Introduction

Community Agreement

What Defines Curriculum?

Implementation & Usage

Identifying Curriculum Gaps

Maximizing Potential: Tools, Tips & Strategies

Creating a Lasting Impact

Laura Delgado
VICE PRESIDENT OF CURRICULUM & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

• Former Preschool Owner, Director and Teacher
• Laura has a bachelor’s degree in Sociology and a minor in ECE from the University of South Florida, a master’s degree in Leadership in Education, and over twenty-five years of early learning experience
• 6 Years with Florida’s Office of Early Learning
• Experience with Preschool Centers, School District Preschool Programs, and Home-Based Childcare Centers
• Dedication to advancing opportunities for Early Learning Professionals through Training, Professional Development, Mentoring and Coaching
Team members include:
- Former Owners, Directors & Teachers
- NAEYC Professional Development Facilitator
- State Curriculum Review Board Members
- State Early Learning Training Facilitators
- Early Learning College Professors

Community Agreements
- Be Present (silence phones)
- Listen
- Be Engaged
- Respect Others
- Be open minded
- Encourage & Support Others
- Confidentiality
- Have FUN!!!
- Learn something NEW!

Learning Beyond was Created to:

SUPPORT TEACHERS:
- Online vs. Paper-based
- Intuitive design for real-time use
- Training built into Daily Activities
- FREE Professional Development

SUPPORT PROVIDERS:
- Affordable AND high-quality
- 100% online for today's teachers
- Training & PD included FREE
- Reduces turnover => ensuring quality, continuity of care for children
What defines Curriculum?

EARLY LEARNING CURRICULUM

Standard 2: Curriculum

What to look for in a program:

- Ask about the program’s curriculum and how it addresses all aspects of child development. The curriculum should not focus on just one area of development.
- Children are given opportunities to learn and develop through explorations and play, and teachers have opportunities to work with individual children and small groups on specific skills.
- Materials and equipment are appropriate for children and encourage them to experiment and learn.
- Activities are designed to help children get better at reasoning, solving problems, getting along with others, using language, and developing other skills.
- Infants and toddlers play with toys and we materials that “do something” based on a child’s actions, such as pushing the box, echo that it’s broccoli, another, and plashtop.
Let’s think about Curricula.

Are you satisfied with the curriculum you currently use?
Do your families know what curriculum your program uses?
Are your families engaged with the curriculum and daily activities?
Do you or your teachers using the curriculum to its fullest?
Do you or your teachers have scheduled planning time during their shift?
Do families have access?

Let’s think about how curriculum is being implemented in your program.

Successes?
Challenges?

Maximizing Potential: Tools, Tips & Strategies to Promote Effective Curriculum use

FOR DIRECTORS:
- Identify ways to streamline
- Eliminate redundancies
- Time-wasting activities like photocopying, managing supplies
- Involve your team in brainstorming ideas for improvements, share best practices
- Provide curriculum onboarding & ongoing implementation training
- Seek out support from your current curriculum provider

FOR TEACHERS:
- Provide open-ended questions & prompts
- Whole-class activities around the classroom
- Provide time access to training & opportunities for in-service hours
- Allocate time for lesson planning & prep
- Create time for teacher reflection
- Encourage sharing of ideas

FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES:
- Review/optimise communication approach
- Host a Curriculum night
- Walk families through your curriculum approach
- Explain the “why” behind lessons/activities
- Display children’s work
- Share ways to extend the learning at home
- Encourage families to be ambassadors for your program
Directors

- Constantly pulled in a million directions
- Covers classes daily
- Hiring challenges doubled in last year
- Invested $10,000 in Curriculum, Teachers are struggling to implement it
- Training and PD have taken a back seat
- Teacher candidates have:
  - No experience
  - Require a lot of training and time
  - Burnout/lack of motivation

Teachers

- Passion for kids but has limited to no prior experience
- Due to understaffing, on their 3rd day they are put into a classroom by themselves with 25 four-year old’s
- Expected to deliver lesson plans effectively with little to no training
- There is constant shifting from classroom to classroom – lack of consistency
• Responsible for the success of the entire program:
  • Quality
  • Curriculum
  • Budget
  • Enrollment
  • Multi-age setting
  • No staffing flexibility
  • Training and PD have taken a back seat

• Continuity of care
• Impact on social-emotional development
  • Inability to form bonds
  • Behavior challenges on the rise
  • Classroom management challenges
• Lack of school-to-home connections
• Negative impact on development and academics

• For DIRECTORS:
  • Challenges as leaders
  • Opportunities for training?
  • Effective, consistent implementation?
  • Budget impact
  • Resources and materials

• For FAMILIES:
  • What are they experiencing?
  • Do they understand your curriculum?
  • Are school-to-home lessons available?
  • How have the gaps impacted your enrollment?

• For TEACHERS:
  • What are they experiencing?
  • Do they have access to proper training and professional development?
  • Appropriate time allotted for lesson planning and prepping?

• For CHILDREN:
  • What are they experiencing?
  • In classrooms with multiple ages/stages?
  • Is there consistency with the instruction approach?
  • Are there behavior challenges?
Curriculum should create stronger connections with families and...

Curriculum must support teachers and promote their success NOW and for the FUTURE.

Curriculum is the GLUE that holds everything together.

Curriculum should provide high-quality, 21st century early learning experiences for ALL children.

Curriculum must support teachers and promote their success NOW and for the FUTURE.

Thank you!