



WEE LEARN CURRICULUM

Program Philosophy: WEE Learn Curriculum is framed by theory and philosophy of life. Led by faith and grounded in evidence-based practices, programs using the WEE Learn philosophy and curriculum work to support children and families. Children's individual differences and learning styles are considered as they learn through play and interactions with supportive early childhood teachers to maximize each child's learning potential. This thoughtful and well-planned curriculum has a multiple theoretical basis. By blending what is known from Bronfenbrenner's ecological systems theory, Piaget's theory of development, Erikson's stages of development and Gardner's theory of multiple intelligences, early childhood teachers prepare individually and age-appropriate experiences for young children.

School readiness is a term used to convey the importance of children entering school ready for success. It involves schools and communities as well as families and children.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT

The early years are an important period of development. During these early years, children learn best through active, engaged, meaningful experiences¹. Through these experiences, young children construct their own knowledge by interacting with their environments and others. Researchers and educators agree that quality early care and education provides an invaluable foundation for later school and work success.

SCHOOL READINESS

School readiness is a multidimensional concept. A child's readiness for school is not simply a matter of alphabet knowledge, or other predominantly cognitive accomplishments. Important as those are, readiness also includes social-emotional abilities, approaches to learning (i.e., curiosity), and communication skills, as well as motor development and physical health. Ongoing research continues to confirm the need to think about children's readiness for school as multi-faceted².

Child care quality is important to all children:

In the early years of a child's life, development occurs at a rapid pace and profound changes take place in cognitive development, language, and social skills. Rich learning environments and positive, prosocial relationships contribute to a child's developmental progress⁵. Children's early experiences are the foundation for future learning and development. Research is affirming that young children are capable of understanding more complex concepts than once believed. Our youngest learners eagerly seek information through observation and experimentation, and from an early age they develop incredibly sophisticated ideas of how the world and those around them work. Quality early care and education settings deploy children's natural inclination to learn and encourages their understanding of essential concepts about their environments³.

Performance Standards: Performance standards can clarify expectations for what should be taught, provide a common set of expectations for child outcome goals, and focus attention on important aspects of children's growth and development⁴.

Florida School Readiness Performance Standards for Three-, Four-, and Five-year-old children.

Physical health, approaches to learning, social and emotional, language and communication, emergent literacy, cognitive development and general knowledge, and motor development.

Indicators of Effective Curriculum:

- Children are active and engaged.
- Goals are clear and shared by all.
- Curriculum is evidenced-based.
- Valued content is learned through investigation and focused, intentional teaching.
- Curriculum builds on prior learning and experiences.
- Curriculum is comprehensive.
- Professional standards validate the curriculum's subject-matter content.
- The curriculum is likely to benefit children.



The Wee Learn curriculum offers cognitive challenges to young children exposed to their framework through individually and age appropriate practices. The Wee Learn curriculum is solidified on its base of concrete experience and focus on relationships, communication, and exploration of the environment. The curriculum is thoughtfully planned, comprehensive, cohesive, and integrated across domains of learning and development.

The Wee Learn curriculum provides systematic learning opportunities in language and early literacy, mathematics, science, social studies, the arts, physical development, and personal and social development. The curriculum is relevant to children's everyday experiences and highlights the importance of the family's role in linking a child's early experiences to the world around them.

Select References:

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4. Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning (McREL). (2003). Content knowledge (3rd ed.) [Online]. Available: <http://www.mcrel.org/standards-benchmarks/docs/purpose.asp> [2003, August 8].
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