

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (VIRTUAL)



PURPOSE

To evaluate a contestant's knowledge of early childhood education based on developmentally appropriate practice for children ages 3–5 years. This is demonstrated through a written test, interview, literary reading and the ability to create and implement a lesson in a designated content area as determined by the committee.

First, download and review the General Regulations at: <http://updates.skillsusa.org>.

ELIGIBILITY

Open to active SkillsUSA members enrolled in technical education programs with early childhood/childcare as the occupational objective.

CLOTHING REQUIREMENTS

Class E: Contest specific — Business Casual

- Official SkillsUSA white polo shirt.
- Black dress slacks (accompanied by black dress socks or black or skin-tone seamless hose) or black dress skirt (knee-length, accompanied by black or skin-tone seamless hose).
- Black leather closed-toe dress shoes.

Contest Clothing Notes (Apply ONLY to Virtual Competitions):

- Official SkillsUSA Competition Clothing recommended but NOT required.
- Contestant clothing options include the following:
 - Official Competition Clothing.
 - Trade Appropriate Clothing.
 - Professional Dress.
 - Business Casual.
- Clothing must meet industry safety standards.
- No identification of the contestant, school or state is allowed on clothing.

- No offensive, vulgar or inappropriate images or text are allowed on contestants clothing.
- No shorts or sleeveless shirts are allowed.
- Skirts must be at least knee-length.
- Proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) must be worn by contestant to meet all state, local and school requirements due to COVID-19.
- Scoring deductions may only be given and/or disqualification of contestant if clothing safety standards are not met.

These regulations refer to clothing items that are pictured and described at: www.skillsusastore.org. If you have questions about clothing or other logo items, call 1-888-501-2183.

OBSERVER RULE

Observers, who are not participants, will be allowed to be present during the competition. No talking or gesturing shall be permitted. No observers will be allowed in the interview area or be permitted to enter or exit the demonstration area while a contestant is speaking. *No video/audio recorders will be allowed by observers.*

EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS

Supplied by the contestant:

1. Computer with high-speed internet capability and camera to use applications such as Zoom, Teams, etc. The minimum recommended internet bandwidth speeds for joining Zoom meetings, accessing on-demand curriculum and other online operations is 2.0 Mbps up and down. You can test your current internet speeds by following this link: www.speedtest.net. Allow the page to load and click on GO.
2. A secondary camera(s) may be required to provide judges with the ability to view contestants from different angles. Additional camera requirements will be located on the SkillsUSA website at <http://updates.skillsusa.org>.
3. A contest Proctor will be required to be on site to assist judges. A local industry expert is preferred to serve as the Proctor and shall not be an individual that has been involved with the training of the

contestant(s). The Proctor will serve as the onsite “hands and eyes” for the judges. Proctor will follow instructions from the judges for safety and operations related to the competition. Proctor may be asked by judges to perform several tasks such as operating a portable camera to show specific components or steps, measure parts, or any task that will provide judges with information needed to assist in accurate scoring of the contestant’s work or presentation. However, the Proctor shall not serve as a judge nor have any influence on contestant scores.

4. The contestant’s instructor or advisor shall be on site to observe all competition activities to ensure a safe and healthy competition experience for all participants. That instructor or advisor will not be allowed to interact or interfere with the competitor unless a safety issue arises that requires interaction. Any other support or interaction between the contestant and the instructor/advisor will result in disqualification.
5. All competitors must create a one-page résumé and submit an electronic copy to the technical committee chair at least seven (7) days in advance of the competition. Failure to do so will result in a 10-point penalty. Instructions for submission of the electronic résumé copy will be provided on the SkillsUSA website at <http://updates.skillsusa.org>.
6. Tools of the profession:
 - a. 12" ruler.
 - b. Scissors.
 - c. Scotch tape — 1 roll.
 - d. Stapler.
 - e. Staples — 1 strip.
 - f. Paper clips — 10.
 - g. Ink pens — 2 black or blue.
 - h. Sharpened pencils with erasers — 3.
 - i. Markers — 10-count.
 - j. Crayons — 8-count.
 - k. White school glue — 4 oz. bottle.
 - l. Glue sticks — 2.
 - m. Construction paper, white — 10 sheets.
 - n. Construction paper, assorted — 10 sheets.

Note: Your contest may also require a hard copy of your résumé as part of the actual contest. Check the Contest Guidelines

and/or the updates page on the SkillsUSA website: <http://updates.skillsusa.org>.

SCOPE OF THE CONTEST

This contest is established by industry standards as set by the current industry technical committee. Contest standards have been cross-checked for applicability to the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the National Association of Early Childhood Specialists in State Department of Education (NAECS/SDE), National Head Start Association (NHSA) and National Child Development Credential (CDA).

Knowledge Performance

The contest includes a multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, written exam assessing knowledge of early childhood education and quality childcare.

Skill Performance

The skill performance of this contest consists of three parts:

1. Ability to interview and answer questions pertaining to working in a childcare facility
2. Ability to create and implement a developmentally appropriate lesson in an assigned curricular area
3. Ability to demonstrate a developmentally appropriate literary reading

Contest Guidelines

Interview

1. Contestant will respond to interview questions regarding knowledge of early childhood, collaboration and working with children and families.
2. Contestant shall exhibit professionalism:
 - a. Poise/body position.
 - b. Attitude.
 - c. Eye contact.
 - d. Appropriate grammar/language.

Lesson Planning

1. An assortment of materials commonly found in a childcare facility shall be available for use in lesson planning.
2. The assortment of materials will be unknown to contestants prior to the contest.

3. Contestants shall address developmentally appropriate concepts from one of the following curriculum areas: food and nutrition, literacy, math, music and movement, science or social sciences.
4. Contestant shall complete a handwritten lesson plan and prepare materials during the allotted plan time. The plan must be:
 - a. Neatly printed in ink
 - b. Developmentally appropriate for children 3-5 years according to the Developmentally Appropriate Practice in Early Childhood Programs Serving Children Birth Through Age 8 (2009, third edition)
 - c. Follow the specified outline:
 1. Curriculum Area.
 2. Materials Needed.
 3. Goals/Areas of Development.
 4. Written Procedure/Sequence.
 5. Scaffolding.
 6. Mechanics (spelling, grammar, punctuation, etc.).
5. Contestants will have three hours to plan their lesson and prepare materials needed for their presentation. Warnings will be given with one hour remaining and again at thirty minutes.
6. Contestants may leave presentation area upon completion but will no longer have access to their plan or materials.
7. **Penalty:** A two-point deduction shall be indicated for each missing or excess item supplied by the contestant.

Lesson Demonstration

1. Contestants should arrive at the demonstration area early.
2. Contestants will be given a lesson plan and materials 15 minutes prior to their assigned presentation time.
3. Contestants will be given five to seven minutes to present their lesson.
4. Contestants shall present as if children are present. Do not present to judges.
5. At end of presentation, judges will ask one question of contestants pertaining to inclusion/adaptations.

6. Follow specified criteria:
 - Verbal/nonverbal communication.
 - Presentation technique.
 - Appropriate introduction/closure.
 - Foster critical thinking.
 - Creativity.
7. Judges will be unknown to contestants.
8. **Penalties:** Five-point deduction for every 30 seconds greater than *two* minutes allotted for setup and for every 30 seconds under or over the five- to seven-minute demonstration time.
9. Contestants will return all materials to a designated committee member upon completion of the presentation. Materials made by contestants are the property of the contestants.

Book Reading Demonstration

1. Contestants will have access to and choose from designated books.
2. Contestants should arrive to demonstration area early and will have 15 minutes to practice their book prior to presentation.
3. Contestants will be given three to five minutes to present their lesson.
4. Contestants shall exhibit dynamic book reading skills:
 - a. Literacy awareness.
 - b. Developmentally appropriate practice.
 - c. Verbal and nonverbal communication.
 - d. Interactive.
 - e. Foster critical thinking.
5. Contestants are not required to read the entire book.
6. Contestants shall present as if children are present. Do not present to judges.
7. Judges will be unknown to contestants.
8. **Penalties:** Five-point deduction for every 30 seconds under or over the three- to five-minute demonstration time.
9. Contestants will return all materials to a designated committee member upon completion of the presentation.

Standards and Competencies

Note for Virtual Competitions: Contestants may not be required to perform all the standards and competencies listed in this section. However, contestants should be prepared to perform components in all areas. Prior to the competition, the technical committee may determine which standards and competencies contestants will be perform for the virtual contests. The technical committee will determine if additional information is needed for contestants prior to the competition. These changes will be posted on the SkillsUSA Championships contest update website at: <http://updates.skillsusa.org>.

ECE 1.0 — Develop a hands-on lesson plan for a small group of children ages 3–5 years in the assigned curricular area

- 1.1 Create a written lesson plan that addresses developmentally appropriate concepts from one of the following curriculum areas: food and nutrition, literacy, math, music and movement, science or social sciences
- 1.2 From provided materials, choose items to incorporate into the lesson
- 1.3 Write a legible plan on the provided lesson plan sheet
- 1.4 Include essential components in the lesson plan
 - 1.4.1 Curriculum area
 - 1.4.2 Materials needed
 - 1.4.3 Goals/Areas of development
 - 1.4.4 Written procedure/sequence
 - 1.4.5 Scaffolding
 - 1.4.6 Mechanics (spelling, grammar, punctuation, etc.)
- 1.5 Prepare developmentally appropriate lesson and materials for children ages 3–5 years
- 1.8 Submit written lesson and all materials to technical committee member

ECE 2.0 — Using applicable teacher skills and developmentally appropriate methodologies, demonstrate the written lesson. (Demonstration 5–7 minutes)

- 2.1 Demonstrate developmentally appropriate teaching techniques
- 2.2 Exhibit attention-gaining techniques in the introduction

- 2.3 Support lesson goals with appropriate procedure and use of materials
- 2.4 Use voice as a teaching tool — expression, grammar, volume, inflection
- 2.5 Promote critical thinking in children
- 2.6 Allow children to interact with materials
- 2.7 Present on child’s level
- 2.8 Conclude the lesson appropriately
- 2.9 Display originality and creativity
- 2.10 Respond to judge’s question following the presentation

ECE 3.0 — Using applicable teacher skills and developmentally appropriate methodologies, demonstrate a literacy experience (Demonstration 3–5 minutes)

- 3.1 Choose a book for demonstration
- 3.2 Read the book using developmentally appropriate teaching techniques
- 3.3 Exhibit attention-gaining technique for introduction
- 3.4 Introduce book using title, author and illustrator
- 3.5 Use voice as a teaching tool — expression, grammar, volume, inflection
- 3.6 Promote critical thinking in children
- 3.7 Provide opportunities for children to interact
- 3.8 Present on child’s level

ECE 4.0 — Apply knowledge of early childhood education and employment skills through an interview process

- 4.1 Exhibit professionalism during interview
- 4.2 Use appropriate verbal and nonverbal communication
- 4.4 Display self-awareness
- 4.5 Demonstrate knowledge of high-quality early childhood programs

ECE 5.0 — Apply knowledge of child development and early childhood education

- 5.1 Display an understanding of theorists and their contribution to the foundation of early childhood education
- 5.2 Describe child growth and development
- 5.3 Explain how to provide a safe and healthy learning environment
- 5.4 Discuss how to encourage development in all areas: physical, social, emotional, cognitive and linguistic
- 5.5 Provide safe and effective classroom management

ECE 6.0 — Demonstrate professional and ethical standards

- 6.1 Maintain a commitment to professionalism
- 6.2 Describe positive techniques for collaborative work with peers
- 6.3 Demonstrate understanding for positive and collaborative relationships with children, family and community

ECE 7.0 — Evaluate developmentally appropriate practices to enhance various learning levels of child growth and development

- 7.1 Assess strategies that promote physical, cognitive, social, emotional and linguistic development in children
- 7.2 Analyze components of an inclusive curriculum that incorporates learning styles, language, home experiences and values
- 7.3 Respect diversity with sensitivity to anti-bias, gender equality, age, culture and ethnicity related to children and parenting
- 7.4 Demonstrate positive guidance techniques
- 7.5 Devise strategies to encourage self-discipline
- 7.6 Educate self in current and emerging research in early childhood practice

ECE 8.0 — Evaluate factors affecting children and families with a variety of disadvantaging conditions

- 8.1 Examine characteristics, needs and interventions related to children with special needs, such as those with physical, emotional, social or developmental delays or socioeconomic disadvantages
- 8.2 Describe the impact of heredity and environment on conditions that affect children

Committee Identified Academic Skills

The technical committee has identified that the following academic skills are embedded in this context.

Linguistic Skills

- Validate social skills through conversations and oral presentations.

- Demonstrate use of verbal communication skills: vocabulary, tone, pitch, fluency, expression.
- Usage of nonverbal communication skills: eye contact, posture and movement to gain information.
- Display written communication: narrative and informational writing.
- Ability to edit written communication: grammar, sentence structure, spelling, proper usage of upper/lowercase and punctuation.
- Exhibit reading/literacy skills.

Math Skills

- Make predictions using knowledge of probability.
- Use standard and nonstandard measurements.
- Understand basic geometry.
- Practice spatial relationships.
- Ability to sort and classify sets.
- Aptitude to construct patterns.
- Identify numbers and basic addition/subtraction.
- Create charts and graphs.
- Exposure to time, volume and temperature.

Science Skills

- Hands-on scientific experimentation through exploration.
- Ability to ask questions and hypothesize
- Use of observations.
- Conduct reasoning and make predictions.
- Formulate questions using critical thinking.
- Describe of living and nonliving things.
- Define weather and climate.
- Understanding nutrition and body awareness.
- Concept of child growth and development
- Recording investigations.
- Communicating and sharing ideas.

Connections to National Standards

State-level academic curriculum specialists identified the following connections to national academic standards.

Linguistic

- Application of strategies to comprehend, interpret, evaluate and appreciate texts. Use prior experience, knowledge of word

meaning and identification strategies for understanding contextual features (e.g., sound-letter correspondence, sentence structure).

- Adjustment and usage of verbal, written and visual language (e.g., connotations, vocabulary) to communicate effectively with diverse audiences for a variety of purposes.
- Exhibit verbal, written and visual language to accomplish personal success (e.g., learning, enjoyment).
- Recognition, understanding and respect for diversity in language use and dialects across cultures, ethnic groups, geographic regions and social roles.
- English Language Learners use native language to develop competency in the English language and develop understanding of content across the curriculum.
- Participation as knowledgeable, reflective, creative and crucial members of a variety of literacy communities.

Source: Common Core English Language Arts Standards. To view high school standards, visit: www.corestandards.org/wp-content/uploads/ELA_Standards1.pdf.

National Council of Teachers for English (NCTE). To view high school standards, visit: www.ncte.org/standards.

Math Standards

- Problem solving.
- Communication.
- Connections.
- Representation.

Source: Common Core Math Standards. To view high school standards, visit: www.corestandards.org/assets/CCSSI_Mathematics_Appendix_A.pdf.

Science Standards

- Understands the principles of heredity and related concepts.
- Knowledge of biological evolution and diversity in life.
- Recognizes scientific initiative.

Source: National Science Teachers Association (NSTA). To view high school standards, visit: <http://ngss.nsta.org/AccessStandardsByTopic.aspx>.

Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Science and Engineering Practices in NGSS. To view high school standards, visit: <http://tinyurl.com/ngss-standards-doc>.