

## The Importance of Building 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills in Young Children

The early years are the perfect time to support children's growth and development of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills. The 4 C's of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills are Collaboration, Critical thinking, Creativity and Communication. In preschool children begin to acquire the skills listed below, designing a classroom with this knowledge creates an inspiring learning environment where children can flourish.

### 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills can be grouped in three categories:

- Learning Skills: Critical Thinking, Creative Thinking, Collaboration, and Communication
- Literacy Skills: Information Literacy, Media Literacy, and Technology Literacy
- Life Skills: Flexibility, Initiative, Social Skills, Productivity, and Leadership



### Quick Tips: Concise guidance for Early Childhood Educators

Quick Tips provide early childhood educators, at all levels of practice, concise guidance on specific and relevant topics. Each Quick Tip is intentionally designed to inspire growth and learning, elicit reflection, and support best practices for all children and their families. Quick Tip content embraces inclusiveness across all topics and embeds inclusive practice throughout.

### Strategies for Implementing 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills in the Classroom

- Integrate age-appropriate technology with educational content, use media sources to explore children's interests and extend learning
- Provide opportunities for children to make choices and move freely in the classroom
- Support global citizenship by selecting materials and activities that reflect all cultures and families within the community
- Introduce and utilize varied types of literacy
- Intentionally create opportunities for children to develop social skills and collaboration
- Celebrate and encourage children's creative thinking and problem-solving
- Model flexibility by allowing adaptations to the lesson plan and daily schedule
- Encourage various forms of written and verbal communication



### Early Educator Support Office





## NC Foundations for Early Learning and Development

### Guiding Principles

- Development a learning process across the full continuum from birth to five years (GP #1)
- Young children’s learning is integrated across different areas of development so Foundations-and learning experiences provided for children-must address all domains (GP #4)
- Children are active learners and they learn through play (GP #8)

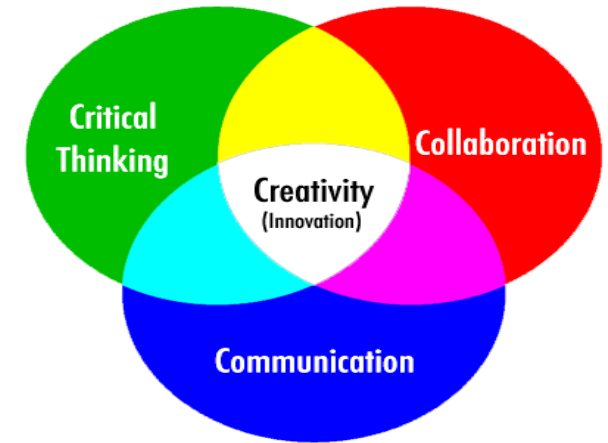
### Resources:

Karen Wise Lindeman and Elizabeth McKendry Anderson (Teaching Young Children Vol 9 No 3). “Using Blocks To Develop 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills in Preschool”. ([www.naeyc.org/TYC](http://www.naeyc.org/TYC))

21st Century Skills Early Learning Framework (P21 ELF) ([www.battelleforkids.org/networks/p21](http://www.battelleforkids.org/networks/p21))

Rhian Evans Allvin (July 2016). *The Push UP of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Skills: The Answer Has Always Been in the Early Years*, Young Children Magazine. ([www.naeyc.org](http://www.naeyc.org))

David Ross (September 20, 2017). Helping Young Children Build 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills ([www.battelleforkids.org/networks/p21](http://www.battelleforkids.org/networks/p21))



## NC Professional Teaching Standards

- **Standard 1, Element A:** Teachers Lead in their Classrooms
- **Standard 3, Element D:** Teachers make instruction relevant to their students
- **Standard 4, Element D:** Teachers integrate and utilize technology in their instruction
- **Standard 4, Element E:** Teachers help students develop critical-thinking and problem-solving skills
- **Standard 4, Element F:** Teachers help students work in teams and develop leadership qualities