

### **One. Emerging Skills.**

- There are connections between physical, cognitive, language, social and emotional development throughout the lifespan.
- Maturation, parents, the community and school, and the child's own activity all contribute to motor skill development.
- The development of fine and gross motor skills is important in early childhood, while middle school childhood sees increased coordination and combining of motor skills.
- Puberty is the major physical development in adolescence, presenting challenges to adolescents self-image, and family relationships. Individual differences in the timing of puberty affect adolescent's ability to adapt successfully to these changes.
- There are group differences in development due to environmental factor such as nutrition, and sociocultural factors such as gender typed activity.
- Brain development also shows complementary influences from genetics, environment and the child's activity.
- Developmental increases in complexity and coordination of thoughts, feelings and behaviours are associated with structural neurological changes such as increases in neuronal size and complexity, as well as myelination, which improved efficiency of message transmission.
- The course of first language acquisition is remarkably consistent across cultural and language groups. It shows children's active involvement in their acquisition of language.
- Adults make important contributions to language development, which continues into a child's school years.
- The school-based skills associated with second-language learning, literacy and numeracy all build upon early developments in physical, motor and language skills, as well cognitive, social and emotional developments.
- Children's active involvement in making sense of their world shows itself in their understandings about language and number from the first days after birth. In schools, we build upon these early understandings and so need to be aware of and recognise them.
- Development is a series of progressive and orderly changes leading to maturity, which shows both consistency across humanity and also individual difference. Development is lifelong, with each change providing a basis for future changes.