Module 1: Child Development

Overview:
As kindergarten teachers across the nation struggle to strike the balance between learning standards and accountability expectations and developmentally appropriate and effective practices for supporting development and learning in young children, it is important to bring the needs of children to the forefront of their decision making. Understanding the typical patterns of growth and development in young children is essential to planning effective, appropriate and engaging learning environments and experiences for all young children. The information found within this professional development module serves as foundational knowledge for all those working with or on behalf of kindergarten age children.

Module Objectives
- Understand the stages of child development in the following domains:
  - Social-Emotional
  - Physical
  - Cognitive
  - Language
- Learn about current brain research
- Consider the implications of child development on your teaching practices
- Investigate strategies to differentiate learning

Presentation:
This PowerPoint presentation is the first in a series of Full-Day Kindergarten Professional Development Modules. Module 1 addresses the growth and development of kindergarten age children from ages 3–6. Specifically, it focuses on the key understandings of child development, current brain research, and the domains of learning and development of young children. It also brings it all together through the lens of the kindergarten teacher and the implications of child development in effective teaching and learning.

Presenter Notes:
This document serves as a guide for presenters and provides the content for training on this module. It includes details, tips and helpful information for using the slides, handouts and other materials for training. Guidance is also provided on strategies for using supplemental materials.
Learning Activities:
Several learning experiences are contained within this module to encourage active and interactive engagement by the participants of the training. Included are opportunities for participants to construct their own understandings through
- Thinking and Writing
- Discussion
- Collaborative Partner and Group Work
- Reflection
- Reading and Responding
- Sharing of Ideas

Additional Resources:
Also included in this module are numerous links to additional resources to find out more about child growth, development and learning.

Tips and Tools for Teachers:
The tips for teachers include simple, practical suggestions that teachers can easily utilize in the classroom as well as links to resources that may help answer some important questions.

Tools for Administrators:
This/These tool(s) were designed to support administrators in having a deeper understanding of the growth and development patterns of kindergarten age children. It will also guide administrators in identifying various developmental levels of children within the context of a kindergarten classroom.

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The modules were created in collaboration by Eva Phillips (author of Basics of Developmentally Appropriate Practice: An Introduction for Teachers of Kindergartners) and Janet Collier, Capital Region ESD. Project oversight was provided by Bob Butts, Assistant Superintendent of Early Learning at OSPI, Dr. Andrew Eyres, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning at Capital Region ESD 113, and Julie Rolling, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning at Puget Sound ESD 121.