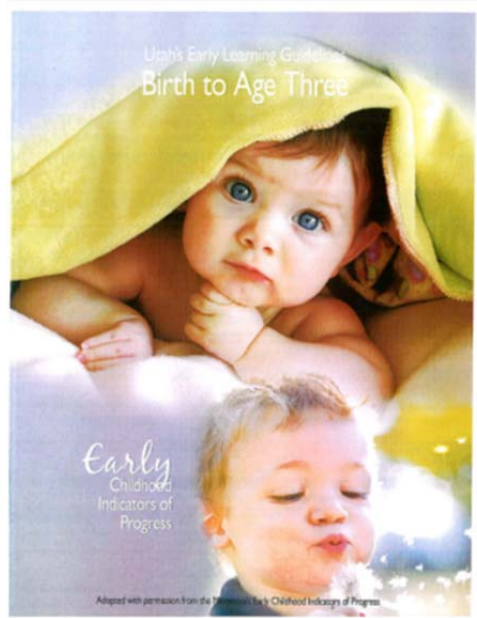


Utah's Early Learning Guidelines

Early Childhood Indicators of Progress for Children Birth to Age Three

Carolyn Taylor-Christensen, Utah Office of Child Care



- **What are the Guidelines?** *Utah's Early Learning Guidelines for Birth to Three* provide a framework for understanding developmentally appropriate expectations for infants and toddlers. These guidelines come from research by The National Infant and Toddler Child Care Initiative about what children should know (understand) and do (competencies and skills) in different domains of learning.
- **Who are the Guidelines for?** *Utah's Early Learning Guidelines for Birth to Three* will help families, childcare providers, other people in the community who, and policymakers to support the best learning and development for young children.
- **Why are guidelines important:** *Utah's Early Learning Guidelines for Birth to Three* provide a clear outline of young children's development using five nationally researched universally accepted principles -
 1. Infants and toddlers develop in the context of their families, cultures and communities.

2. Nurturing and responsive caregiving helps infants and toddlers develop secure and trusting relationships.
 3. The years from birth to three represent a period of rapid growth and development and are critical for the healthy development of young children.
 4. Multiple abilities and skills are developing simultaneously in a child's first three years of life.
 5. Individual children vary considerably in their rate progress in achieving developmental milestones benchmarks.
- **When should I use the guidelines:** *Utah's Early Learning Guidelines for Birth to Three* are divided into three age groups:
 1. Young Infant (Birth to 8 months)
 2. Older Infant (8 to 18 months)
 3. Toddler (18 to 36 months)
 - **Where do I get more copies of the guidelines:** Call Carolyn Christensen at 801-468-0061 or email her at carolynchristensen@utah.gov and she will get you copies.
 - **How do I learn more about working with infants and toddlers:** Contact your local Child Care Resource and Referral and take a class! Go to careaboutchildcare.utah.gov and look for the Infant Toddler classes in your area.

