

## Connecticut Competency Goals for School-Age Staff:

- I. To establish and maintain a safe, healthy, learning environment
- II. To advance physical and intellectual competence
- III. To support social and emotional development and provide positive guidance
- IV. To establish positive and productive relationships with families.
- V. To ensure a well-run, purposeful program responsive to participant needs
- VI. To maintain a commitment to professionalism

## Core Functional Areas for School-Age Staff:

**Safety:** Candidate provides a safe environment to prevent and reduce injuries.

**Health:** Candidate promotes good health and nutrition and provides an environment that contributes to the prevention of illness.

**Out-of-School Environments:** Candidate uses space, relationships, materials, and routines as resources for constructing an interesting, secure, and enjoyable environment that encourages play, exploration, and learning.

**Physical:** Candidate provides a variety of equipment, activities, and opportunities to promote the physical development of school-age children.

**Cognitive:** Candidate provides hands-on activities, experiences, and opportunities that encourage curiosity, exploration, and problem solving appropriate to the developmental levels and learning styles of school-age children.

**Communication:** Candidate actively communicates with school-age children and provides opportunities and support for school-age children to understand, acquire, and use verbal and nonverbal means of communicating thoughts and feelings.

**Creative:** Candidate provides opportunities that stimulate school-age children to play with sound, rhythm, languages, materials, space, and ideas in individual ways and to express their creative abilities.

**Self:** Candidate provides physical and emotional security for each school-age child and helps each school-age child to know, accept, take pride in himself or herself and develop a sense of independence.

**Social:** Candidate helps each school-age child feel accepted in the group, helps children learn to communicate and get along with others, and encourages feelings of empathy and mutual respect among school-age children and adults.

**Guidance:** Candidate provides a supportive environment in which children can learn and practice appropriate and acceptable behaviors as individuals and as a group.

**Families:** Candidate maintains an open, friendly and cooperative relationship with each school-age child's family, encourages their involvement in the program, and supports the school-age child's relationships with his or her family.

**Program Management:** Candidate is a manager who uses all available resources to ensure an effective operation. The Candidate is a competent organizer, planner, record-keeper, communicator, and a cooperative co-worker.

**Professionalism:** Candidate makes decisions based on knowledge of School-Age theories and practices, promotes quality in School-Age services, and takes advantage of opportunities to improve competence, both for personal and professional growth and for the benefit of children and families.

**\*Child Development Knowledge:** Candidate demonstrates an understanding of child development ages, stages, and the range of development that may occur within a given age or stage, as well as an ability to apply this understanding in developing program, environment, and activities that meet children's needs. (*\*addition to existing CT list*).