

Early Learning Coalition of Seminole

Curriculum Guidelines

THE ELCoS has identified the following curriculum components as important factors in determining whether or not an alternative curriculum meets the recommended curriculum criteria. If you are interested in submitting a curriculum for approval by the Coalition, your Curriculum MUST incorporate the following below-mentioned components:

- 1) The curriculum is developmentally appropriate. It has realistic and attainable expectations.**
- 2) The curriculum has a Character Development component.**
- 3) The curriculum:**
 - a. Promotes interactive learning among staff and children.
 - b. Helps children achieve social, emotional, linguistic, physical and cognitive goals.
 - c. Permits flexibility for children and teachers.
 - d. Encourages active learning through play and frequently allows children to make meaningful choices.
 - e. Fosters children's exploration and inquiry, rather than focusing on "right" answers or "right" ways to complete a task.
 - f. Facilitates concept learning and skills development in an integrated and natural way (integrated thematic instruction).
 - g. Shows evidence from research of being based on sound child development principles of how children grow and learn.
 - h. Shows respect for cultural and linguistic diversity as well as allows and appreciates individual differences.
- 4) The curriculum meets all of the State of Florida School Readiness (SR) Performance Standards, including the following Domains:**
 - a. Physical Health
 - b. Approaches to Learning
 - c. Social and Emotional
 - d. Language and Communications
 - e. Cognitive Development and General Knowledge
 - f. Motor Development
 - g. Emergent Literacy (*for ages 3-5 years old*)
- 5) The program has age appropriate activities and materials that promote the following experiences:**
 - a. Construction (wood blocks, waffle blocks, bristle blocks, Lincoln Logs, etc.)
 - b. Dramatic Play
 - c. Manipulatives
 - d. Creative Expression (Art)
 - e. Language and Literacy (Expressive and receptive, and pre-reading and writing)
 - f. Discovery/Sensory/Water Play
 - g. Music and Movement
 - h. Outdoors/Gross motor
 - i. Computers and other assistive technology (i.e. projectors, overheads, etc.) (optional)
- 6) Assessment evidence (from multiple sources) is used to understand and improve learning by improving curriculum implementation and teaching practices.**
- 7) Parent Involvement:**
 - a. Parents are recognized as a child's first teacher.
 - b. Parents are knowledgeable about goals and assessment. Conferences are scheduled to discuss the parent expectations for their child(ren) and answer any questions they may have about the curriculum.
 - c. Parents are welcome visitors to the program or classroom and opportunities are available for parent participation.