

1. Learning that is Active

Learning and memory recall of new knowledge is strengthened through different exposures – seeing, hearing, touching, and doing. Afterschool learning should be the result of activities that involve young people in “doing” – activities that allow them to be physically active, stimulate their innate curiosity, and that are hands-on and project-based (CA Quality Standards #2, 3, & 5).

2. Learning that is Collaborative

Afterschool & summer programs should help young people build team skills that include listening to others, supporting group-learning goals, and resolving differences and conflicts. Collaborative learning happens when learners engage in a common task where each individual depends on and is accountable to each other (CA Quality Standards #1, 2, 3, & 8).

3. Learning that is Meaningful

Learning is meaningful when youth have some ownership over the learning topic, the means to assess their own progress, and when the learning is relevant to their own interests, experiences, and the real world in which they live. Community and cultural relevance is important to all youth (CA Quality Standards #2, 3, & 4).

4. Learning that Supports Mastery

If young people are to learn the importance and joy of mastery, they need the opportunity to learn and practice a full sequence of skills that will allow them to become “really good at something.” Afterschool & summer activities should be explicitly sequenced and designed to promote the layering of new skills (CA Quality Standard #3).

5. Learning that Expands Horizons

Afterschool & summer programs should provide learning opportunities that take youth beyond their current experience and expand their horizons. They should go beyond the walls of their facilities to increase young people’s knowledge of their surrounding neighborhood and the larger global community (CA Quality Standards #2 & 3).

Learning In Afterschool & Summer

A project of Temescal Associates and The Partnership for Children and Youth

Quality learning environments are built
around our understanding of **HOW** kids learn.



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