

SPARK Alignment with New Mexico Early Childhood Physical Education Standards

Standard	Suggested Assessments	Sample SPARK Activities	Corresponding SPARK Unit
Early Childhood (2011 version)			
<p>Content is designed to achieve long-range goals for children in all domains – physical, motor, social, emotional, language, and cognitive – and to help children prepare to function as fully contributing members of a democratic society.</p>	<p>SPARK EC was created to involve all children, be highly active, incorporate school readiness skills, and develop more confident and competent movers. In a SPARK EC class, children participate in enjoyable, developmentally appropriate activities, many of which integrate with other subjects like reading, writing, arithmetic, and wellness concepts such as trying new foods and being active at home with a family member. SPARK EC was designed to be integrated into preschool communities and empower them to adopt life-long wellness practices.</p>		
<p>The PreK curriculum is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research-based • Developmentally, culturally and linguistically appropriate • Inclusive of children with disabilities • Materials/experiences are linked to appropriate assessment • Includes both child and teacher initiated experiences • Input of families • Linked to the community. 	<p>SPARK is a research-based, public health organization of San Diego State University (disseminated exclusively by School Specialty, Inc.) dedicated to creating, implementing and evaluating programs that promote lifelong wellness. The SPARK team considered many factors during its development: the opinions and recommendations of content experts; national, state, and professional organizations and their guidelines and frameworks; Healthy People Objectives for the Nation; and the need for a user-friendly document that can be implemented effectively in the “real-world.”</p> <p>Instructional materials include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skill Cards • Visual Aid Cards • Station Play Cards • Movement Cube Cards • Coloring Pages • EC Performance Rubrics • Equipment Lists 		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrating Literature • Physical Activity and Readiness Skills • EC Lesson Quality Checklist • Family Introductory Letter (English and Spanish) <p>SPARK provides teaching strategies for instructors to respond effectively to the needs of individuals and to help create a supportive and positive learning environment. SPARK teaching strategies align with program objectives, have been field tested, and reflect extensive research.</p> <p>They address: organization and management, building a positive learning environment, repeating and modifying lessons, activity levels, and making classes more enjoyable.</p>		
<p>Learning experiences are carefully planned and flexible with selection of materials and experiences reflecting diversity, individual differences, and the unique interests and preferences of the group. Play is a valued context for learning.</p>	<p>The Early Childhood manual includes the following instructional units:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building Blocks • Musical ASAPs • Super Stunts • Parachute Play • Hoop it Up • R, S, B, for Me (Ribbons, Scarves, and Balloons) • Fluffball Fun • Beanbag Bonanza • Rope Action • Have a Ball • Fancy Feet 		