

# Health, Safety, & Nutrition

for the Young Child

11e



Lynn R. Marotz

# NAEYC PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION STANDARDS \*

Correlation Grid

Health, Safety, and Nutrition for the Young Child (11e) by Lynn Marotz (2024)

Standards	Chapters
Standard 1: Child Development and Learning in Context	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19
1A	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19
1B	1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19
1C	1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19
1D	1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 10, 11, 15, 17, 18, 19
<b>Standard 2:</b> Family-Teacher Partnerships and Community Connections	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19
2A	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19
2B	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19
2C	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 18, 19
<b>Standard 3:</b> Child Observation, Documentation, and Assessment	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19
3A	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19
3B	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 19
3C	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 19
3D	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 16, 19
<b>Standard 4:</b> Developmentally, Culturally, and Linguistically Appropriate Teaching Practices	1, 3, 4, 7, 10, 11, 13, 15, 16, 18, 19
4A	1, 3, 4, 7, 10, 11, 13, 15, 16, 18, 19
4B	1, 3, 4, 10, 11, 15, 16, 18, 19
4C	1, 3, 10, 11, 13, 18, 19
<b>Standard 5:</b> Knowledge, Application, and Integration of Academic Content in the Early Childhood Curriculum	1, 3, 8, 10, 11, 15, 16, 18, 19
5A	1, 3, 10, 11, 15, 16, 18, 19
5B	1, 3, 8, 11, 18, 19
5C	3, 8, 10, 11, 18, 19
<b>Standard 6:</b> Professionalism as an Early Childhood Educator	1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19
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6B	1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19
6C	1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 10, 11, 17, 18, 19
6D	1, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19
6E	8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 18
*Based on 2020 Professional Standards and Competencies. For full explana	ntions on each standard and competency please visit NAEYC.org.

# National Health Education Standards (NHES)\* Correlation Grid

Health, Safety, and Nutrition for the Young Child (11e) by Lynn Marotz (2024)

Standards	Chapters
<b>Standard 1:</b> Students will comprehend concepts related to health promotion and disease prevention to enhance health.	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19
<b>Standard 2:</b> Students will analyze the influence of family, peers, culture, media, technology, and other factors on health behaviors.	1, 15, 19
<b>Standard 3:</b> Students will demonstrate the ability to access valid information and products and services to enhance health.	11
<b>Standard 4:</b> Students will demonstrate the ability to use interpersonal communication skills to enhance health and avoid or reduce health risks.	1, 10, 11
<b>Standard 5:</b> Students will demonstrate the ability to use decision-making skills to enhance health.	8, 9, 11
<b>Standard 6:</b> Students will demonstrate the ability to use goal-setting skills to enhance health.	6, 13, 14, 15
<b>Standard 7:</b> Students will demonstrate the ability to practice health-enhancing behaviors and avoid or reduce health risks.	11, 13, 14, 18, 19
<b>Standard 8:</b> Students will demonstrate the ability to advocate for personal, family, and community health.	7, 12

<sup>\*</sup>Joint Committee on National Health Education Standards. (2007). *National Health Education Standards, Second Edition: Achieving Excellence.* Washington, D.C.: The American Cancer Society. Currently undergoing revision.



# Health, Safety and Nutrition

# for the Young Child







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 $\textbf{Australia} \bullet \textbf{Brazil} \bullet \textbf{Canada} \bullet \textbf{Mexico} \bullet \textbf{Singapore} \bullet \textbf{United Kingdom} \bullet \textbf{United States}$ 

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# **Preface**

Children's state of wellness has an unquestionable effect on their development and ability to learn. Our understanding of the factors that shape and influence a child's well-being, including nutrition, environmental conditions, and emotional and social development continues to improve as a result of ongoing research and new discoveries. In turn, this information has led to noteworthy changes in our views about health, approaches to health care, and the critical importance of addressing health education during the early years. It has also contributed to the development of numerous resources (e.g., National Health Education Standards, MyPlate, Healthy People 2030, NAEYC's Professional Standards and Competencies for Early Childhood Professionals, National Health and Safety Performance Standards for Child Care) that currently guide personal and classroom practices. Additionally, our knowledge of wellness and the importance of promoting healthy lifestyle behaviors draws increasing attention to the pivotal role that teachers play in identifying children's health needs, creating high-quality environments that support learning and are safe, and providing comprehensive health education in schools.

Health, Safety, and Nutrition for the Young Child, now in its eleventh edition, has become the standard text in the early childhood field. Its comprehensive approach and well-documented student/teacher-oriented focus continue to make it the best-selling, full-color textbook about children's well-being. Most importantly, this book provides students and teachers with a functional understanding of children's health, safety, and nutritional needs and guides them in implementing effective classroom practices. It also emphasizes the importance of respecting and partnering with all families to help children establish healthy lifestyles and achieve their learning potential. Health, Safety, and Nutrition for the Young Child accomplishes this by addressing all three essential components of children's wellness in one book:

- promoting children's *health* through awareness, assessment, and the early identification and intervention of acute and chronic health conditions; supporting the positive development of all children across all developmental domains; and, providing meaningful preventive health education
- creating and maintaining *safe indoor and outdoor learning environments* and fostering children's understanding and development of protective safety behaviors
- meeting children's essential *nutritional needs* by planning healthy meals, providing safe and nutritious food, and educating children about the importance of consuming a nutritious diet and being physically active.

The book's attractive layout and beautiful color photographs bring the material to life. Extensive resources, lesson plans, teacher checklists, references, case studies, classroom application features, and educational materials for families are provided throughout the book to aid busy students and practicing teachers in making a difference in children's lives.

# The Intended Audience

First and foremost, *Health, Safety, and Nutrition for the Young Child* is written on behalf of young children everywhere. Ultimately, it is the children who benefit from having families and teachers

who know how to protect and promote their safety and well-being. The term *families* is used throughout the text in reference to the diverse caring environments in which children of all races, ethnicities, and abilities are currently being raised and that may or may not include their biological parents. The term *teachers* is used inclusively to recognize all adults who care for and work with young children—including educators, therapists, coaches, camp leaders, administrators, health care providers, legislators, and concerned citizens—whether they work in early childhood centers, home-based programs, camps and recreation activities, public or private schools, community agencies, or after-school programs. The term *teacher* also includes families and acknowledges the important educational role they play in children's daily lives.

Health, Safety, and Nutrition for the Young Child is written for several primary audiences:

- > students and preservice teachers who have chosen a career in early childhood education
- experienced teachers in community schools, home-based programs, early childhood centers, Head Start programs, before- and after-school programs, clinics, and agencies that serve young children and their families
- allied health professionals and child advocates who work in any role that touches children's lives
- families, who are children's most important teachers!

# **Organization and Key Content**

The eleventh edition of *Health, Safety, and Nutrition for the Young Child* maintains its original purpose which is to focus attention on the three critical areas that influence children's well-being: promoting children's health (Unit 1); creating high-quality, safe learning environments (Unit 2); and, supporting children's nutrition (basic and applied), healthy eating behaviors, and nutrition education (Units 3 and 4). This arrangement maximizes student learning and offers instructors flexibility in designing their courses. However, the interrelatedness of these three subject areas must not be overlooked despite their artificial separation in the book.

Chapter content is presented in a clear, concise, and thought-provoking manner. It reflects the latest research developments and applications regarding children and wellness within a culturally diverse and family-oriented framework. Information about many key topics, including national health initiatives, children's mental health, bullying, fostering resilience and social-emotional competence, brain development, childhood obesity, emergency and disaster preparedness, and food safety have been updated. Additional information about children who have special health challenges and school-aged children has also been provided. Without a doubt, this comprehensive book is a resource that no teacher (new or experienced) should be without!

# **New and Updated Features**

The eleventh edition continues to include numerous pedagogical features, including tables, figures, checklists, summaries, review questions, and application activities designed to engage students, reinforce learning, and enhance their ability to apply the information in contemporary educational settings:

- Chapter Content Linked to the new National Association for the Education of Young Children Professional Standards and Competencies for Early Childhood Educators—NAEYC standards and relevant competencies, identified at the onset of each chapter, are provided to help students understand how chapter content relates to the association's professional education framework and affects their role as early childhood educators.
- **Learning Objectives**—are identified at the beginning of each chapter. The objectives describe what students can expect to learn in each major chapter section and how they will demonstrate and apply newly acquired knowledge and skills.

- **Connecting to Everyday Practice**—this feature presents contemporary issues that challenge students' ability to analyze and apply information they have learned in each chapter. Thought-provoking questions encourage self-reflection and group discussion.
- Case Studies—engage students in applying what they have learned to address common everyday experiences they are likely to encounter as teachers.
- New Stop and Check feature—offers multiple, thought-provoking questions dispersed throughout each chapter. Students can use this feature to measure their understanding of chapter content and performance against the learning objectives. Answers to the questions are provided in the Stop and Check Responses section at the end of each chapter.
- **Updated Teacher Checklists**—are a well-received feature that provides teachers with quick, efficient access to critical information and best practices. Beginning practitioners will find these concise reference lists especially helpful for learning new material. Experienced teachers and administrators will appreciate their simplicity and easy access for classroom use and staff training purposes. Many of the Teacher Checklists are available as Digital Downloads.
- Classroom Corner Teacher Activities—showcase lesson plans aligned with the National Health Education Standards. Learning objectives, materials lists, and step-by-step procedures are provided to present children with meaningful learning experiences and save teachers preparation time.
- **Did You Know?**—offers interesting factoids in a marginal feature that are intended to peak student curiosity and interest in the chapter content.
- Monthly Calendar of National Health, Safety, and Nutrition Observances—provides a month-by-month listing of national observances and related website resources that teachers can use when planning learning experiences for children. This information is located in Appendix B.
- Children's Book List—is an extensive, updated collection of children's books that teachers and families can use to promote children's literacy skills while also teaching about various health, safety, and nutrition topics. This resource is located in Appendix D and includes titles that address a variety of subjects, including dental health, illness/germs, mental health, self-care, safety, nutrition, special needs, and physical activity/fitness.
- Partnering with Families—is a feature provided in every chapter to underscore the importance of engaging and including families in children's health, safety, and nutrition education. Information is provided in a letter format that busy teachers can download, copy, and send home or share with families in a newsletter, program handbook, website posting, family conference, or bulletin board display.
- New Chapter References—guide readers to the latest empirical research articles and relevant publications. Students are encouraged to locate and continue reading about topics discussed in each chapter.
- **New Additional Resources to Explore**—identify URLs for websites that offer additional indepth information about topics discussed in each chapter.

# **Chapter-by-Chapter Changes**

**Chapter 1** Children's Well-Being: What It Is and How to Achieve It

- New information and data on national health programs and initiatives, including Healthy People 2030, Children's Health Insurance Program, Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), Whole School Whole Community Whole Child (WSCC), and Active People, Healthy Nation<sup>SM</sup>.
- Emphasis placed on teacher wellness and health promotion practices that influence children's learning, development, and lifelong behavior.

- New information about stress and its damaging effect on DNA, media and social violence, cultural influences on health, and children's mental health.
- New Connecting to Everyday Practice feature that addresses early childhood suspension and expulsion practices.

# **Chapter 2** Daily Health Observations

- Teacher Checklists that detail important observations related to children's health.
- New references that emphasize the teachers' role in early identification and intervention.
- New Connecting to Everyday Practice feature that draws attention to the link between children's health and the academic achievement gap.

# **Chapter 3** Assessing Children's Health

- Continued emphasis is placed on the teacher's role in identifying health disorders (e.g., vision, hearing, language, speech, nutrition) that affect children's learning.
- New research information about children's vision disorders, immunizations, and revised immunization schedules.
- New Connecting to Everyday Practice feature that raises awareness about cultural competence and the implications for children's well-being.

# **Chapter 4** Caring for Children with Medical Conditions

- Updated references and information regarding the signs, symptoms, and management strategies for common chronic childhood disorders and medical conditions.
- Connecting to Everyday Practice feature that draws attention to meeting children's medical needs in school settings.

# **Chapter 5** The Infectious Process and Environmental Control

- Updated information on childhood immunizations and the new recommended immunization schedule (and chart).
- *New illustrations* and classroom infection control practices, including hand washing, diapering procedures, classroom pets, water tables, and green cleaning products.
- New Connecting to Everyday Practice feature that raises awareness about the potential for communicable disease epidemics, such as COVID-19, and the importance of implementing preventive control procedures in school settings.

# Chapter 6 Childhood Illnesses: Identification and Management

- Updated information on infant sleep guidelines, thermometer use, and management of children who are ill.
- New Connecting to Everyday Practice feature that draws attention to recommendations for the use of over-the-counter cold and flu remedies with children.
- New Case Study on infectious disease control.

# **Chapter 7** Creating High-Quality Environments

- *Updated* references and information for creating high-quality indoor and outdoor learning environments that are safe for young children.
- *Emphasis placed on the* importance of engaging children in outdoor play and physical activity to reduce childhood obesity, chronic diseases, and behavior problems.

# **Chapter 8** Safety Management

- New regulations that govern the manufacturing of children's furniture and toys, including imported products, as well as updated safety features to consider when purchasing children's equipment.
- New information on safe art materials.
- *Updated* information on emergency and disaster preparedness and school safety, including strategies to help children cope following a traumatic event.
- New Connecting to Everyday Practice feature that addresses building security.

# Chapter 9 Management of Injuries and Acute Illness

- Updated emergency and first aid techniques from the American Heart Association and American Red Cross.
- New Connecting to Everyday Practice feature that addresses concussions and traumatic brain injury (TBI).

# Chapter 10 Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs): Maltreatment

- *Updated* research regarding the immediate and long-term physical, emotional, cognitive, and economic effects that ACEs and maltreatment have on children's development.
- New information on creating trauma-supportive environments and fostering children's resilience.
- New Connecting to Everyday Practice feature on child sexual exploitation and the Internet.

# Chapter 11 Planning for Children's Health and Safety Education

- New information about the teacher's role in the learning environment.
- Additional teacher resources and children's book lists to use for lesson planning.
- New lesson plan on water safety.

# Chapter 12 Nutrition Guidelines

- New information about the revised Dietary Guidelines for Americans, Canadian Food Guide, and Healthy People 2030 initiatives. The *new* food label, menu labeling laws, and front-of-package (FOP) options are also discussed.
- Continued emphasis is placed on eating locally and the role of physical activity in health promotion.

# **Chapter 13** Nutrients that Provide Energy (Carbohydrates, Fats, and Proteins)

- New information about the use of artificial sweeteners and plant-based milk alternatives in children's diet.
- New recommendations regarding children and low-fat diets.
- New Connecting to Everyday Practice feature that raises questions about sugar and its role in obesity.

# Chapter 14 Nutrients that Promote Growth and Regulate Body Functions

- New information about children's diets and nutrient deficiencies.
- Additional information on plant-based diets and children.
- New Connecting to Everyday Practice regarding water availability and human survival.

# **Chapter 15** Feeding Infants

- New emphasis on the feeding relationship and its effect on infants' biological, learning, and developmental needs.
- New CACFP meal planning guidelines for infants.

# **Chapter 16** Feeding Toddlers, Preschoolers, and School-Age Children

- New CACFP meal planning guidelines for preschool- and school-age children aligned with the national standards.
- *Updated* information regarding children's dietary practices and their relationship to the early development of hypertension, cardiovascular heart disease, and diabetes.
- Additional information on promoting children's food acceptance and the media's influence on children's food preferences and eating habits.
- New Connecting to Everyday Practice feature about the reliability of nutrition information on the Internet.

# **Chapter 17** Meal Planning and Service

- New meal planning guidelines based on revised National School Lunch Program and CACFP requirements.
- New meal reimbursement rates.
- New Connecting to Everyday Practice feature on food insecurity and children's nutrition programs.

# Chapter 18 Food Safety

- New food safety concerns, research, and practices.
- Updated information about national and international efforts to improve food supply safety, including commercial food production practices.
- New Connecting to Everyday Practice feature regarding food safety and climate change.
- New section on teaching children about food safety.

# Chapter 19 Nutrition Education: Rationale, Concepts, and Lessons

- New resources for teaching children about nutrition.
- Emphasis on family engagement and educating children about healthy eating and physical activity.
- Lesson plans that include updated children's book lists.

# **Pedagogy and Learning Aids**

Each chapter includes pedagogical features based on sound educational principles that encourage active student-centered learning, mastery, and application. The features also reflect student differences in learning needs, abilities, and styles.

- Bulleted lists are used extensively throughout the book to present important information in a concise, easy-to-access format.
- Multicultural color photographs show children as they work and play in developmentally appropriate settings.
- Full-color illustrations and tables draw attention to and reinforce important chapter content.
- A concise **Summary** concludes each chapter and recaps the main points of discussion.
- ▶ Terms to Know are highlighted in color throughout the chapters and defined on the page where they initially appear. Each term is also included in a comprehensive glossary located at the end of the book.
- **Stop and Check** questions encourage students to periodically assess their understanding of chapter content.
- Chapter Reviews offer thought-provoking questions to reinforce student learning and comprehension. Questions can also be used for group discussion.
- Case Studies present real-life situations that require students to analyze and apply basic theory to solving everyday situations.
- **Application Activities** provide in-class and field projects that encourage students to practice and reinforce what they have learned in each chapter.
- **Additional Resources To Explore** encourage students to take advantage of technology and extend learning beyond the pages of this book by accessing valuable online resource materials.

# **Teaching and Learning Resources Student Resources**

# **MindTap**

Learn on your terms with MindTap for Marotz's *Health*, *Safety, and Nutrition for the Young Child*, Eleventh Edition.

INSTANT ACCESS IN YOUR POCKET Take advantage of the Cengage mobile app to learn on your terms. Read or listen to your eTextbook online or offline; check your grades; study with the help of flashcards, practice quizzes and instant feedback from your instructor and receive due date reminders anywhere, anytime, from your smartphone or tablet.

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MAKE YOUR TEXTBOOK YOUR OWN Highlight key text, add notes and create custom flash-cards. When it's time to study, you can easily gather everything you've flagged or noted into an organized, effective study guide.

# **Instructor Resources**

# **MindTap**

Today's leading online learning platform, MindTap for Marotz's *Health*, *Safety, and Nutrition for the Young Child*, Eleventh Edition, gives you complete control of your course to craft a personalized, engaging learning experience that challenges students, builds confidence, and elevates performance.

MindTap introduces students to core concepts from the beginning of your course using a simplified learning path that progresses from understanding to application and delivers access to eTextbooks, study tools, interactive media, auto-graded assessments, and performance analytics. Use MindTap for Health, Safety, and Nutrition as-is, or personalize it to meet your specific course needs. You can also easily integrate MindTap into your Learning Management System (LMS).

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# Instructor's Manual

An online Instructor's Manual accompanies this book. It contains information to assist the instructor in course design, including sample lectures, discussion questions, teaching and learning activities, field experiences, and additional online resources.

# **Online Test Bank**

Extensive multiple choice, true/false, short answer, and essay questions accompany each chapter and provide instructors with varied strategies for assessing student learning.

# **Online PowerPoint Slides**

These vibrant PowerPoint lecture slides for each chapter assist with your lectures by providing concept coverage using images, figures, and tables directly from the textbook!

# **Cengage Testing Powered by Cognero**

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# **Acknowledgments**

A special thank you is extended to the instructors, students, and colleagues who use *Health*, *Safety, and Nutrition for the Young Child* in their classes and professional endeavors. Their suggestions *co*ntinue to influence and improve each new edition. I would also like to recognize the contributions of dedicated teachers, advocates, and families everywhere who strive to better children's lives.

Once again, I am grateful to have worked with so many amazingly talented individuals at Cengage. Christy Frame, my content manager, was a delight and pleasure to work with on this project. Her insightful contributions and prompt responses with information I often needed to proceed was appreciated more than she will know. Christy was also a master at keeping things moving forward and on schedule despite unpredictable and challenging circumstances. I want to express a special thank you to Manas Pant for his prompt communications, responsiveness to many last-minute requests, and skill in transforming volumes of draft manuscript into an attractive and meaningful book. I also want to acknowledge Calum Ross for his outstanding and meticulous editing. There are also many "behind-the-scenes" individuals who contributed so much to producing and marketing another successful edition. Thank you. Your efforts have not gone unnoticed.

Finally, I want to thank my husband and family for their patience and understanding during times when writing took precedence over times spent together. They are my pillar of strength and motivation, and I am grateful for their loving support.

# **About the Author**

**Lynn R. Marotz** received a Ph.D. from the University of Kansas, a M.Ed. from the University of Illinois, and a B.S. in Nursing from the University of Wisconsin. She served as the health and safety coordinator and associate director of the Edna A. Hill Child Development Center (University of Kansas) for 35 years. She worked closely with students in the Early Childhood teacher education program and taught undergraduate and graduate courses in the Department of Applied Behavioral Science, including Health/safety/nutrition for the young child, Issues in parenting, Administration, and Foundations of early childhood education. She has provided numerous trainings on first aid, children's safety, child maltreatment, childhood obesity, nutrition, and conducting health observations for early childhood students and community educators.

Lynn has authored invited chapters on children's health and development, nutrition, and environmental safety in national and international publications and law books. In addition, she is the author of *Developmental Profiles—Pre-Birth through Adolescence, Parenting Today's Children: A Developmental Perspective, and Early Childhood Leadership: Motivation, Inspiration, & Empowerment.* She has been interviewed for articles about children's nutrition and well-being that have appeared in national trade magazines and has served as a consultant for children's museums and training film productions. She has presented extensively at international, national, and state conferences and held appointments on national, state, regional, and local committees and initiatives that advocate on behalf of children and their families and early childhood teachers. However, it is her daily interactions with children and their families, students, teachers, colleagues, and her beloved family that bring true insight, meaning, and balance to the material in this book.



Unit 1

# Promoting Children's Health: Healthy Lifestyles and Health Concerns



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- Children's Well-Being: What It Is and How to Achieve It
- 2 Daily Health Observations
- 3 Assessing Children's Health
- 4 Caring for Children with Medical Conditions
- The Infectious Process and Environmental Control
- 6 Childhood Illnesses: Identification and Management



chapter

# Children's Well-Being: What It Is and How to Achieve It

# NAEYC Professional Standards Linked to Chapter Content

- ▶ **#1a, b, c, and d** Child development and learning in context
- #2a, b, and c Family-teacher partnerships and community connections
- **3a, b, c, and d** Child observations, documentation, and assessment
- ▶ #4a, b, and c Developmentally, culturally, and linguistically appropriate teaching practices
- ▶ **#5a and b** Knowledge, application, and integration of academic content in the early childhood curriculum
- #6a, b, c, and d Professionalism as an early childhood educator

# Learning Objectives

After studying this chapter, you should be able to:

**LO 1-1** Define the preventive health concept and describe several national programs that address children's health needs.

**LO 1-2** Explain how health, safety, and nutrition are interrelated and discuss factors that influence the quality of each.

**LO 1-3** Describe typical growth and developmental characteristics of infants, toddlers, preschool-age, and school-age children.

**LO 1-4** Discuss ways that teachers can be proactive in promoting children's wellness in the areas of injury prevention, oral health, physical activity, and mental health.

Our ideas about health, disease, and the health care system have undergone a significant change. Individuals are realizing that they must assume a more proactive role in maintaining their personal health and that they cannot rely on the medical profession to always make them well. In part, this change has been fueled by escalating medical costs, a lack of health insurance, and disabling conditions for which there are no current cures. In addition, and perhaps even more significant, are research findings that demonstrate positive health outcomes when people adapt healthy lifestyle behaviors (Cho & Kim, 2022; Peña & Payne, 2022; Smith et al., 2022).

# 1-1 The Preventive Health Concept

The concept of **preventive health** recognizes that individuals are able to reduce or eliminate many factors that threaten personal wellness (Figure 1–1). It implies that children and adults are able to make choices and engage in behaviors that improve their quality of life and lessen the risk of developing chronic disease. This includes practices such as establishing healthful dietary habits (eating more fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and low-fat dairy products), implementing safety behaviors (wearing seat belts, limiting sun exposure), engaging in daily physical activity, and seeking early treatment for occasional illness and injury.

The early years are a critical time for children to establish preventive behaviors. Young children are typically more receptive to new ideas, curious, eager to learn, and have fewer unhealthy habits to overcome. Teachers, families, and health care providers can capitalize on these qualities and help children to develop practices that will foster a healthy, safe, and productive lifetime.

# Figure 1-1 Examples of preventive health practices.

A preventive health approach involves a combination of personal practices and national initiatives. On a personal scale:

- eating a diet low in animal fats and added sugars; incorporating more plant-based foods
- consuming a wide variety of fruits, vegetables, and grains
- engaging in aerobic and muscle-strengthening activities regularly
- practicing good oral hygiene
- using proper hand washing techniques
- avoiding substance abuse (e.g., alcohol, tobacco, drugs)
- maintaining immunizations up-to-date

## On a national scale:

- regulating vehicle emissions
- preventing chemical dumping
- establishing food safety standards and inspecting food supplies
- measuring and reducing air pollution
- providing immunization programs
- regulating water safety; fluoridating drinking water
- monitoring disease outbreaks and setting policy

preventive health – personal and social behaviors that promote and maintain well-being.

Although the preventive approach emphasizes an individual role in health promotion, it also implies a shared responsibility for addressing social and environmental issues that affect the quality of everyone's well-being, including:

- poverty and homelessness
- food insecurity
- inequitable access to medical and dental care
- mental health services and suicide prevention
- adverse effects of media advertising
- ▶ substance abuse (e.g., alcohol, tobacco, drugs)
- food safety
- air and water pollution
- discrimination based on diversity
- violence and unsafe neighborhoods

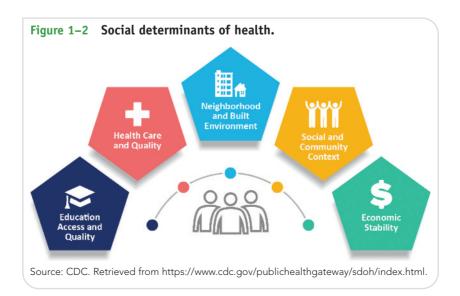
In addition to helping children learn about these complex issues, adults must also demonstrate their commitment by supporting social actions, policies, and programs that contribute to healthier environments and lifestyles for society as a whole.

# 1-1a National Health Initiatives

The positive health outcomes that are achievable through preventive practices continue to attract increased public interest, especially with respect to young children. Poor standards of health, safety, and nutrition have long been known to interfere with children's ability to learn and to ultimately become healthy, productive adults. As a result, a number of large-scale programs have been established to address children's health needs and to improve their access to preventive services. Descriptions of several initiatives follow; information about federal nutrition programs for children is located in Appendix C.

**Healthy People 2030** The nation's master plan for improving the standard of health for its citizens is outlined in the *Healthy People 2030* initiative (U.S. HHS, 2022). It supports and strengthens the same underlying philosophy of health promotion and disease prevention presented in earlier versions. The current plan challenges communities to increase public health awareness and improve accessibility to preventive health services by encouraging better collaboration and coordination among agencies. It urges individuals to assume a more active role in achieving personal wellness, especially with regard to the prevention of obesity, diabetes, mental health, and substance use.

The Healthy People 2030 model recognizes that social factors, including housing, racism, and education, have a significant and determining effect on a person's health (Figure 1–2).



Consequently, a major goal of the initiative is directed specifically at reducing health inequities by creating "social, physical, and economic environments that promote attaining the full potential for health and well-being for all."

Many topics and behavioral indicators identified in the *Healthy People 2030* plan have direct application for schools and early childhood programs (Table 1–1). For example, teaching anger management skills, increasing outdoor play and physical activity in children's daily schedules, serving nutritious foods, providing more health and nutrition education, and creating safe learning environments are activities that reflect teachers' commitment to the *Healthy People 2030* ideals.

▼ Early childhood is a prime time for teaching preventive health practices.



**Children's Health Insurance Program** The Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) provides low-cost health insurance to approximately 10 million children whose families earn too much to qualify for Medicaid but cannot afford private insurance coverage. The program is aimed at improving children's health and ability to learn through early identification and access to preventive health care (Reinbold, 2021). Services covered by the program include free or low-cost medical and dental care, immunizations, prescriptions, mental health treatment, and hospitalization.

CHIP is administered in each state through a combination of state and federal appropriations. Each state establishes its own rules for administering the program, and must submit a Child Health Plan describing how the program will be implemented, how eligibility will be determined, and how eligible children will be located.

National Health and Safety Performance Standards for Child Care National concern for children's welfare led to a collaborative project among the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the American Public Health Association (APHA), and the National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education (NRC) to develop health, safety, and nutrition guidelines for out-of-home child care settings. The resulting document, *Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards: Guidelines for Out-of-Home Child Care* (4th ed.), continues to identify quality standards and procedures for ensuring children's health and safety while they attend organized out-of-home care (Table 1–2) (AAP, APHA, & NRC, 2019). The complete document can be accessed at www.nrckids.org.

The current oversight system allows individual states to establish their own child care licensing standards, which has resulted in significant differences in program quality. The National Health

Table 1-1 Healthy People 2030 Leading Health Indicators

# Areas targeted for improving individual's health and well-being include the following:

- access to health services
- clinical preventive services
- environmental quality
- injury and violence
- maternal, infant, and child health
- mental health

- nutrition, physical activity, and obesity
- oral health
- reproductive and sexual health
- social determinants
- substance abuse
- tobacco

Source: Healthy People 2030 Leading health indicators. (2018). U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.

# Table 1-2 National Health and Safety Performance Standards

# Comprehensive guidelines address the following areas of child care:

- staffing child staff ratios, recruitment and screening, qualifications, professional development and training, staff health
- program activities for healthy development supervision and discipline, parent/guardian relationships, health education
- health promotion and protection sanitation and hygiene practices, safe sleep, illness and medication management
- nutrition and food services nutritional requirements, meal service and supervision, food safety, nutrition education
- facilities, supplies, equipment, and environmental health furnishings, space and equipment, indoor/ outdoor settings, maintenance
- play areas, playgrounds and transportation size, water areas, toys, transportation safety
- infectious diseases respiratory, enteric, blood-borne, and skin conditions, immunizations, antibiotic use
- children with special health care and disability needs inclusion, eligibility for special services, facility modifications, assessment, service plans
- administration policies, human resource management, recordkeeping
- licensing and community action regulatory agencies, teacher/caregiver support

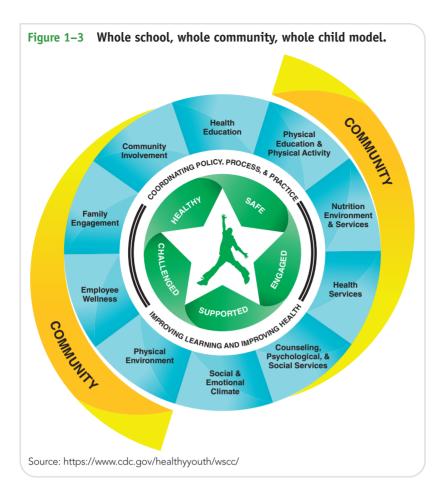
Source: Adapted from AAP, APHA, & NRC. (2019). Caring for our children: National health and safety performance standards (4th ed.). Itasca, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics; Washington, DC: American Public Health Association. The complete document is available at https://nrckids.org.

and Safety Performance Standards attempt to address regulatory inconsistencies by proposing a uniform set of standards based on what researchers have identified as best practices. The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) has endorsed and aligned their accreditation criteria with the National Health and Safety Performance Standards (NAEYC, 2020).

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) (2015) amended the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965 and replaced the former No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001. The law's intention is to assure American children a high-quality education that prepares them to succeed in college and careers (U.S. Department of Education, 2015). It supports improved educational outcomes for all children, especially those who are economically disadvantaged and/or high-need (e.g., migratory, homeless, neglected, delinquent), and shifts authority for compliance in achieving these objectives from the federal government to individual states. The law also addresses schools' role in meeting children's health needs (e.g., drug and violence prevention, mental health services, bullying and harassment, healthy lifestyle skills education, positive behavior supports, teachers' sexual abuse awareness) and creating safe school conditions. It continues to acknowledge families as children's first and most important teachers, the educational contributions of early childhood programs, and the importance of fostering early literacy skills to ensure children's readiness for, and success in, school. Significant federal funding is provided annually to strengthen and coordinate early childhood programs with early elementary grades.

Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC) The WSCC model acknowledges the significant effect that health has on children's development and learning ability (Figure 1–3). It assumes an **ecological** preventive, and comprehensive approach, and aims to address children's health, safety, and academic needs in community school settings (CDC, 2018). The WSCC model identifies 10 program components and places a strong emphasis on cooperation and collaboration among schools, families, government agencies, and community partners in achieving these objectives. The ultimate goal is to support children in attaining personal, academic, and lifetime success.

ecological – a systems approach that acknowledges the ways in which people and their environment relate to, interact with, and influence, one another.



**Active People, Healthy Nation**<sup>SM</sup> Concerns about the high obesity and chronic disease rates in this country led the CDC to establish the Active People, Healthy Nation<sup>SM</sup> initiative (CDC, 2022a) (Figure 1–4). The overarching goal is to increase the number of youth and adults who are aerobically active each day to 27 million by the year 2027. Communities play a key role in achieving

# Stop and Check #1

Who is eligible to participate in the CHIP program?





this objective by providing safe traveling routes (e.g., sidewalks, trails, transit), facilities, and programs that are inclusive and accessible to individuals of all ages and abilities (Fulton et al., 2022).

# 1-2 Health, Safety, and Nutrition: An Interdependent Relationship

Health, safety, and nutrition are closely intertwined and dependent upon one another. The status of each has a direct effect on the quality of the others. For example, children who receive all essential nutrients from a healthful diet are more likely to reach their

growth potential, benefit from learning opportunities, experience fewer illnesses, and have ample energy for play. In contrast, children whose diet lacks critical nutrients such as protein and iron may develop anemia, which can lead to fatigue, diminished alertness, growth and academic failure, and loss of appetite. When children lack interest in eating, their iron intake is further compromised. In other words, nutritional status has a direct effect on children's health and safety, and, in turn, influences the dietary requirements needed to restore and maintain well-being.

A nutritious diet also plays an important role in injury prevention. The child or adult who arrives at school having eaten little or no breakfast may experience low blood sugar, which can cause fatigue, decreased alertness, and slowed reaction times and, thus, increase an individual's risk of accidental injury. Similarly, overweight children and adults are more likely to sustain injuries due to excess weight, which may restrict physical activity, slow reaction times, and increase fatigue with exertion.

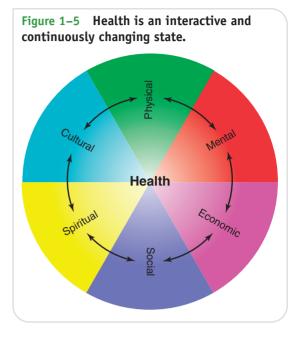
# 1-2a What Is Health?

Definitions of **health** are as numerous as the factors that affect it. In years past, the term referred strictly to an individual's physical well-being and the absence of illness. Contemporary definitions view health from a broader perspective and recognize it as a state of physical, emotional, social, economic, cultural, and spiritual well-being. Each interactive component is assumed to make an equally important contribution to health and to affect the functional activity of the others. For example, a stressful home environment may be contributing to a child's asthma attacks, stomachaches, or headaches. In turn, a child's repeated illnesses or chronic disability can profoundly affect the family's emotional, financial, social, and physical stability and well-being.

The current health concept also recognizes that children and adults do not live in isolation, but are active participants in multiple groups, including family, peer, neighborhood, ethnic, cultural, recreational, religious, and community. Children's health, development, and opportunities for learning are directly influenced by the positive and negative experiences that occur in each setting. For example, children growing up in a poor, urban neighborhood may be at greater risk for becoming obese because they have fewer safe places for outdoor play and limited access to fresh fruits and vegetables. In other words, children's health and development must be considered in the context of their social and environmental conditions.

# 1-2b What Factors Influence Children's Health?

Health is a dynamic and complex state. It is a product of continuous interactions between an individual's genetic makeup, environmental conditions, and personal experiences (Figure 1-5). For example, an infant's immediate and long-term health and cognitive development are influenced by their mother's personal lifestyle practices during pregnancy: her diet; use or avoidance of alcohol, tobacco, and certain medications; routine prenatal care; and exposure to communicable illnesses or toxic stress. Mothers who fail to maintain a healthy lifestyle during pregnancy are more likely to give birth to infants who are born prematurely, have low birth weight, or experience a range of special challenges (Cassidy-Vu, Way, & Spangler, 2022; Di et al., 2022). These children also face a significantly greater risk of developing chronic health problems and early death. In contrast, a child who is born healthy, raised in a nurturing family, consumes a nutritious diet, lives in a safe environment, and has numerous opportunities for learning and recreation is more likely to enjoy a long, healthy life.



**Heredity** Characteristics transmitted from biological parents to their children at the time of conception determine all of the genetic traits of a new, unique individual. **Heredity** sets the limits for growth, development, and health potential. It explains, in part, why children in one family are short while those from another family are tall, or why some individuals have allergies or require glasses while others do not.

Understanding how heredity influences health can also be useful for assessing an inherited tendency, or **predisposition**, to certain health problems such as heart disease, deafness, cancer, diabetes, lactose intolerance, or mental health disorders. Although a family history of heart disease or diabetes may increase one's risk, it does not imply that an individual will necessarily develop the condition. Many lifestyle factors, including physical activity, diet, sleep, and stress levels, interact with genetic material (genes) and may alter the child's chances of developing or not developing heart disease or any number of other chronic health disorders.

**Environment** Although heredity provides the basic building materials that predetermine the limits of one's health, environment plays an equally important role. Environment encompasses a combination of physical, psychological, social, economic, and cultural factors that collectively influence the way individuals perceive and respond to their surroundings. In turn, these experiences shape an individual's behavior and potential health outcomes.

Examples of several environmental factors that support and promote healthy outcomes include:

- onsuming a nutritious diet
- participating in daily physical and recreational activities
- obtaining 8 to 9 hours of uninterrupted nighttime sleep
- having access to quality medical and dental care
- reducing stress levels

Heredity sets the limits for a child's growth, development, and health potentials.



**heredity** – the transmission of certain genetic material and characteristics from biological parents to a child at the time of conception. **predisposition** – having an increased chance or susceptibility.