

# The Preschool Curriculum is... **YOU!**



Teacher, what are *you* bringing to the children?  
Mary Widenhofer - FALL, 2009

# What are your Goals?

- Your curriculum will help you meet your goals
- Your curriculum will give you themes
- Your curriculum is very flexible for deletions and insertions.
- Your curriculum is only a tool, a means to an end.
- It is meant to be critiqued, often
- It should be developmental and child centered.



**BE A PASSIONATE EDUCATOR. IT'S SO  
MUCH FUN AND IS SO REWARDING!**

Passionate educators are committed to the idea that in order to best serve children, teachers need to be dedicated learners, planners and supporters.

# How do we support... use, choose, augment our curriculum?

- You decide
- You search
- You present
- You support
- You assess
- You purchase



# Determine what are the essentials in your curriculum...

- Bible time and praise experiences
- Early Literacy- Phonemics
- Math experiences-
- Science exploration - the wonder of it all
- Socialization opportunities and support
- Art exploration
- Physical education and movement (dance)
- Music education and dramatic performance

# Elements to consider in Curriculum Choices

Consider....

- Your philosophy
- State standards/foundations for preschool
- Are you play based or academic based?
- Your present curriculum
- Your finances
- Your people/parent resources

# What is your philosophy? It should read something like this...

- Building mind, body, and Christian character in partnership with families to bring out the best in each child.
- Childhood is a world of wonder and discovery. Children need an environment rich in experiences, play, education and the influence of many different people. They need a place of their own where they can feel secure, valued, and special. In conjunction with training each child's mind you must center on teaching the basics of Christian morals, Bible teaching and character.

**But the real  
questions are...**



# ASK YOURSELF

- Are your children playing?
- Are your children learning?
- Are your children discovering?
- Are your children creating?
- Are your children pretending?
- Are your children exploring?
- Are your children moving?
- Are your children sharing and caring?
- Do your children know and love Jesus as their Savior?

Are we providing the optimum environment and materials for each child to learn and develop?  
Are you giving them your very best?



# Are your children developing along the 5 areas of the developmental domains

- Physical development
- Mental, academic development LITERACY
- Social development
- Emotional development
- Spiritual development

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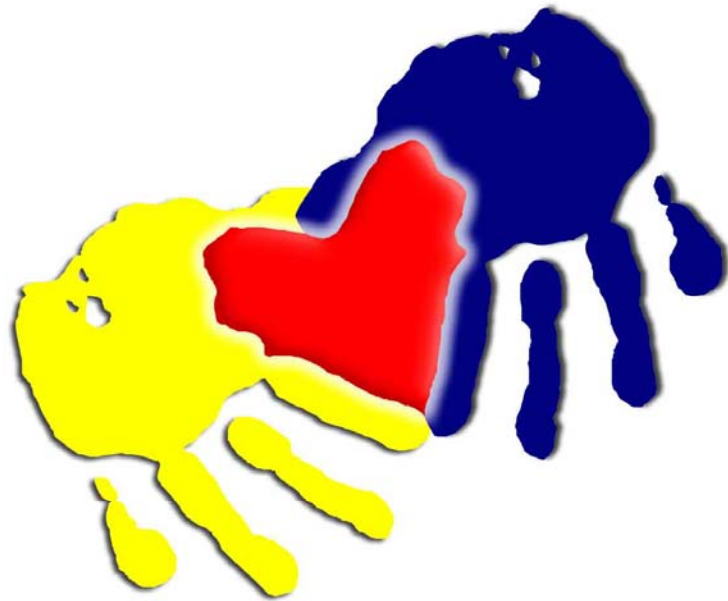
All of these areas are to be considered and addressed in the education of young children. All are equally important for optimal development.

# Is your curriculum DAP?

- Developmentally Appropriate Practices
- Age appropriate
- Play oriented
- Centers
- Open ended materials
- Simple, complex and super complex materials

Ask this question often...

Is your curriculum doing the job?  
Is it addressing all of the domains?



If not...  
What will  
you do about  
it?

# Improving your curriculum is like improving yourself...

- Add to it with resources and new material gradually
- Change it completely and get a curriculum you believe in and are excited to teach.
- Change it ...domain, by domain.
- Tackle a content area, one a year
- Add small changes – books, music, fieldtrips, guest speakers

# Consider the Project Approach by Lillian Katz

It's an in depth study on a simple question or topic

It includes a mapping of the known to the unknown with a path of activities to the new knowledge.

It is all inclusive... math, science, literacy elements

It is student lead in an inquiry study seeking answers through activity engagement.

It helps children to learn in fun, interactive and engaging methods about the common things in life.

Each child is unique... Is your curriculum meeting their needs?



# Do your children know and love Jesus?

This is our number one priority.



Consider Howard Garner's intelligences of how children learn in the best manner that suits their interests and strengths.

- Nature
- Mathematics
- Social
- Physical
- Art and creativity



# Where / how can I find, see other curriculum options?

- Ask colleagues...share, share, share the best
- Attend conferences for resources and new ideas
- Visit other preschools... a must
- Check early childhood curriculum catalogues
- Share the best parts with other directors
- Be in touch with current resources, authors and publishers
- Be open to the new, resurrect the old, tweak the present
- Get on a catalogue list from NAEYC and others

Ask kindergarten teachers in your area and where your children will be attending what they expect children to know and do upon Kdg. entrance?

Teach to those expectations if they are realistic.



Be skill building yet child centered in your curriculum. Encourage a joy in life long learning attitudes. Set your goals and help children to set goals.



Keep adding books, puzzles and games.. .A simple addition to your curriculum



Keep searching,  
keep  
evaluating,  
keep improving  
your  
curriculum...  
and don't let it  
get stale...ever.



Share your curriculum with your  
parents and promote it  
at your Open House.



# P.S. ... Curriculum items that I wouldn't want to teach without...

- Alpha Big Books for...science, math and more
- Set of 50 children's Bible story books published by CRC, God Loves Me Series.. A set of 52 Bible story books.. great for threes classes.
- Colorations watercolor paint
- Mailbox magazine for preschool

