

NAEYC's Indicator's of an Effective Curriculum

NAEYC's Indicators

The Itty-Bitty Bookworm

*Children are active and engaged

-Our curriculum actively engages children in the following ways:

*Cognitively-Our curriculum includes plans to engage children in language activities and hands-on math and science projects

*Physically-We provide suggestions for fine and gross motor development, as well as group games and activities.

*Socially- We offer ideas and activities to promote social development during "Morning Meeting" and center time.

*Artistically-Plans for open ended art activities and projects are included each month. We encourage self-expression and creativity.

*Goals are clear and shared by all.

-Our curriculum goals (long term goals) are clearly defined in our curriculum guide. Our short term goals are expressed in the objectives covered each week.

*Curriculum is evidence-based.

-Our curriculum is based on Developmentally Appropriate Practices (as stated by NAEYC).

-Our curriculum is based on years of teaching experience in variety of settings with varying age groups (2-6).

*Valued content is learned through investigation and focused, intentional teaching.

-Our curriculum plans incorporate time for investigation: ideas are given for encouraging investigative play, as well as descriptions for weekly science experiments.

-Our curriculum offers suggestions to tailor teaching strategies to children's developmental levels, language, and abilities or disabilities.

*Curriculum builds on prior learning and experiences.

*Curriculum is comprehensive.

-Our curriculum plans explain how to relate each book to common experiences most children share. It provides the teacher with ways to build upon each child's prior knowledge.

-Our curriculum encompasses the critical areas of development including:

*Children's physical well-being and motor development-Weekly suggestions for healthy snacks and cooking activities, as well as daily suggestions for fine and gross motor development are provided.

*Social and emotional development-Our curriculum gives ideas for games and activities to encourage teamwork. It also explains how to set up your centers so that they connect with the themes of the books. These connections encourage children to play and investigate centers. This center time is important because it is a chance for children to practice socializing, taking turns, role playing etc.

*Approaches to learning-When designing the curriculum Gardner's Intelligences were considered. Therefore, we have included activities which are appropriate for all types of learners.

*Language Development-Our curriculum is based on quality children's literature and includes daily language activities

*Cognition and general knowledge-Children will participate in a variety of language activities and opportunities, as well as hands-on science and math activities.

*Subject matter areas-Our curriculum plans provide:

Daily: Math, language and literacy, and art activities

*Professional standards validate the curriculum subject-matter content.

*The curriculum is likely to benefit children.

Weekly: Center ideas, cooking activities and science projects.

***Social studies is incorporated into the language activities.

-Our curriculum is comprehensive; it is not subject-specific. We used the following references when writing and designing it:

*"Building Strong Foundations for Early Learning: The US Department of Education's Guide to High Quality Early Childhood Education Programs"

*"Learning to Read and Write: Developmentally Appropriate Practices for Young Children" by The International Reading Association and the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

*"Indicators of An Effective Curriculum" by The National Association for the Education of Young Children

*The work of Piaget, Erickson, Vgotsky, and Gardner

-Evidence has shown that the number of books a child has in the home has a significant impact on children's reading scores. Thus, by providing children's literature each month, our program will not only help your child with emergent literacy skills, but will have a positive impact on their future reading scores.

-Having a variety of quality children's literature (which our curriculum provides) will affect the children's life long attitudes toward reading and literature.