

# **Arkansas' Key Content Areas and Core Competencies for Early Care and Education Professionals**

Key Content Areas and Core Competencies have been developed for Early Care and Education practitioners and for those who provide professional development. Key Content Areas are the range of knowledge that practitioners need to facilitate children's learning and development.

The eight Key Content Areas are:

- Child Growth and Development
- Positive Interaction and Guidance
- Supporting Learning and Development Through Curriculum Planning and Implementation
- Family and Community
- Child Observation and Assessment
- Health, Safety, and Nutrition
- Professional Development and Leadership
- Program Planning and Management

The Core Competencies are the range of observable skills that reflect practitioners' knowledge and understanding of the Key Content Areas. Core competencies are necessary to facilitate children's learning and development. Core Competencies are identified at three levels: foundation, intermediate, and advanced.

This document is presented in draft form and provides a guide for practitioners and those providing professional development. The document will remain in draft form until January 2011.