

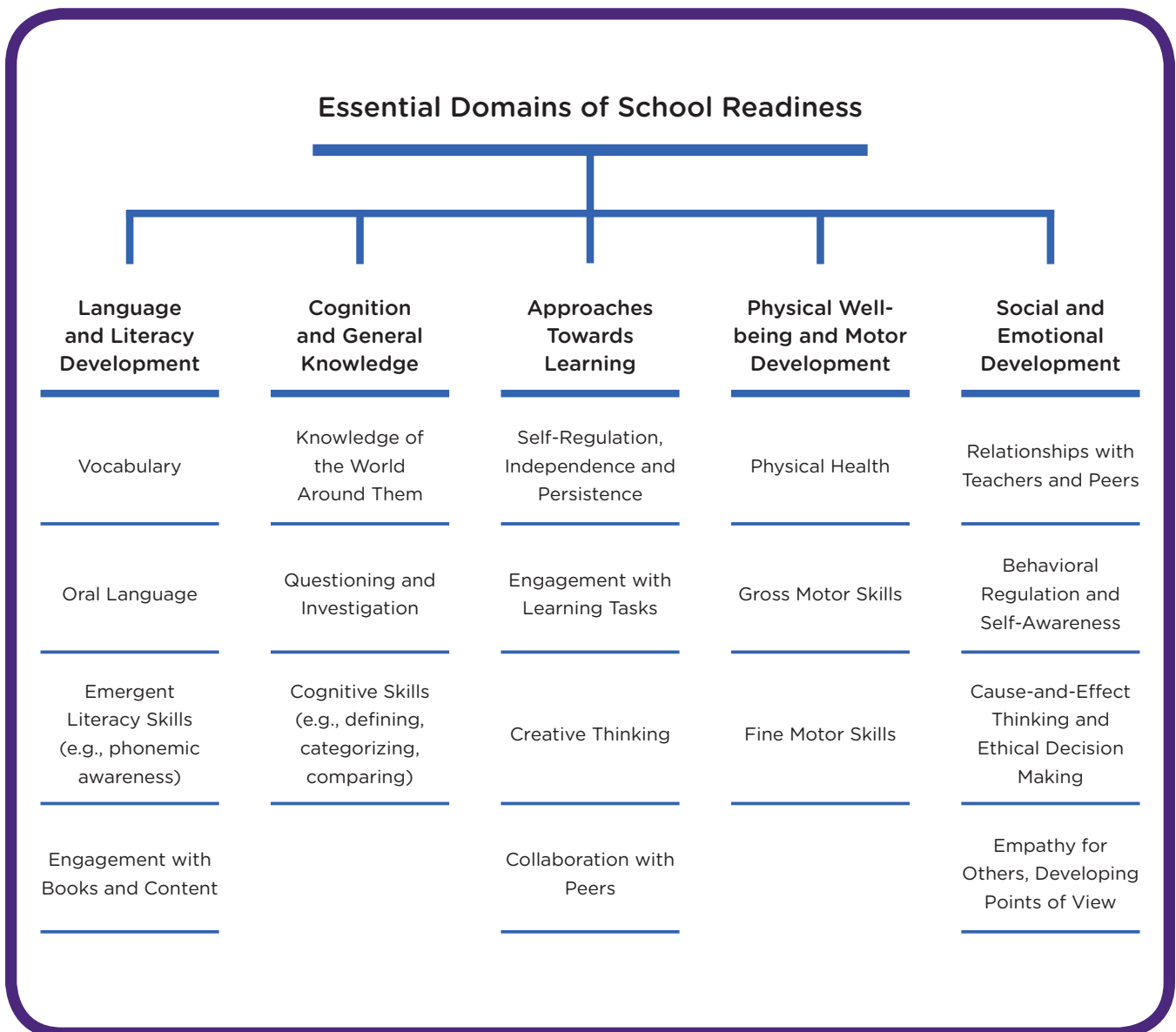


# Ready to Think, Ready to Learn

## *Supporting the Essential Domains of School Readiness with Thinking Maps®*

How can we prepare young children for success in elementary school and beyond? Start them out with a Map...a Thinking Map!

Thinking Maps supports the Essential Domains of School Readiness as defined by the U.S. Department of Education.



## WHAT ARE THINKING MAPS?

Thinking Maps makes thinking visible to maximize learning! The eight visual Maps are aligned to cognitive processes to help learners organize their thinking, engage deeply with new ideas, and build critical and creative thinking skills. They are robust enough to support complex thinking at all levels, but simple enough that even young children can use them successfully. Young learners—including English Language Learners—can create Maps using drawings, images, manipulatives, and simple words as their literacy and language skills develop.

## THINKING MAPS FOR EARLY LEARNING

### Language and Literacy Development

Teachers of young children can use Thinking Maps to introduce new vocabulary, support development of oral language and early literacy skills, and help children engage more deeply with content introduced or read by their teachers.

### Cognition and General Knowledge

Creating Thinking Maps using simple words, pictures, and concrete objects helps young children organize and process information about the world around them and develop the cognitive skills that underlie learning at all levels: defining, describing, comparing/contrasting, classifying, whole/part relationships, sequencing, cause and effect, and analogies.

### Approaches Toward Learning

Thinking Maps makes learning more accessible to students of all ages and ability levels, promoting greater independence, engagement, and creativity. Children can create Maps with teacher guidance, collaboratively with peers, or independently to develop and share their ideas.

### Physical Well-being and Motor Development

Children develop fine motor skills as they draw their own Maps—the same skills they will need for writing and drawing in the classroom.

### Social and Emotional Development

Thinking Maps can be used to display classroom rules in a format easy for young children to understand, explore the causes and effects of behaviors, and analyze different points of view.

## A MAP FOR EARLY LEARNING SUCCESS

*Contact us to learn more about our Early Learning training programs!*