

### What are the 4 domains of child development?

Child development is comprised of four major domains - physical development, cognitive development, social-emotional development, and language development. Although other domains are frequently used, these 4 are widely considered to be the most important basis for child development. Keep in mind, most behaviours and skills could easily be classified under more than one domain.

Using the development domains can help educators organise their thoughts and observations to help establish which growth and learning milestones a child has reached.



### The 4 domains of child development continued.....



#### Cognitive

The cognitive domain includes intellectual development and creativity. As they develop cognitively, children gain the ability to process thoughts, pay attention, develop memories, understand their surroundings, express creativity, as well as to make, implement, and accomplish plans.



#### Social & Emotional

The social & emotional domain includes a child's growing understanding and control of their emotions. They also begin to identify what others are feeling, develop the ability to cooperate, show empathy, and use moral reasoning.



#### Language

Language development is dependent on the other developmental domains. The ability to communicate with others grows from infancy, but children develop these abilities at different rates. Aspects of language include:

**Phonology:** Creating the sounds of speech

**Pragmatics:** Communicating verbally and non-verbally in social situations

**Semantics:** Understanding the rules of what words mean

**Syntax:** Using grammar and putting sentences together



#### Physical

The physical domain covers the physical changes and developments a child goes through, which includes growing in size and strength, as well as the development of both gross motor skills and fine motor skills. This physical domain also includes the development of the senses and using them.