

APPENDIX A

DESCRIPTION OF AVAILABLE EARLY CHILDHOOD COMMERCIAL CURRICULUMS

CHOOSING AN EARLY CHILDHOOD CURRICULUM

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/curriculum-choosing.pdf>

There are many curricula available to early education programs. Choosing one – or sometimes two or three if you want to add curriculum that enhances language or math – can be difficult. Researching your options, talking with child care leaders or at asking providers at community meetings will be important as the financial and staff resource costs can be significant. This document seeks to provide helpful guidance on selecting a curriculum that will best fits your program. Listed below are examples of a few curricula.

Reggio Emilia Approach

<http://www.reggiochildren.it/identita/reggio-emilia-approach/?lang=en>

The Reggio Emilia Approach is an educational philosophy based on the image of the child, and of human beings, as possessing strong potentials for development and as a subject of rights who learns and grows in the relationships with others.

This global educational project, which is carried forth in the Municipal Infant-Toddler Centers and Preschools of Reggio Emilia, Italy, and has inspired other schools all over the world, is based on a number of distinctive characteristics: the participation of families, the collegial work of all the personnel, the importance of the educational environment, the presence of the atelier (or creative environment) and the figure of the *atelierista*, (teacher) the in-school kitchen, and the pedagogical coordinating team.

Focusing on the centrality of the hundred languages belonging to every human being, in the atelier spaces young children are offered daily opportunities to encounter many types of materials, many expressive languages, many points of view, working actively with hands, minds, and emotions, in a context that values the expressiveness and creativity of each child in the group.

Creative Curriculum

<https://teachingstrategies.com/solutions/teach>

The Creative Curriculum balances both teacher-directed and child-initiated learning, with an emphasis on responding to children's learning styles and building on their strengths and interests. These curricula apply the latest theory and research on best practices in teaching and learning and the content standards developed by states and professional organizations. While keeping the original environmentally-based approach it clearly defines the teacher's role in connecting content, teaching, and learning for preschool children. It features goals and objectives linked directly to a valid and reliable assessment instrument Teaching Strategies GOLD (TSG).

<http://www.teachingstrategies.com/GOLD>

Infant and Toddlers: Creative Curriculum has designed specific curriculum features for children ages 6 weeks to 12 years. Specific components were developed to provide support for teachers serving children ages 6 weeks to 3 years.

Three- to Four-Year-Old Preschoolers: This curriculum leverages exploration and discovery as a way of learning. "The Foundation" of this curriculum helps teachers create a high-quality learning environment and a thorough understanding of best practices. This curriculum also provides Daily Resources to help teachers plan their day. This curriculum also provides a framework for "studies." Studies are hands-on,

project-based investigations. The creators of Creative Curriculum maintain that the curriculum helps teachers build children's confidence, creativity and critical thinking skills, and promote positive outcomes.

Family Child Care: Creative Curriculum provides a research-based, high-quality curriculum that's designed specifically for the unique family child care setting, it recognizes both the joys and challenges of providing individualized experiences that are as nurturing, intentional, and responsive for infants as they are for school-aged children. Information is provided on creating a learning environment, planning routines and activities, promoting learning in the developmentally core areas, supports the trust and mutual respect of FCC homes and integrates the provider's family responsibilities with the professionalism of a high-quality caregiver.

HighScope

<https://highscope.org/preschool>

The HighScope Curriculum is based on the principles of active learning and support of a child's positive interactions with adults and peers. Longitudinal studies show that the HighScope Curriculum promotes children's development and provides lasting benefits into adulthood. While learning in the content areas prepares children for later schooling, this curriculum maintains that teachers are supported to take the learning process beyond traditional academic subjects by applying methods that promote independence, curiosity, decision-making, cooperation, persistence, creativity, and problem solving in young children.

HighScope's Child Observation Record (COR), COR Advantage, is a birth-to-kindergarten assessment that assists teachers in supporting children at every developmental level — including children who are English Language Learners and those with special needs. Administrators will have access to comprehensive reporting options to guide program planning and staff development.

<https://highscope.org/cor-advantage>

Infant and Toddlers: Research-based and child-focused, the Curriculum uses a carefully designed process of learning through discovery called active participatory learning. During active learning, infants and toddlers learn about the world around them by exploring and playing.

This is a comprehensive model that addresses all areas of development through six content areas and 42 key developmental indicators (KDIs) — the skills and behaviors at each stage of development that pave the way for school and adult success. Each KDI is connected to and reinforced by scaffolding strategies to support and gently extend children's learning.

Preschoolers: Three- to four-year-olds are provided with a comprehensive model that addresses all areas of development through eight content areas and 58 key developmental indicators (KDIs) — the skills and behaviors at each stage of development that pave the way for school and adult success. Each KDI is connected to and reinforced by scaffolding strategies to support and gently extend children's learning.

Family Child Care: Building on the close bonds that FCC providers create with families and their abilities to adapt home spaces for child care, HighScope has developed tools and techniques to support learning for mixed age groups.

Pinnacle

<https://www.cceionline.edu/index.cfm?id=22>

Pinnacle® is a research-based early childhood curriculum, designed with both teachers and students in mind. Based on the works of Piaget, Gardner, and Erikson, Pinnacle® provides teachers with lessons that engage children in developmentally appropriate activities. Pinnacle® is published in an easy-to-use, reusable format that includes lesson plan guides, activity enrichments, and long-range goals linked to key standards. Comprehensive programs are offered for infants, toddlers, two's, three's, four's, and school-age children.

Based on the latest research of how children learn best, each of the 36 thematic units are aligned to Head Start Outcomes, School Readiness Goals, and State Early Childhood Standards! *Learn Every Day™*: The Preschool Curriculum can be used as a comprehensive or supplemental curriculum. It includes the foundations for learning book, teaching guides (two volumes), and a music CD with 18 songs.

Montessori Method

<https://amshq.org/Montessori-Education/Introduction-to-Montessori>

The Montessori Method of education, developed by Dr. Maria Montessori, is a child-centered educational approach based on scientific observations of children from birth to adulthood. It is a view of the child as one who is naturally eager for knowledge and capable of initiating learning in a supportive, thoughtfully prepared learning environment. It is an approach that values the human spirit and the development of the whole child—physical, social, emotional, cognitive.

Components necessary for a program to be considered authentically Montessori include multiage groupings that foster peer learning, uninterrupted blocks of work time, and guided choice of work activity. In addition, a full complement of specially designed Montessori learning materials is meticulously arranged and available for use in an aesthetically pleasing environment.

The teacher, child, and environment create a learning triangle. The classroom is prepared by the teacher to encourage independence, freedom within limits, and a sense of order. The child, through individual choice, makes use of what the environment offers to develop himself, interacting with the teacher when support and/or guidance is needed.

Pearson OWL Literacy Curriculum

<https://www.pearsonschool.com>

Comprehensive Pre-K Curriculum

The pre-K years are a time of promise, a time when young children's bodies and minds are growing at an incredible rate. The pre-K years are a time for learning. Amid the growing awareness of the importance of quality early childhood education, researchers and policymakers are underscoring how critical it is for children to be prepared for kindergarten. With Opening the World of Learning™ (OWL) as your Pre-K comprehensive curriculum, you can rest assured that your kiddos will be *On The Way To K!*

An Enriching Environment

Opening the World of Learning is a comprehensive pre-K curriculum, equitable in English and Spanish. OWL prepares children for Kindergarten with ongoing assessment of research-based success predictors and playful, purposeful, and personalized instruction. OWL is based upon the belief that immersion in a learning-rich, pre-K environment is critical but not sufficient. The environment and interactions must be thoughtful and purposeful. All parts of the day should be considered opportunities for learning, and the teacher should know the curriculum content, instructional strategies, and individual children well enough to be responsive in a variety of situations. Through the use of essential questions, teachers help children connect content to their experiences, which takes them beyond rote learning and leads to thoughtful, reflective learning.