Dear Early Childhood Professionals and Stakeholders:

The Louisiana Early Childhood Education Act, also known as Act 3, declares that: “In order to significantly improve outcomes at all levels of the state’s educational system, it is imperative that standards for, and expectations of, our early childhood programs be raised to levels that will promote kindergarten readiness and sustain lifelong learning and achievement.” In response, Louisiana developed a draft of Birth-to-Five Early Learning and Development Standards. These Standards provide a continuum of developmental milestones that includes standards for each age level with the four-year-old standards serving as the “anchor.”

These draft Birth-to-Five Standards were developed by key early childhood stakeholders in Louisiana with the assistance of national experts. Stakeholders included child care and infant/toddler experts, Head Start personnel, public and private pre-kindergarten coordinators, university early childhood personnel, and representatives from agencies that serve young children ages birth to 5 years.

Here are the key highlights of these draft Birth-to-Five Standards:

* Applicable toall children regardless of the early childhood setting including children with disabilities and limited English proficiency;
* Aligned with the K-12 Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics;
* Used to identify developmentally-appropriate and effective assessment tools, including both program and child assessment tools; and
* Serve as a foundation for professional development for early childhood providers in Louisiana.

At this time, we are asking you to provide feedback to ensure that these standards will be easy-to-use, practical and lead to better outcomes for children.

Steps to Standards and Surveys:

* Go to: [www.brightstartla.org](http://www.brightstartla.org)
* Read over the documents provided
* Fill out one of two surveys
  1. Birth to Five Standards General Survey
  2. Birth to Five Standards Domain Specific Survey.

Please feel free to share this website with other early childhood professionals. We appreciate your feedback and input. Together we will improve the quality of Louisiana’s Early Childhood Programs.

Sincerely,

*Early Childhood Care and Education Network Leadership Team*