



New Hampshire

Department of Education Technical Advisory

Serving New Hampshire's Education Community

Play-Based Kindergarten

RSA 193-E:2-a

*This Technical Advisory continues the New Hampshire Department of Education's communication regarding the new legislation which was passed into law during the 2018 legislative session. **This new law becomes effective August 17, 2018.***

During the 2018 legislative session, RSA 193-E:2-a, which is the Substantive Educational Content of an Adequate Education law, was amended. The amendment adds in a provision specific to the course content and teaching of kindergarten which is structured upon a play-based model. The new section of the law, which will be applicable to all kindergarten instruction for the upcoming 2018-2019 school year, is provided in its entirety below:

II-a. Instruction in support of kindergarten standards shall be engaging and shall foster children's development and learning in all domains including physical, social, cognitive, and language. Educators shall create a learning environment that facilitates high quality, child-directed experiences based upon early childhood best teaching practices and play-based learning that comprise movement, creative expression, exploration, socialization, and music. Educators shall develop literacy through guided reading and shall provide unstructured time for the discovery of each child's individual talents, abilities, and needs.

This new provision was created out of an understanding that kindergarten was intended to be a means of socializing children and preparing them for formal education through four key components: exploration, movement, expression, and play. Rigorous structure and heavy curriculum are not intended to be part of the kindergarten experience. Rather, educating kindergarten age children can be done through social imitation, learning through expression, and unstructured play within the classroom setting.

Currently, the Department is offering two trainings sessions to teach the concept of a play-based curriculum. These training sessions will be held on **Monday, August 20 and Friday, August 24 from 9:30-11:30 at the Department of Education**. This training is designed specifically for kindergarten teachers, curriculum coordinators, and principals, but is open to all who are interested. Please contact Mary Ellen Hamilton at MaryEllen.Hamilton@doe.nh.gov or (603) 271-6133 to register. The deadline to register for Monday's session is this Friday, August 17, and the deadline for Friday's session is Wednesday, August 22.

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