unfamiliar listeners. • Begin a conversation with other children and adults. • Understand increasingly complex and varied vocabulary. • Communicate with familiar and unfamiliar adults and children.

North Hampton Preschool Standards and Benchmarks – LITERACY

Literacy is the foundation for creating a well-educated and responsible citizen. The ways in which children learn to read and write are similar to how they develop language. Just as children seem to be compelled to learn language, children become excited about using pictures and letters to communicate.

The printed word, whether it is in a storybook or in the environment, is the bridge that allows children to connect their own lives to distant places, to quality children’s literature, and to new ideas. Through natural exposure to books and print, and through conversations that prompt children to discuss the people and important events in their lives, children discover that written words are another way to share ideas.

STANDARD	LEARNING GOALS	BENCHMARKS
<p>Children will explore their environment and build the foundations for learning to read and write.</p>	<p>1. PLAY Children will engage in play as a means to develop early reading and writing skills.</p> <p>2. EARLY WRITING Children demonstrate an interest and ability in using symbols to represent words and ideas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use symbols and forms of early writing to create more complex play. • Use writing tools and materials in all areas of the learning environment. • Create play ideas that come from favorite stories, poems, rhymes, and songs. • Use letters or approximations of letters to write their first name. • Demonstrate awareness that print conveys a meaning. • Use scribbles, shapes, approximations of letters and/or letters to write or represent words or ideas. • Begin to dictate ideas, sentences, and stories. • Use pictures, symbols, and/or letters for a variety of purposes (e.g. label, list, message, story).

North Hampton Preschool Standards and Benchmarks- LITERACY

STANDARD	LEARNING GOALS	BENCHMARKS
<p>Children will explore their environment and build the foundations for learning to read and write.</p>	<p>3. EARLY READING Children demonstrate an interest in:</p> <p>A. Book Knowledge and Appreciation Understanding and appreciating that books and other forms of print have a purpose.</p> <p>B. Print Awareness and Concepts Recognizing the association between spoken and written words by following print as it is read aloud.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make predictions of what will happen next. • Listen to and talk about a variety of types of literature. • Tell or retell a story based on illustrations. • Take care of and handle books in a respectful manner. • Exhibit accurate book handling skills such as holding the book right side up and turning the pages from front to back. • Choose to explore and investigate books and other forms of print. • Demonstrate awareness that print conveys a meaning. • Demonstrate an understanding that print is used for a variety of purposes (e.g. list, letter, label, phone message). • Show an interest and can recognize some letters and words written in books and in the environment. • Recognize first name in print.

North Hampton Preschool Standards and Benchmarks – LITERACY

STANDARD	LEARNING GOALS	BENCHMARKS
<p>Children will explore their environment and build the foundations for learning to read and write.</p>	<p>3. EARLY READING Children demonstrate an interest in:</p> <p>C. Alphabet Knowledge Recognizing that symbols are associated with letters of the alphabet and that they form words.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Know the names of some letters and words.• Identify some letters in print.• Know the names of letters in their first name.

North Hampton Preschool Standards and Benchmarks – MATHEMATICS

Mathematics helps young children make sense of the world around them and understand their physical world. Children are inclined to make comparisons, notice similarities and differences in objects, and group their toys and materials. This ability to organize information into categories, quantify data, and solve problems helps children to learn about time, space, and number.

When children play in the sand table, cook applesauce, and complete a puzzle, they are engaging in activities that allow them to develop the thinking skills that are naturally used in daily life. Children learn the uses of mathematics to describe and explore relationships among objects and materials in the environment. They increasingly develop the vocabulary and skills to measure, describe patterns, and to express order and position.

STANDARD	LEARNING GOALS	BENCHMARKS
<p>Children develop ways to solve problems and to think about math.</p>	<p>1. PLAY Children engage in play to develop and add to their mathematical thinking and problem solving.</p> <p>2. NUMBERS AND OPERATIONS Children show interest and curiosity in counting and grouping objects and numbers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin to make groups and match objects. • Use counting and number vocabulary as a natural part of play. • Experiment with patterns and shapes. • Explore measurement, number, and quantity with various materials. • Match, sort, put in a series, and regroup objects according to one characteristic. • Begin to use numbers and counting as a means for solving problems and measuring quantity.

North Hampton Preschool Standards and Benchmarks- MATHEMATICS

STANDARD	LEARNING GOALS	BENCHMARKS
<p>Children develop ways to solve problems and to think about math.</p>	<p>2. NUMBERS AND OPERATIONS CONT. Children show interest and curiosity in counting and grouping objects and numbers.</p> <p>3. GEOMETRY AND SPATIAL SENSE Children show an interest in recognizing and creating shapes and an awareness of position in space.</p> <p>4. PATTERNS AND MEASUREMENT Children show an interest in recognizing and creating patterns, comparing, and measuring time and quantity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use one-to-one correspondence in counting objects and matching groups of objects. • Begin to associate a number of objects with the names and symbols for numbers. • Use such words as more than/less and add/subtract to express some number concepts. • Describe and name common shapes found in the natural environment. • Use language to understand the arrangement, order, and position of objects that are on top of, next to, bottom, underneath, beside and in front of other objects. • Group objects according to their shape and size. • Group and name a number of similar objects into simple categories. • Begin to understand that some events take place in the past/yesterday, present/today, or future/tomorrow. • Begin to order, compare or describe objects according to size, length, height, and weight using standard or non-standard forms of measurement.

North Hampton Preschool Standards and Benchmarks – SCIENCE

Children are captivated by the natural world and by physical events. They insist that teachers and family members answer their questions about the world around them. By cultivating this sense of wonder, we help children to become scientific thinkers.

Children can learn to use the scientific method when they actively study phenomena. The questions that children ask about how insects fly, how to make a shadow, or mixing paints are transformed into hypotheses about their world. They use their senses and scientific tools to observe, collect and interpret data, and draw conclusions. Communicating their findings informally in conversations or through the documentation of results, lead children to ask new questions and to continue the cycle of scientific investigation.

STANDARD	LEARNING GOALS	BENCHMARKS
<p>Children will understand and use the scientific method of asking questions, observing, predicting, experimenting, recording findings, and drawing conclusions.</p>	<p>1. PLAY Children engage in play as a means to develop their scientific skills.</p> <p>2. SCIENTIFIC KNOWELDEGE Children will learn about the development of the natural and physical worlds.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask questions based upon discoveries made while playing. • Use play to discover, question, and understand the natural and physical world. • Use scientific tools as props in their play. • Collect, describe, and learn to record information through discussions, drawings, and charts. • Use tools and their senses to make observations, gather and record information, and make predications of what might happen. • Investigate changes in materials and cause-effect relationships. • Ask and pursue their questions through simple investigations.

North Hampton Preschool Standards and Benchmarks- SCIENCE

STANDARD	LEARNING GOALS	BENCHMARKS
<p>Children will understand and use the scientific method of asking questions, observing, predicting, experimenting, recording findings, and drawing conclusions.</p>	<p>3. SCIENTIFIC SKILLS AND METHODS Children will begin to use scientific tools and methods to learn about their world.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore the natural processes of growing, changing, and adapting to the environment. • Make simple observations, predictions, explanations, and generalizations based on real-life experiences. • Explore time, temperature, and cause-effect relationships based on everyday experiences.

North Hampton Preschool Standards and Benchmarks – PHYSICAL HEALTH and DEVELOPMENT

Children enthusiastically explore how to move their bodies. They investigate and practice the small motions that lead to the mastery of fine and large (gross) motor tasks. How a child learns to sit, walk, or hold a spoon has implications for how the child understands space, coordinates thinking, and holds a pencil.

Children use their senses and bodies to explore their physical environment. Children may appear uninterested in nutrition and sensible health habits, but they appreciate learning how to enhance their strength, balance, muscle control, and coordination. When children can take an active role in preparing nutritious snacks, maintaining a clean and healthy environment, and caring for their bodies, they feel a sense of pride and accomplishment in their independence.

STANDARD	LEARNING GOALS	BENCHMARKS
<p>Young children’s future health and well-being are directly related to the development and strengthening of their large and small muscles, sensory experiences, and practicing healthy behavior.</p>	<p>1. PLAY Children will engage in play as a means to understand healthy behavior and develop their physical bodies.</p> <p>2. GROSS-MOTOR Children will increasingly move their bodies in ways that demonstrate control, balance, and coordination.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in games, outdoor play, and other forms of play that enhance physical fitness. • Use their senses to explore materials and experience activities. • Begin to understand health and safety practices. • Initiate activities that challenge their bodies in new ways. • Build strength and stamina in movement activities. • Demonstrate body and space awareness to move and stop with control over speed and direction. • Develop coordination and balance with a variety of playground equipment.

North Hampton Preschool Standards and Benchmarks- PHYSICAL HEALTH and DEVELOPMENT

STANDARD	LEARNING GOALS	BENCHMARKS
<p>Young children’s future health and well-being are directly related to the development and strengthening of their large and small muscles, sensory experiences, and practicing healthy behavior.</p>	<p>3. FINE-MOTOR Children will use their fingers and hands in ways that develop eye-hand coordination, strength, control, and object manipulation.</p> <p>4. HEALTHY HABITS Children will begin to understand how daily activity and healthy behavior promote overall personal health and safety.</p> <p>5. SENSES Children will increase their understanding of the use of their eyes, ears, fingers, nose, and mouth and how the senses work together.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build strength and stamina in movement activities. • Use eye-hand coordination to perform fine-motor tasks with a variety of manipulative materials. • Show increased awareness and control of tools for various learning activities. • Demonstrate safety awareness when purposefully using materials. • Increasingly perform self-care skills independently when eating, dressing, toileting, and washing hands. • Care for many personal belongings. • Begin to understand that some foods have nutritional value. • Discriminate between a variety of sights, smells, sounds, textures, and tastes. • Explore and learn to tolerate a wide variety of sensory input. • Combine and use different senses depending on the activity.