



## EARLY CARE AND LEARNING

*Developed by the Early Care and Learning Committee, State Early Childhood Advisory Council (SECAC), July 2016*

### **Definition of Early Care and Learning:**

**Early Care and Learning** in Mississippi establishes a model(s) to ensure that all child care and early learning programs can provide a healthy, safe, and nurturing environment to children in the early childhood years (defined as ages birth through age 8). All Mississippi's child care and early learning programs are tasked with preparing all young children to be ready for school through various activities, including healthy eating, physical exercise and improvement of cognitive, early learning and social-emotional skills.

For this definition, child care and early learning programs are those that serve young children, including (but not limited to) licensed and unlicensed child care centers, family child care homes, faith-based early childhood programs, Head Start, Early Head Start, private preschools, preschool collaborative programs and/or public school programs.