

## 6.3 Competency Standards for School-Age Care Professionals-at-a-Glance

The competent School-Age Care Professional is a person who:

- Meets the specific needs of children.
- Nurtures children's physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development in school-age care - with parents, families, and other adults.
- Who conducts him or herself in a professional and ethical manner.

**Skill Area 1: Professionalism:** makes decisions based on knowledge about school-age development, promotes quality in school-age care, has and continues to develop competence, maintains high ethical standards.

**Skill Area 2: Child Development:** demonstrates understanding of child development, as well as an ability to apply understanding in developing program, environment, and activities that meet children's needs.

**Skill Area 3: Safety:** provides a safe environment to prevent and reduce injuries.

**Skill Area 4: Health:** promotes good health and nutrition and provides an environment that helps prevent illness.

**Skill Area 5: Self:** provides physical and emotional security for each child; helps each child know, accept, take pride in self, develop independence.

**Skill Area 6: Guidance:** provides a supportive environment in which children learn and practice appropriate behaviors as individuals and as a group.

**Skill Area 7: Out-of-School Environment:** uses space, relationships, materials, and routines to create an interesting, secure, and enjoyable environment that encourages play, exploration, and learning.

**Skill Area 8: Creative:** stimulates children to play with sound, rhythm, languages, materials, space, and ideas and express their creative abilities.

**Skill Area 9: Physical:** provides a variety of equipment, activities, and opportunities to promote the physical development of school-age children.

**Skill Area 10: Cognitive:** 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.

**Skill Area 11: Communication:** actively communicates with children and helps children understand, acquire, and use verbal and nonverbal means of communicating thoughts and feelings.

**Skill Area 12: Social:** helps each child feel accepted, learn to communicate, get along with others, and encourages empathy and mutual respect among school-age children and adults.

**Skill Area 13: Families:** maintains open, friendly, cooperative relationships with families, encourages involvement; supports family relationships.

**Skill Area 14: Operational Program Management:** uses resources to ensure effective operation; a competent organizer, planner, record-keeper, communicator, and cooperative co-worker.