



Early Learning Coalition of Sarasota County Curriculum Position Statement

The Coalition is responsible for ensuring that all providers use an “appropriate curriculum.” What does this mean? What do we expect of providers?

It is our goal to work together with you and support you in meeting the following expectations:

- ❖ Child care providers offer a learning environment that consists of developmentally and age appropriate practices with a broad range of activities and experiences for children
- ❖ Child care providers have an understanding of child development theories, brain research, emergent literacy and the importance of promoting character development (social and emotional health) in children
- ❖ Child care providers “adopt” a philosophy and specific theories that they feel comfortable with in working with children, and be able to articulate them
- ❖ Child care providers understand that curriculum is all that you do during the learning day, it is your daily program
- ❖ Child care providers understand that the many different curriculums are *tools* for conducting well thought out or “intentional teaching,” based on a good understanding of individual children’s needs
- ❖ Child care providers use the Florida Early Learning Standards as a guide to determine what age appropriate skills children should achieve or be working towards in the domains (areas) listed in the Standards. They use a curriculum to plan their program and activities to ensure that children meet the goals set out in the Florida Early Learning Standards
- ❖ Child care providers assess children to help determine strengths and areas that need support, so they can plan programs and activities to meet the needs of every child
- ❖ Child care providers choose good tools that are research based; they understand that new research is being done constantly and they are prepared to keep learning and adjust practices to implement what will help children learn and grow best
- ❖ Child care providers realize that a curriculum is a philosophy or framework and should be supplemented with a range of other tools; it is Ok to mix and match as long as it is done with careful thought and based on what is right for children
- ❖ Child care providers can give a clear answer when asked questions such as, *What curriculum do you use? How do you promote early literacy?* *What is the purpose of the activity you have presented?*
- ❖ Child care providers understand that children must master specific age and/or developmentally appropriate skills, develop the motivation and desire to learn and grow, and feel good about themselves in order to thrive and succeed
- ❖ Child care providers realize that an appropriate curriculum is a guide to “intentional teaching” geared to children’s needs, and that consistent caring relationships are the means to foster learning, resiliency and readiness in children

*Together we can reach our goal of ensuring that ALL of Sarasota’s children
are ready for school and prepared for life!*