

# Standards, Assessment, and Professional Development

## Components of the System

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# What Matters Most for Children?



- What is the most important thing we can do to support child development and positive learning opportunities?
- What is it young children need so they are healthy, safe, and grow into strong children and productive adults?

# Many Answers...

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- Love
- Nutrition
- Safety
- Stimulation
- Resources
- Stability
- Good health
- Positive attachment
- Secure relationships
- Opportunities to explore their environment
- Strong families
- Supportive communities
- Supportive schools

# Comprehensive Early Childhood Assessment Systems

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- Learning standards
- Assessments
- Professional development
- Data systems
- Family engagement
- Cultural and developmental responsiveness
- Resources of time, money, and personnel
- Continuous improvement approach

# Learning Standards

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- **Define what matters**
  - What we want children to learn and how we want them to develop
- **Set explicit goals for children's development**
  - Includes identifying anticipated targets by age/level and defining interim steps to assess progress toward achievement of goals
- **Inform decisions about**
  - Teaching practices and curriculum
  - Professional development
  - Assessments
  - Educating parents about child development and learning



# What Matters for Learning Standards?

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- They should be:
  - Clear, detailed, and complete
  - Reasonable in scope
  - Correct in their academic and scientific foundations
  - Based on sound models of learning
  - Describe performance expectations and proficiency levels
- Recent analyses of states' early childhood standards also suggest some misunderstanding of the difference between content and performance.

# Assessments – Kindergarten Entry Assessments (KEA)



- Let's go!
- Let's go, chip in, it's time to cheer,
- It's simple, yell what you hear:
- Go K-E-A,
- Go K-E-A,
- Fire up, and have no fear!



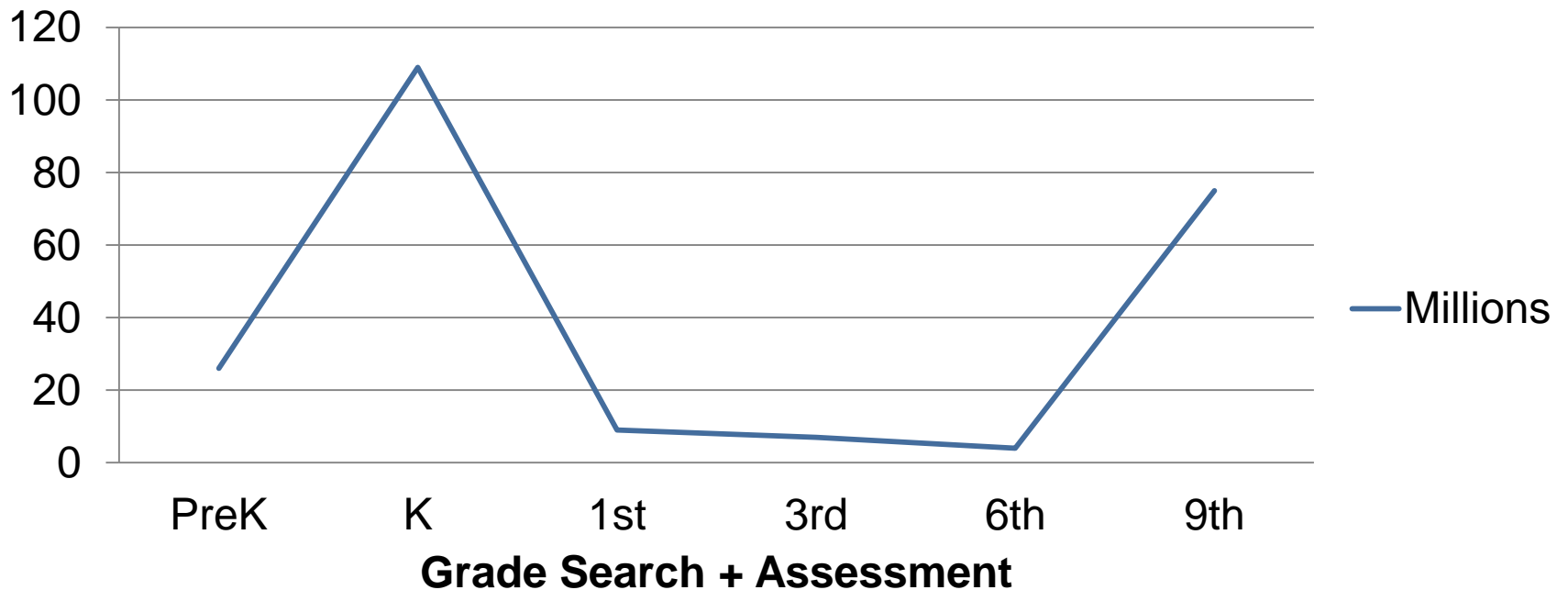
# Assess *What* and *Why*?

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# Fear, Uncertainty, and Confusion About KEA

## Found Google Web Links



# Assessments Aligned to Learning Standards

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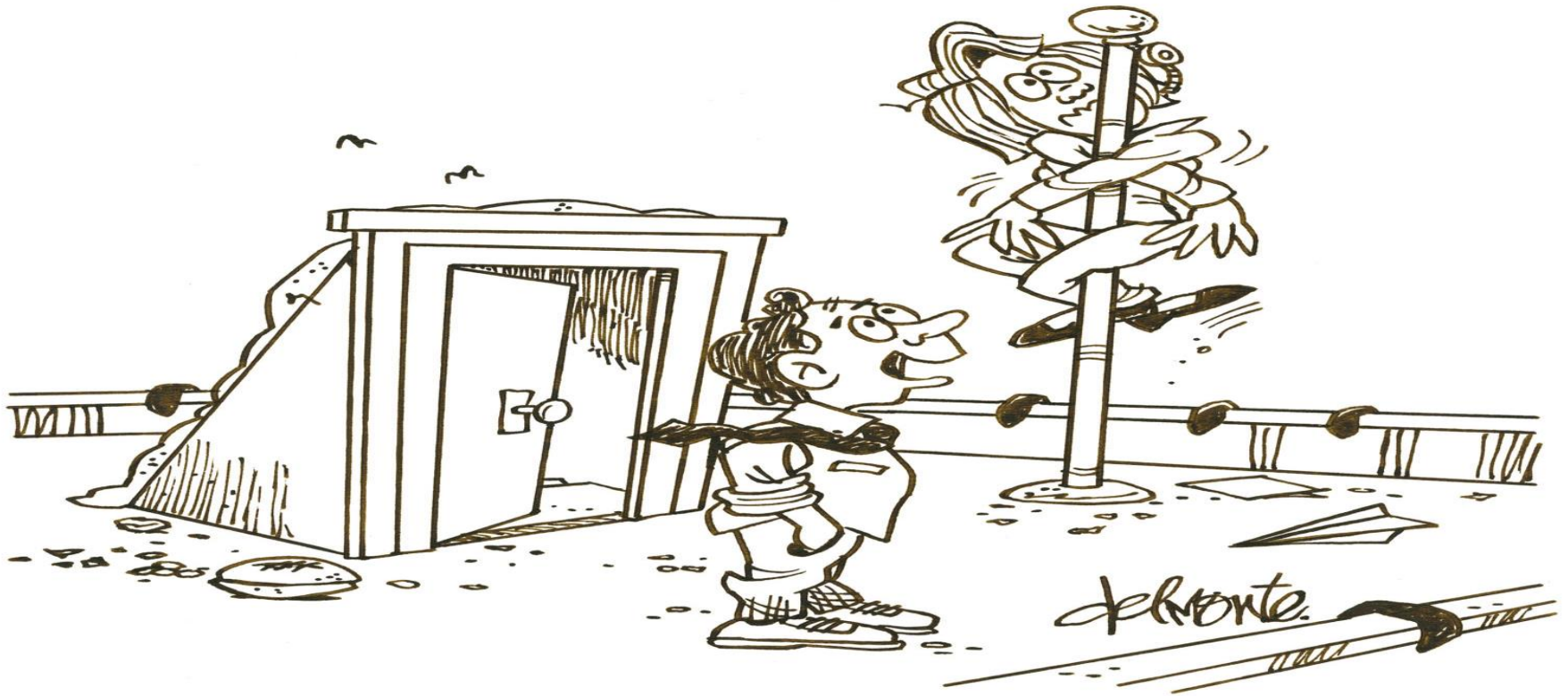


Photo by Jose Luis [Villegas/villegas@sacbee.com](mailto:villegas@sacbee.com). Gutierrez, M. (June 27, 2010). "Pre-kindergarten camps get Sacramento-area kids ready for school," *Sacramento Bee*. Retrieved from <http://www.sacbee.com/2010/06/27/2852186/pre-kindergarten-camps-get-sacramento.html>

# What Matters for KEA?

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- Align with learning standards
- Have a clear-purpose
  - Use multiple tools for multiple purposes
- Address multiple developmental domains and diverse cultural contexts
- Collect information from multiple sources
- Integrate in a systemic approach
- Avoid inappropriate use of assessment information



**"I know it's your first day, Ms. Smith. Come down, the high standards we set will all fall into place, besides they're just kindergartners."**

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# Professional Development

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- Majority of early childhood educators are not adequately prepared.
- Professional development activities may include:
  - Supporting curriculum
  - Advancing teacher credentials or education
  - Developing educators' competencies or strengthening classroom settings
  - Mentoring, induction, paid planning/learning time, work conditions, work pay

# Professional Development

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- Workforce diversity in:
  - Work settings
  - Education levels
  - Ethnic and linguistic backgrounds
  - Teacher credentials or education
  - Types and sources of professional development opportunities and supports

# What Matters for Professional Development?

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- **Preparation:** The content and the method of delivery of the educational program influences how effective teachers will be.
- **Buy-in:** Teachers need to understand and embrace the benefits of using authentic individual assessment data appropriately to guide their instruction and child progress monitoring.
- **Support:** Even the best educated and seasoned teachers need ongoing opportunities to continue learning on the job.
- **Tools for family engagement:** Teachers need communication and support vehicles for sharing learning standards and assessment data with parents so they understand how they can also support learning goals at home.
- **Rewards:** Teachers need a respectful work environment that includes earning a living or professional wage.



# What Matters Most for Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems?

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We are the start of the journey, and this trip starts with the child.



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