

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Sara Gagné-Holmes
Commissioner



Maine Department of Health and Human Services
Child and Family Services
11 State House Station
2 Anthony Avenue
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011
Tel.: (207) 624-7900; Toll Free: (877) 680-5866
TTY: Dial 711 (Maine Relay); Fax: (207) 287-5282

MEMORANDUM

To: Early Childhood Professionals

From: Office of Child and Family Services

Date: June 11, 2025

Subject: NEW Maine Early Learning and Development Standards (MELDS) Resources

The Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and Maine Department of Education are pleased to announce the release of updated resources designed to support the effective use of the Infant/Toddler and Preschool Maine Early Learning and Development Standards (MELDS). These tools offer practical, accessible guidance for families, caregivers, and educators, helping to bring the MELDS into everyday early childhood settings.

Developed by experienced professionals currently working in the early childhood field, these tools reflect real-world practice and are thoughtfully designed to meet the diverse needs of those supporting young children's growth and learning. This initiative was made possible through funding from the federal Preschool Development Grant, which supports Maine's ongoing commitment to expanding access and quality in early childhood education.

Key resources include:

- Clear, user-friendly guides to developmental milestones
- Practical strategies for implementing learning standards
- Straightforward explanations of age-appropriate expectations.

Together, these tools help to ensure that all children in Maine receive high-quality care and education aligned with the MELDS.

To support accessibility, all materials are now available in the five most commonly spoken languages in Maine—English, Arabic, French, Spanish, and Portuguese—ensuring families and early childhood professionals across the state can use these resources effectively, regardless of their primary language.

All translated resources are available to download for free on the Maine Early Learning and Development Standards website (<https://www.maine.gov/doe/learning/earlychildhood/standards>)

For more information, please contact:

- Nicole Madore, Early Childhood Specialist, Maine DOE: nicole.madore@maine.gov
- Megan Swanson, Community and Partnerships Program Manager, Maine DHHS Office of Child and Family Services: megan.swanson@maine.gov