

Leon-Gadsden Early Learning Coalition Curricula Reviews

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Curriculum Review Process

- Issues Confronting Committee
 - What Counts as a Curriculum?
 - How Define “Research Based”?
 - By What Standards do we Evaluate?

What is a Curriculum?

- Separating Curriculum from Program:
 - Not evaluating infrastructure
 - Not evaluating basic health and safety
 - Not evaluating staff
 - Not evaluating other activities beyond curriculum

What is a Curriculum?

- What Counts as a Curriculum?
 - Replicable
 - More than Activity Suggestions
 - More than Theory and Pedagogy

Curriculum Review Process

- Standards of Evaluation
 - Match to Needs
 - Content Alignment
 - Evidence of Effectiveness

Curriculum Review Process

- Standards of Evaluation

Match to Needs + Content Alignment +
Evidence of Effectiveness =

Curriculum Evaluation Guide

Curriculum Review Process

- Evaluation Part I: Match to Needs
 - Self-Study Questions
 - Who are Children?
 - Who are Staff?
 - Size of Program?
 - Budget?
 - USE RESPONSES TO LOOK FOR MATCHING CURRICULUM DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION

Curriculum Review Process

- Evaluation Part I: Match to Needs
 - Outcome: Table 1
 - Basic Descriptive Information
 - Level of Detail in Content
 - Activities
 - Materials
 - Schedule
 - Languages
 - Price
 - Professional Development

Curriculum Review Process

- Evaluation Part II: Content Review
 - Alignment with Florida School Readiness Performance Standards
 - Four-Year-Old Standards
 - Assessments

Curriculum Review Process

- Evaluation Part II: Content Review
 - Outcome: Content Ratings
 - Required 75% of Indicators within Domain
 - Indicators Must be Present with Sufficient Breadth, Depth, and Frequency
 - Tables 2 (Overall) & 3 (Specific Literacy Skills)

Curriculum Review Process

- Evaluation Part II: Content Review
 - Outcome: Content Ratings
 - **Not** Assuming Teacher will Add
 - Assessing Content – Not Implementation
 - **Not** Assessing Conformity to any Pedagogical Philosophy

Curriculum Review Process

- Evaluation Part III: Evidence of Effectiveness
 - What Counts as Evidence?
 - Want to Have High Standards for Evidence
 - Want Standards Comparable to K-12
 - Want to Promote New Research
 - Want to Promote Informed Consumers

Curriculum Review Process

- Evaluation Part III: Evidence
 - Outcome: Research Ratings
 - Rating Scale of Research Quality & Quantity
 - Rated each Curriculum in 7 Domains
 - Separated Language & Literacy

Curriculum Review Process

- Evaluation Part III: Evidence

0 = No Evidence or No Comp. Grp. Study

1 = Quasi-Exp. Study of Components

2= Randomized Study of Components

3= Quasi-Exp. Study of Total Curriculum

4= Random Exp. Study of Total Curriculum

Evaluation Results

- Curricula in Review:

Beyond Centers & Circle Time

Creative Curriculum, 4th Edition

DLM Early Childhood Express

Doors to Discovery

High Scope

Kaplan Planning Guide to the Preschool Curriculum

Let's Begin with Letter People

Links to Literacy

Literacy Express

Scholastic Early Childhood Program

School Readiness Express

Wee Learn

Evaluation Results

- Descriptive Results:
 - Subset of Curricula Available in Spanish
 - Most Provide High Level of Detail
 - Price Range is Wide:
 - Some All Inclusive
 - Some Require Many Independent Purchases

Evaluation Results

- Content Alignment Results:
 - Most Curricula Very Recently Developed or New Versions
 - Many Meeting Most Domains
 - Most Frequent Miss: Physical Health
 - Lots of Variability in Style & Depth of Content

Evaluation Results

- Research Evidence Results:
 - VERY LIMITED RESEARCH!
 - More than Half Have No Research Credit at All
 - All 0 in all 7 Domains
 - Others range from Very Strong Research to “Ok” Research
 - Only 1-2 with Literacy or Language Domain Support
 - None Currently with Support in more than 3 Domains