

# Instructional Terminology

Early Childhood Education  
13.1210.00



**504 Plan-** 504 plans are developed by school teams and parents to support the educational needs of a K–12 student with a disability that “substantially limits one or more major life activity” such as: learning, speaking, listening, reading, writing, concentrating, caring for oneself, etc. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Domain 1)

## A

**Accessible-** able to be reached or approached, able to be used or obtained, easy to appreciate or understand (Domain 3)

**Accommodations-**generally thought of as a change in the course, standard, test preparation, location, timing, scheduling, expectations, student response and/or other attribute which provides access for a student with a disability to participate in a course, standard or test, it does not fundamentally alter or lower the standard or expectation of the course/test (Domain 2)

**Activity mat-** a mat that features some sort of activity i.e. vibrant colors, allows infants to crawl and explore safely on floor (Domain 1)

**Advocate-**person who argues for or supports a cause or policy, a person who works for a cause or group (Domain 4)

**Age appropriate-** suitable for a particular age or age group (Domain 1)

**Anecdotal records/notes-**an observer’s reports of a child’s actions, usually concentrating on a specific behavior or area of development (Domain 2)

**Aptitude-**a natural ability to do something or to learn something (Domain 4)

**Authentic writing-** recognize the relationship between spoken and written messages by engaging in writing, drawing, and related activities that have meaning and purpose for them. Children receive powerful messages about literacy’s pleasures and rewards by observing others reading and writing.

Children develop as writers when they are encouraged to write in an environment that has readily accessible writing materials. (Domain 2)

**Assessments-** A process that involves observing, recording, and documenting children’s individual capabilities over time (Domain 2)

**Attachment-** The bond between two people, such as between a child and parent or other primary caregiver (Domain 1)

**Attentiveness** – Paying close attention (Domain 1)

**AZ Early Learning Standards-**<http://www.azed.gov/early-childhood/files/2011/11/arizona-early-learning-standards-3rd-edition.pdf>

## B

**Babble-** a stage in child language acquisition during which an infant appears to be experimenting with uttering articulate sounds, but does not yet produce any recognizable words. Babbling begins shortly after birth and progresses through several stages as the infant's repertoire of sounds expands and vocalizations become more speech-like (Domain 1)

**Babinski-** when the soles of the foot are stroked, the toes will fan out and curl and the foot twists in (Domain 1)

**Balance daily schedule-**Limit transitions. Offers a variety of DAP learning activities that are child-directed. Includes both indoor and outdoor time (Domain 2)

**Bias-** prejudice in favor of or against one thing, person, or group compared with another, usually in a way considered to be unfair (Domain 2)

**Birth defect-** an abnormality present at birth that affects the structure or function of the body (Domain 1)

**Blood borne pathogens-** Infectious microorganisms in human blood that can cause disease in humans. These pathogens include, but are not limited to, hepatitis B (HBV), hepatitis C (HCV) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) (Domain 3)

**Bonding-** Forming emotional ties, such as those between parents and their child (Domain 1)

**Brain development/connections-** How the brain develops in a baby's first year of life has profound effects on the baby's whole life, by first birthday, 75 percent of brain's wiring will be completed (Domain 1)

**Bullying -** use superior strength or influence to intimidate (someone), typically to force him or her to do what one wants (Domain 1)

## C

**Cause and effect-** Infants develop an understanding of cause and effect, the idea that one action results in another action or condition. Ex. sucking cause milk to flow. If the baby stops sucking, the milk stops (Domain 1)

**Child initiated activities-** Children select and initiate their own activities from a variety of learning areas prepared by the teacher (Domain 2)

**Chromosome-** tiny, threadlike structures in the nucleus of every cell that carry hereditary information (Domain 1)

**Cognitive Development-** Thinking skills, problem-solving, mental processes (Domain 1)

**Communicable diseases-** an infectious disease transmissible (as from person to person) by direct contact with an affected individual (Domain 3)

**Concussion-** a traumatic brain injury that alters the way your brain functions. Effects are usually temporary but can include headaches and problems with concentration, memory, balance and coordination (Domain 3)

**Concrete operations-** children can think logically but still learn best through experience (Domain 1)

**Confidentiality-** The keeping of private or sensitive personal information involving other people (Domain 4)

**Conventional spelling-** the child's generalizations about spelling and knowledge of exceptions are usually correct. (Domain 2)

**Cooperative play-** Type of play in which two or more children interact with one another, at this stage socio-dramatic play begins, preschool play (Domain 1)

**Creative expression-** Participation in a range of activities that allow for creative and imaginative expression, such as music, art, creative movement, and drama, engaging children's minds, bodies, and senses as well as inviting children to listen, observe, discuss, move, solve problems, and imagine using multiple modes of thought and self-expression (Domain 2)

**Cultural diversity (home culture)-** The National Association for the Education of Young Children's (NAEYC) recommendations emphasize the early childhood programs are responsible for creating a welcoming environment that respects diversity, supports children's ties to their families and community, and promotes both second language acquisition and preservation of children's home languages and cultural identities (Domain 2)

**Curriculum -**the totality of student experiences that occur in the educational process. The term often refers specifically to a planned sequence of instruction, or to a view of the student's experiences in terms of the educator's or school's instructional goals. (Domain 2)

## D

**DAP (Developmentally Appropriate Practice)-** DAP is appropriate to children's age and developmental status, attuned to them as unique individuals, and responsive to the social and cultural contexts in which they live (Domain 1 & 2)

**Department of Health Services (DHS)-** The Arizona state agency responsible for licensure of preschool and homecare facilities. Determines ratios and conducts inspections of facilities (Domain 3)

**Developmental Checklists-** a list of skills children should master or behaviors they should exhibit at a certain age (Domain 1)

**Directed learning-** Learning that results from being taught formally or informally (Domain 2)

**Dictation-** process of writing down what a child has said. With young children, dictation offers a way for a parent or a teacher to record a child's thoughts or ideas when the writing demands surpass writing skills. Dictation provides a chance for an adult to model many writing behaviors including handwriting, matching sounds-to-letters to spell words, and sentence formation. (Domain 2)

**Distribution (medication)-** the act of giving or delivering something to people (Domain 3)

**Dominant genes-** in a gene pair, this is the stronger gene and is the one more likely to be expressed as a physical trait (Domain 1)

## E

**Early elementary classroom environment-** Classroom space arranged for cooperative learning/play (desks in groups rather than rows) (Domain 2)

**Early elementary children-** 5-8 years (Domain 1)

**ECERS-** Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale (Domain 4)

**Egocentric viewpoint-** children view the world in terms of their own thoughts and feelings (Domain 1)

**Embryonic-** is a person or animal that is still growing in the womb or egg (Domain 1)

**Emotional Development-** Identifying and expressing feelings/emotions (Domain 1)

**Empathy -** The ability to understand the feelings of others (Domain 1)

**English Language Learner (ELL) -** a person who is learning the English language in addition to his or her native language (Domain 2)

**Environmental print-** The print found in a children's natural environment, one of the first sources of reading material for young children  
Types - Commercially Produced Company and Product Logos, ex- McDonald's, Cheerios, Doritos, Legos, Road Signs and Institutional Labels, ex- Stop signs, US Post Office and Homemade, ex-Classroom Rules, Children's Names on Cubbies and Desks, Labeled Furniture (Domain 1)

**Erickson-** Psychosocial development, 8 stages with social conflict or crisis (Domain 1)

**Evaluation-** to judge the value or condition of (someone or something) in a careful and thoughtful way (Domain 4)

**Exceptionalities-** Children with disabilities (mentally or physically disabled) and/or gifts and talents (Domain 1)

## F

**Failure to Thrive-** Failure to thrive refers to children whose current weight or rate of weight gain is much lower than that of other children of similar age and gender (Domain 1)

**Fall zone-** the area around and under gross motor climbing, sliding, or swinging equipment where protective surfacing is required to prevent injury from falls. The fall zone should be cleared of items that children may fall onto or run into (Domain 3)

**Family Style meals-** Serving foods in bowls or dishes of any kind on the table children are encourage to serve themselves with help from an adult. Caregivers eat the same food, promote healthy eating habits, and create a positive mealtime environment. Enough food must be placed on the table to provide the full required portion size for all the children at the table (Domain 3)

**Favoritism** - the practice of giving unfair preferential treatment to one person or group at the expense of another (Domain 2)

**Fetal-** The Fetal Stage: Week 28 to 40 of pregnancy. (Domain 1)

**Fine/small motor-** Using the small muscles of the hand, fingers, wrists (Domain 1)

**Finger plays-** Songs or chants with accompanying hand motions. (Domain 1)

**Fire drills-** Performed every 30 days (Domain 2)

**Flashcards and worksheets-** NOT DAP materials. (Domain 2)

**Formal Communication** - Formal communication occurs through newsletters, notices, assemblies and in parent or group meetings (Domain 2)

**Functional print-** defined as knowing the name of the object and knowing its purpose ex-calendar, grocery list, map, or letter in a literacy-relate play setting (Domain 2)

## G

**Genetic-** refers to heredity of traits (Domain 1)

**Genres-** Classes or categories of artistic endeavors having a particular form, content, technique, or the like (Domain 2)

**Germinal** – prenatal development stage fertilization to two weeks (Domain 1)

**Gifted-** Gifted individuals are those who demonstrate outstanding levels of aptitude or competence in one or more domains (Domain 1)

**Gross/large motor-** Using the large muscles of body, such as arms, legs (Domain 1)

**Guardianship-** Courts appoint guardians to care for people who cannot take care of themselves. The person a guardian protects is called that guardian's ward. Wards may be either minor children or incapacitated adults (Domain 2)

**Guidance-** Direct and indirect actions used by an adult to help children develop socially acceptable behavior. (Domain 1)

## H

**Head Start-** Head Start is a Federal program that promotes the school readiness of children from birth to age five from low-income families by enhancing their cognitive, social, and emotional development. Head Start programs provide a learning environment that supports children's growth in many areas such as language, literacy, and social and emotional development. Head Start emphasizes the role of parents as their child's first and most important teacher. (Domain 1)

**Heredity** - the biological transfer of certain characteristics from earlier generations. Blood type, eye color, and hair color are just a few of the characteristics determined by heredity (Domain 1)

**Home language-** linked to the child's values, attitudes, and cultural traditions. It is critical to be respectful and supportive of the cultural heritage and home language of a child (Domain 2)

## I

**IEP-** individualized education plan, a written strategy for learning designed to ensure that each child with special needs is educated in the most appropriate manner for him or her (Domain 1)

**I message-** a verbal statement that explains the effect of a child's behavior on others without placing blame (Domain 2)

**Imitation-** The act of copying or imitating someone or something, something that is made or produced as a copy (Domain 1)

**Immunizations-** shots of a small amount of a dead or weakened disease carrying germ given in order that the body may build resistance to the disease (vaccine) (Domain 3)

**Imitative play-** Activity in which a child fantasizes and acts out various domestic and social roles and situations, such as rocking a doll, pretending to be a doctor or nurse, or teaching school. It is the predominant form of play among preschool children (Domain 1)

**Independence-** not influenced or controlled by others in matters of opinion, conduct, etc.; thinking or acting for oneself (Domain 1)

**Incidental learning-** Learning experiences that happen during the course of the day (Domain 1 & 2)

**Infants-** 0-12 months (Domain 1)

**Informal Communication-** Information communication can include face-to-face conversations, phone calls, email, communication book or a combination of these. (Domain 2)

**Initiative (work-based learning experiences)-** Functions independently within the organizational structure. Independently performs necessary tasks, strives to improve personal delivery of services, and continuously improves personal performance / behaviors continuously (Domain 4)

**Instructional Strategies-** a careful plan or method for achieving a particular goal usually over a long period of time, the skill of making or carrying out plans to achieve a goal (Domain 2)

**Interpersonal behaviors-** Behavior and actions that are present in relationships. Examples - communicate with children at children's eye level, maintain confidentiality, Refer to ITERS, Refer to ECERS, Refer to SACERS, NAEYC Code of Ethical Behaviors (Domain 4)

**Interpretation (anecdotal notes)-** In observing children, the analysis an observer forms and expresses about what was observed. (Domain 4)

**Intervene-** to become involved in something (such as a conflict) in order to have an influence on what happens (Domain 2)

**Inventive writing-** the spelling of words from a beginning writer's first attempts to associate sounds with letters (kp ot = keep out) (Domain 2)

**ITERS-** Infant Toddlers Environment Rating Scale (Domain 2)

## L

**Learning Centers-** Areas in an early childhood classroom designed for certain types of play and learning (Domain 2)

**Learning center arrangement-** Principles of room arrangement (Domain 2)

**Learning Objectives-** brief statements that describe what students will be expected to learn by the end of school year, course, unit, lesson, project, or class period (Domain 2)

**Letter forms-** are common writing strokes (e.g., horizontal and vertical lines, points, circles, spirals, zigzag lines, wavy lines) used to approximate letters (Domain 2)

**Letter strings-** Long strings of letters in random order (Domain 2)

**Lockdown-** a security measure taken during an emergency to prevent people from leaving or entering a building: The school remains under lockdown due to police activity in the area. (Domain 3)

## M

**Mandatory Reporting -** refers to the legal requirement to report to authorities reasonable suspicions of abuse, which may apply to health practitioners, teachers, caregivers, and/or other professions (Domain 4)

**Manipulative-** Official definition of "manipulate" means "to treat or operate with or as if with the hands or by mechanical means especially in a skillful manner" (Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary). Educational math

manipulatives are things the children can actually touch and pick up with their hands. They come in all shapes, colors and sizes. Manipulatives can give the student a three dimensional hands-on picture of the concepts they are learning. Manipulatives are usually cubes, rods, tiles or cards with or without numbers on them. (Domain 2)

**Milestones** - action or event marking a significant change or stage in development (Domain 1)

**Modeling**- an example for imitation or emulation (Domain 2)

**Modification**- a change in the course, standard, test preparation, location, timing, scheduling, expectations, student response and/or other attribute which provide access for a student with a disability to participate in a course, standard or test, which does fundamentally alter or lower the standard or expectation of the course, standard or test. (Domain 4)

**Monitor**- Observe, watch closely or keep an eye on, keep under observation (Domain 4)

**Montessori**- Independent learning, practical life experiences, self-selection, long blocks of time (Domain 1)

**Moro**- occurs when a newborn is startled by a noise or sudden movement. Infant will react by flinging arms and legs outward. (Domain 1)

**Motherese or parentese**- exaggerated, higher-pitched, slowed, sing-song speech allows the baby to see and hear language, connected to a specific event (Domain 1)

## N

**NAEYC**- National Association for the Education of Young Children: their purpose is to improve the quality of child care, Refer to NAEYC website for Resources, Code of Conduct for Professionalism, Professional development, Influence public policies, Advocate for children, See guidelines (Domain 4)

**Negative reinforcement**- A response aimed at discouraging children from repeating an inappropriate or unacceptable behavior (Domain 2)

**Negativism**- Doing the opposite of what others want. This behavior is normal for toddlers (Domain 1)

**Nesting bowls**- a set of plastic **bowls** of different sizes that fit in one another when placed in order, nesting -center toys promote *order*, including reversing one's thinking (Domain 2)

**Newsletter**- a short written report that tells about the recent activities the classroom or childcare center/organization (Domain 2)

**Non- verbal communication**- Nonverbal Communication is written or physical i.e. a look, folding arms, rolling eyes etc. (Domain 1)

**Nurture** - the process of caring for and encouraging the growth or development of someone or something (Domain 1)

**Nutrition**- The science of food and how the body uses foods taken in (Domain 3)

## O

**Obesity**- a condition characterized by the excessive accumulation and storage of fat in the body (Domain 3)

**Object permanence**- This begins at 6-9 months. This is the understanding that objects continue to exist even if the infant cannot see them (Domain 1)

**Objective Observation**- using facts, not personal feelings and prejudices, to describe events or things (Domain 2)

**Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)**- Occupational Safety and Health Administration. OSHA is the main federal agency charged with the enforcement of safety and health legislation. (Domain 4)

**Open ended art**- Art that does not have a 'right way' or a 'wrong way', every child's piece original and unique, does not require a great deal of teacher preparation or assistance, emphasizes the process vs. end product, child express his/her own ideas and feelings, child directed and initiated. (Domain 2)

**Open ended questions-** Questions without a single right or wrong answer, inspires creativity, promote critical and divergent thinking (meaning that there is more than one correct answer and children can investigate for answers), meaningful to the child, provides opportunity for investigation, involves problem-solving (Domain 2)

## P

**Palmer Grasp-** when an infant's palms are touched, the hands will grip tightly (Domain 1)

**Parallel play-** Playing near, but not actually with other children. This behavior is characteristic of toddlers (Domain 1)

**Peer Pressure-** influence from members of one's peer group (Domain 1)

**Persistence-** firm or obstinate continuance in a course of action in spite of difficulty or opposition (Domain 1)

**Phonetic awareness-** is the ability to notice, think about, and work with the individual sounds in spoken words (Domain 2)

**Phonics-** the association of letters with the speech sounds they represent, rather than visual recognition of the whole word as a unit (Domain 2)

**Phonemic awareness-** is the ability to notice, think about, and work with the individual sounds in spoken words. (Domain 1)

**Physical Abuse** - as any intentional act causing injury or trauma to another person by way of bodily contact (Domain 3)

**Physical Development-** Increasing motor skills, physical body changes in a growing individual (Domain 1)

**Piaget-** Stages of cognitive development, Sensorimotor-object permanence, learning through senses, birth-2, Preoperational- egocentric, symbolic representation, conservation, 2-7 Concrete operations-thinking logically, 7-11, Formal operations-abstract thinking, 11-adult (Domain 1)

**Pipettes-** plastic "eyedroppers," a mainstay of most science experiments, used to measure drops of solution or color (Domain 2)

**Positive guidance techniques-** Giving information, Modeling, Redirection, Problem-solving/negotiation, Acknowledge feeling, Setting / restate limits, Consistency, Establish routines/predictability, Establishing relationships/security and trust, Preventing or anticipating guidance issues or behaviors, Realistic expectations, Developmentally appropriate activities (Domain 2)

**Positive reinforcement-** A response that encourages a particular behavior (Domain 2)

**Preoperational stage-** children think in terms of their own activities and what they perceive at the moment (Domain 2)

**Prenatal development-** The baby's development during a pregnancy (Domain 1)

**Pre-read process-** Infant Toddler, Begin to recognize symbols, Preschool, Identify signs, symbols and labels in the environment, Letter sounds. School Age, Recognize spoken words are represented in written language by a specific sequence of letters (Domain 2)

**Preschoolers-** 3-5 years (Domain 1)

**Primary Caregiver** - Each child and their family are allocated a primary caregiver who works towards establishing a warm, secure relationship with the child and a partnership with the parents. The primary caregiver ensures each child's needs and routines are met, taking a key role in feeding, sleeping, changing, noticing, wondering and playing with each child. The primary caregiver has responsibility for communicating with each family, making links to home culture and contexts and documenting each child's learning (Domain 1)

**Print awareness-** Book handling skills, Sounds & rhythms of spoken language, Letter knowledge (Domain 2)

**Process art-** emphasizes the process vs. end product, art that does not have a 'right way' or a 'wrong way', every child's piece original and unique, does not require a great deal of teacher preparation or assistance, child express his/her own ideas and feelings, child directed and initiated, no dittos, patterns and cut out art, no models or examples for the children, or not drawing for the child (Domain 2)

**Product Art-** is when the emphasis is placed on following instructions to achieve an expected result. For example: Product Art- The teacher makes one, she shows the children how to make one, and we all end up making the same perfectly cute art project (Domain 2)

**Professional organization-** Organizations that offer a variety of membership benefits and resources through their professional journals, professional development conferences, provide research-based and professionally reviewed materials to guide program practices. (Domain 4)

**Progression of development-** Development, although different for every child, does follow a fairly predictable path or course of progression. For example, an infant learns to control his or her head before being able to gain control of extremities, and gross motor skills (e.g., sitting, jumping, climbing) tend to mature and become set before fine motor skills (e.g., writing, cutting, eye-hand) are refined. Includes: From head to toe (cephalo-caudal), from trunk to extremities (from the torso to the arms and legs), Gross motor to fine motor (proximo-distal) (Domain 1)

**Proximal distal -** Pattern of development from the trunk outward to the extremities, example sitting precedes throwing a ball (Domain 1)

## Q

**Quality First Initiative-** First Things First Signature Programs Quality First is Arizona's statewide quality improvement and rating system for providers of center- or home-based early care and education, ensuring that licensed centers and certified child care homes are safe, engaging learning environments for kids (Domain 4)

## R

**Recasting-** technique that has been shown in research to be highly effective for facilitating oral language development; involves repeating what the child says but making grammatical corrections. You don't need to emphasize as if you're correcting the child and do not make the child say it back to you correctly. Ex - Child: "Baby crying." Adult: "Yes, the baby is crying." (Domain 1)

**Redirection-** Diverting or turning a child's attention in a different direction (Domain 1)

**Reflex-** An automatic body response to a stimulus (Domain 1)

**Reggio Emilia Approach** - an educational philosophy based on the image of the child as possessing strong potentials for development that began in the early childhood centers of Reggio Emilia, Italy. This approach focuses on the hundred languages belonging to every human being. In the work spaces young children are offered daily opportunities to encounter many types of materials, many expressive languages, many points of view, working actively with hands, minds, and emotions, in a context that values the expressiveness, aesthetics, and creativity of each child (Domain 1)

**Recessive genes-** in a gene pair, this is the weaker gene and the one less likely to be expressed in a person's physical traits. A person must inherit two recessive genes, one from each parent, for the same recessive trait in order for it to be expressed. (Domain 1)

**Ribbon dance-** Dancing with colorful ribbons for rhythmic movement (Domain 2)

**Rooting-** causes infants to turn their heads toward anything that brushes their faces. (Domain 1)

## S

**SACERS -** School-Age Care Environment Rating Scale (Domain 4)

**Sanitize -** refers to the reduction of microorganisms to levels considered safe from a public health viewpoint. (Domain 3)



**Scaffolding a play sequence-** The process of structuring learning experiences (play) around existing knowledge and offering challenge that is just beyond the child's current level of understanding and ability (Domain 2)

**Scribbling** - stage of writing development that looks like random assortment of marks on a child's paper. Sometimes the marks are large, circular, and random, and resemble drawing. Although the marks do not resemble print, they are significant because emergent writers use them to express their thoughts and ideas. (Domain 1)

**Self Esteem-** Self-worth or the value people place on themselves (Domain 1)

**Self-concept-** Perception that a child has himself or herself (Domain 1)

**Self-reflection-** Ongoing process of looking and observing, recording one's own teaching practices and taking action to make positive changes in the classroom for young children. (Domain 4)

**Self-regulating-** refers to a range of characteristics and abilities. A child with self-regulatory skills is able to focus his attention, control his emotions and manage his thinking, behavior and feelings (Domain 2)

**Sensory development-** Stimulating the development of young child's senses: touch, smell, taste, sight and hearing. Sensory activities and sensory tables facilitate exploration and naturally encourage children to use scientific processes while they play, create, investigate and explore. Spending time stimulating their senses helps children develop cognitively, linguistically, socially and emotionally, physically and creatively. (Domain 2)

**Sensorimotor stage-** children learn through their senses and own actions (Domain 1)

**Sensory table-** Table in the sensory area that gives children the opportunity to experience the sensations related to water and sand. Also known as a water or sand table (Domain 1)

**Shaken Baby Syndrome-** injury to a baby caused by being shaken violently and repeatedly. Shaking can cause swelling of the brain, internal

bleeding, detached retinas leading to blindness, mental retardation, and death. (Domain 4)

**Small group-** 3-5 children (Domain 2)

**Social Development-** Interacting with others (Domain 1)

**Social Media-** websites and applications that enable users to create and share content or to participate in social networking. (Domain 4)

**Solitary Play** - independent or alone, infant play (Domain 1)

**Special Education-** is the practice of educating students with special needs in a way that addresses their individual differences and needs (Domain 2)

**Specific task assessment-** Giving children set activities to determine skill and/or needs (Domain 2)

**Sphincter muscle-** muscles that help regulate eliminations from the bowels (Domain 1)

**Spontaneous-** coming or resulting from a natural impulse or tendency; without effort or premeditation; natural and unconstrained; unplanned (Domain 2)

**Stages of play-** Solitary Independent play-infants, Parallel Playing near others but not with -toddlers, Cooperative Play between two or more children-preschool (Domain 2)

**Stages of Writing-** Progresses from using scribbles, shapes, or pictures to represent ideas, to using letter-like symbols, to copying or writing familiar words such as their own name Uses inventive and phonetic writing to form words to convey ideas or to tell a story. (Domain 2)

**Standards-** A framework that provides an essential first step for designing and/or choosing an effective, high-quality curricula; Common, agreed upon goals and outcomes for teaching and learning (Domain 2)

**Stepping-** when an infant is held so the feet are flat on a surface, the infant will lift one foot after another in a stepping motion (Domain 1)

**Stereotype-** a widely held but fixed and oversimplified image or idea of a particular type of person or thing (Domain 2)

**Stressor (family)-** Changes in family situations which cause stress on children (Domain 2)

**Subjective-** relying on personal opinions and feelings, rather than facts, to judge events (Domain 4)

## T

**Tactile-** connected with the sense of touch (Domain 2)

**Tantrums-** Incidents in which children release anger or frustration by screaming, crying, kicking, pounding, or holding their breath. (Domain 1 & 2)

**Teacher/child Ratio-** In child care centers, when children of different age groups are mixed, the ratios apply to the youngest child in the group. Infants cannot be mixed with older children unless there are less than six children in the center. Infants and one-year-old children may not be mixed with school-age children. Child care personnel are required to directly supervise children at all times. (Domain 4)

STAFF TO CHILD RATIOS Child Care Centers

Infants 1:5, 2:11

One-Year-Olds 1:6, 2:13

Two-Year-Olds 1:8

Three-Year-Olds 1:13

Four-Year-Olds 1:15

Five-Year-Olds & School-Age 1:20

**Teacher Directed activities-** The teacher instructs the children how to accomplish a specific task (Domain 2)

**Teratogen-** an agent or factor that causes malformation of an embryo. (Domain 1)

**Thinking Skills-** are the mental processes that we apply when we seek to make sense of experience. Thinking skills enable us to integrate each new experience into the schema that we are constructing of "how things are" (Domain 1)

**Toddler-** 12 to 36 months (Domain 1)

**Toddler classroom environment** - Toys are easily accessible to children, multiples of favorite toys (Domain 2)

**Transition techniques-** Methods in which the teacher uses to change from one activity to another and/or moving from one place to another. (Domain 2)

**Transitions-** Periods in an early childhood classroom during which children move from one activity to the next. The number of transitions throughout the day should be minimal—the less transitions the better. (Domain 2)

**Trial and error-** Learning that takes place when a child tries several solutions before finding one that works. (Domain 2)

**Trimester-** Pregnancy has three **trimesters**, each of which is marked by specific fetal developments (Domain 1)

**Tummy time-** During tummy time, infant lays on belly to play while supervised. Infants need to spend awake time on stomach to develop Physically and mentally (Domain 1)

## V

**Valid-** having a sound basis in logic or fact; reasonable or cogent (Domain 2)

**Verbal communication-** Verbal communication is spoken (Domain 1)

**Visual Art-** art forms that create works which are primarily visual in nature such as ceramics, drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking, design, crafts (Domain 2)

**Vygotsky-** Importance of social interaction, zone of proximal development, scaffolding (Domain 1)

## W

**Whole group-** The entire class of children (Domain 2)