



SUMMARY OF CURRICULUM RESOURCES

Document to accompany

CURRICULUM FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS SERVING CHILDREN FROM BIRTH TO AGE 8 (Grade 3)

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SUMMARY OF CURRICULUM RESOURCES

I. INTRODUCTION

A curriculum is one means by which to have a high quality learning environment which is essential for preparing children to be successful learning as they go through elementary school. This document is intended to accompany the report *Curriculum for early childhood programs serving children from birth to age 8 (grade 3)*, that can be found at www.pde.state.pa.us. This document contains information about curricula, including a definition, what constitutes an effective curriculum, aspects of curriculum decision-making and linking assessment and curriculum.

The summary of various curriculums contained within this document offers information about each curriculum. A curriculum is a framework and when used in conjunction with the Pennsylvania standards for learning (birth to age 8), teachers can design classrooms that meet the developmental needs of children to help them succeed in school.

It is not the Pennsylvania Department of Education's intention to make specific recommendations with regard to the items on the lists provided herein (Tables 1 to 3), rather the Department wishes to provide guidelines for decision-making that would best adhere to the Pennsylvania standards for learning (birth to age 8). Given the many resources on the market, the curriculum resources listed within this document were chosen based on their comprehensiveness, if they were evidence-based, and for their quality.

II. CURRICULUM RESOURCES

How to Read the Tables

Table 1 provides descriptions of commonly-used curricula available. Within Table 1 the curriculum are separated into categories that include "general curriculum" and then curriculum that fit within specific Key Learning Areas of either the Early Learning Standards for Pre-Kindergarten or the Kindergarten Standards. Please note that curriculum materials that focus on specific Key Learning Areas should supplement a larger curriculum framework that encompasses all Key Learning Areas of the Early Learning Standards.

Tables 2 provides a quick glance of the alignment of the curriculum with the Early Learning Standards for Pre-Kindergarten. Some curriculum products are accompanied by a specifically designed assessment tool (i.e., *The Creative Curriculum* and *The Creative Curriculum's Developmental Continuum*). In these cases, the correlations at the indicator level are shown together in a matrix for both the curriculum product and its assessment tool.

Table 3 lists the forthcoming curriculum that is currently being aligned with the Kindergarten Standards.

The more detailed matrices are available on the Pennsylvania Department of Education website (www.pde.state.pa.us).

TABLE 1: Curriculum Resources for Early Childhood Standards for Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten

Note: The curricula listed below are suggestions and not recommendations for programs and schools. In the future, a short list of curriculum that aligns with the standards will be developed.

Curricula	Alignment to the Standards			Age Group	Description*	Publisher
	Yes Pre-K	No K	Pending			
General Curriculum Active Learning Series for 3s and 4s	X			Pre-K	The Active Learning Series provides a combination of information and activities that help children from infancy to age five years develop their minds and bodies in a safe and healthy environment. The guidebooks demonstrate ways teachers can easily incorporate "active" learning. The curriculum comes with a complete planning guide describing activities and appropriate materials and a resource and skills checklist.	Active Learning Series for 3s – Addison Wesley Longman Active Learning Series for 4s – Dale Seymour Publications
The Creative Curriculum	X			Pre-K	The Creative Curriculum helps set up a preschool classroom, structure a day, what kinds of experiences to provide for children, how to assess children's progress, and how to involve families. It also offers guidance on the countless everyday decisions teachers make--whether or not to intervene as a child tries to solve a problem, what materials a child is ready for, how to help two children resolve a conflict. The Curriculum provides specific strategies for making these decisions.	Teaching Strategies
Developmental Learning Materials – DLM Learning Express	X			Pre-K	DLM Learning Express links language and early literacy, math, science, social studies, fine arts, health and safety, personal and physical development, and technology. Materials include lessons plans with 36 engaging and relevant weekly themes complete with activities that help children make connections, expand on experiences, and build new knowledge of a variety of topics.	Wright Group/McGraw Hill
High/Scope	X			Pre-K (2 ½ to 6 yrs)	The High/Scope educational approach is the plan-do-review sequence in which children make choices, carry out their ideas, and reflect on what they learned. These activities promote	High/Scope Educational Foundation

Curricula	Alignment to the Standards			Age Group	Description*	Publisher
	Yes Pre-K K	No	Pending			
Houghton-Mifflin Pre-K Curriculum	X			Pre-K	initiative, and independence. In addition, children engage in group activities, socialize during meals, develop self-care skills, and exercise large muscles during outdoor time. Houghton Mifflin PRE-K Curriculum is a hands-on, minds-on curriculum that is based on scientific research. Aligned with key Pre-K learning goals, it provides children with the foundational skills they need to succeed as lifelong learners.	Houghton-Mifflin
Innovations Comprehensive Preschool Curricula	X			Pre-K	The Innovations Comprehensive Preschool Curriculum is a complete curriculum book designed for teachers of three to five year olds that focuses on how teachers can encourage, facilitate, and stimulate learning and growth. The curriculum guide contains a comprehensive appendix, planning tools, and an array of useful teaching strategies.	Gryphon House
Opening the World of Learning (OWL)			X (update)	Pre-K	Opening the World of Learning is a research-based and field-tested Pre-K curriculum designed to develop language and early literacy skills in the context of rich content while building a foundation in mathematics, science, and social studies.	Pearson Early Learning
Scholastic Early Childhood Program	X			Pre-K	The Scholastic Early Childhood Program (SECP) provides learners with a strong foundation in early literacy, language, math, and science skills while encouraging personal and social development. SECP provides explicit instruction in early language, reading, and math skills.	Scholastic
Language and Literacy						
Break Through to Literacy	X			Pre-K to 3 rd grade	Break Through to Literacy is a class-wide, comprehensive language and reading program for children in pre-K to 3 rd grade. Its components are Big Books, student books, Take-Me-Home books, interactive software, and on-site training for teachers and on-going professional development. The program is designed to help children from challenged or disadvantaged backgrounds, those learning English as a Second Language, children with learning disabilities, as well as children who are developing typically.	Wright Group/ McGraw Hill

Curricula	Alignment to the Standards			Age Group	Description*	Publisher
	Yes Pre-K K	No K	Pending			
Building Language for Literacy	X			Pre-K to K	Building Language for Literacy is a foundational curriculum for beginning readers. This curriculum is based on 12 themes for 48 weeks of instruction with a focus on the home and neighborhood with the goal of teaching oral language, phonological awareness, letter knowledge, and print awareness.	Scholastic
Children's Literacy Initiative Blueprint Curriculum			X	Pre-K	Blueprint for Early Literacy is based on National Reading Panel and Early Reading First recommendations, and is designed to meet state and national standards for reading, writing, and oral language development. These skills are taught in the context of 10 related, sequential themes and within each theme children are introduced to children's books.	Children's Literacy Initiative
Doors to Discovery			X (Pre-K)	Pre-K to K	Doors to Discovery is a Prekindergarten program that builds a foundation of oral language, phonological awareness, alphabet knowledge, concepts of print, and a love of books. Family literacy activities foster partnerships between the school, home, family, and teacher.	Wright Group/McGraw Hill
Harcourt Language			X	K to 6	Harcourt Language provides logical organization through weekly chapters of grammar and writing with vocabulary lessons tied in.	Harcourt
Harcourt Trophies			X (Pre-K & K)	Pre-K to 6	Trophies is a research-based, developmental reading/language arts program. Explicit phonics instruction; direct reading instruction; guided reading strategies; phonemic awareness instruction; systematic, intervention strategies; integrated language arts components; and state-of-the-art assessment tools ensure every student successfully learns to read.	Harcourt School Publishers
Houghton-Mifflin Reading 2006 to 2008			X	K to 6	Houghton-Mifflin Reading includes Big Books, Read Alouds, and Audio CDs allowing for a variety of ways to learn. The fiction and nonfiction leveled books link directly to Anthology selections and reinforce key vocabulary while meeting a range of reading abilities.	Houghton-Mifflin
Language for Learning		X		Pre-K to 2	Language for Learning helps to develop strong language skills and give young children and ESL students a strong foundation for literacy through direct instruction.	SRA Online

Curricula	Alignment to the Standards			Age Group	Description*	Publisher
	Yes Pre-K K	No	Pending			
Preschool Ladders to Literacy & Kindergarten Ladders to Literacy		X		Pre-K to K	<p>Ladders to Literacy is an innovative supplemental classroom curriculum that allows educators to address the needs of children who are at risk for reading failure without giving up their current language programming.</p> <p>The Preschool and Kindergarten Activity Books offer more than 50 fun, skill-building activities to use with large groups of children. The activities are organized into three sections emphasizing print awareness, metalinguistic, and oral language skills</p>	Brookes Publishing
Read Together, Talk Together			X	Pre-K (Ages 2 to 5)	<p>Read Together, Talk Together is a dialogic reading program. Dialogic reading is a shared, picture book reading experience in which adults read to children, prompt them with questions, expand on their answers and praise their storytelling abilities.</p>	Pearson Early Learning Group
Scott Foresman Reading Street 2007			X	Pre-K to 6	<p>Scott Foresman Reading Street is an all-new reading program for Grades PreK–6. Reading Street is designed to help teachers build readers through motivating and engaging literature, scientifically research-based instruction, and reliable teaching tools. Reading Street prioritizes skill instruction at each grade level, so teachers can be assured they will focus on the right skill, at the right time, and for every student.</p>	Scott Foresman
Sing, Spell, Read & Write		X		Pre-K to K	<p>Sing, Spell, Read & Write is a phonics-based program that uses a 36-step program of carefully sequenced steps to teach reading, writing, and spelling. Delivering explicit phonics instruction via a multisensory approach, Sing, Spell, Read & Write reaches every avenue to the brain and addresses every student's learning style.</p>	Modern Curriculum Press
Mathematics						
Big math for little kids			X	Pre-K and K	<p>Big Math for Little Kids is a comprehensive math program that builds upon what young children already know and are capable of doing mathematically. Available in English and Spanish.</p>	Pearson Early Learning Group
Building Blocks – foundations for mathematical thinking, Pre-K to 2: Research		X		Pre-K to 2	<p>The Building Blocks materials are a complete mathematics curriculum at Pre-K, and supplement and enrich existing curricula at K-2 (with extensions to grade 6). Print, manipulatives, and computers are used extensively. The mathematics materials</p>	Building Blocks Project – University of Buffalo, NY

Curricula	Alignment to the Standards			Age Group	Description*	Publisher
	Yes Pre-K K	No	Pending			
based materials development					designed to enable all young children to meet the new pre-K-grade 2 <i>standards</i> developed by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM).	
Everyday Mathematics			X (K)	Pre-K to 6	Everyday Mathematics is scientifically-based to improve mathematical knowledge from basics to higher-order thinking and critical problem-solving	Wright Group/McGraw Hill
Growing With Math			X	Pre-K to 5	Growing with Math is a pre-K through 5th grade core program that addresses the NCTM content and process standards. The curriculum carefully guides children form their own language to mathematical language to symbolic language.	Wright Group/McGraw Hill
Harcourt Math (2004)			X (PreK & K)	Pre-K to 6	Harcourt Math is a research-based, complete and comprehensive math program for Pre-K through Grade 6. It was written to provide thorough coverage of state and national standards and to provide teachers the flexibility to customize the program for state and local courses of study. Harcourt Math was designed to help build conceptual understanding, skill proficiency, problem solving facility, and logical reasoning while carefully developing concepts within and across the mathematics stands.	Harcourt School
Houghton-Mifflin Math			X	K to 6	Houghton-Mifflin Math is research-based mathematics materials that provide comprehensive support to ensure math achievement. This curriculum has a strong focus on skill building, problem solving, and concepts mastery for every level of learning.	Houghton-Mifflin School
Scott Foresman Addison-Wesley Mathematics			X	Pre-K to 6	Scott Foresman Addison-Wesley Mathematics teaches for understanding so math content is accessible to all children. This curriculum monitors children's understanding and provides intervention before, during, and after the lesson. The content connects math to reading and writing strategies so all students can become successful problem solvers.	Scott Foresman
Science						
Discovery science: Exploration for the early years (1995)		X		PreK to K	Discovery Science is an innovative series that encourages children to find the answers by getting their hands into scientific explorations. Adding exciting and eye-opening discoveries to any science curriculum, this developmental approach guides children	Dale Seymour Publications

Curricula	Alignment to the Standards			Age Group	Description*	Publisher
	Yes	No	Pending			
	Pre-K	K				
Harcourt Science/Health				Pre-K to 6	in acquiring the skills of inquiry. Four units for each grade level provide activities that help students build investigative and emerging literacy and math skills as they complete easy-to-do experiments and tasks. In Harcourt Science , students investigate through hands-on activities. Students learn about science concepts with reading support at every turn, and Link the real world to the classroom.	Harcourt School
Houghton-Mifflin Science 2007			X (PreK & K)	K to 6	Houghton-Mifflin Science is a hands-on, inquiry-based program that provides the resources necessary to fit science into the day. The HM Science has standards-based content while reading, vocabulary, and writing are integrated.	Houghton-Mifflin School
Science Companion 1.4 2005			X	K to 5	The Science Companion is a hands-on learning program that offers quality, standards-aligned resources and support. Students can explore their world and how it works with this unique, classroom-tested, educator-developed approach to science literacy that works for all learners.	Scott-Foresman
Social Studies						
Harcourt Horizons			X	K to 6/7	Harcourt Horizons is a new Social Studies program provides relevant content, skills lessons, and reading and vocabulary support.. Harcourt Horizons works in partnerships with Time For Kids, CNN/Turner Learning, Reading Rainbow, and MapQuest that add depth of understanding.	Harcourt Schools
Houghton-Mifflin Social Studies 2005 to 2008			X	K to 6	Designed with a unique Core/Extend organization Houghton-Mifflin Social Studies program helps you fit social studies into their busy day. Houghton-Mifflin Social Studies allows teachers to use built-in reading and vocabulary instruction helps you teach content area reading.	Houghton-Mifflin School
Scott Foresman Social Studies			X	K to 6	Scott Foresman Social Studies focuses on what it means to be citizens of this nation - that respect, caring, responsibility, fairness, courage, and honesty are the pillars that make our nation strong. The content captures students' imaginations and it has built-in reading and vocabulary instruction.	Scott Foresman

Curricula	Alignment to the Standards			Age Group	Description*	Publisher
	Yes Pre- K	No K	Pending			
Arts Harcourt Art Everywhere			X	K to 5	Art Everywhere provides art education integrated with reading and other curricular areas. This inspired new program builds on elements of art and principles of design, focusing on both creative and critical thinking. Fun and meaningful art-production experiences provide problem-solving practice.	Harcourt
Social Skills Preschool PATHS (Providing alternative thinking strategies curriculum)		X		Pre-K	The research-based PATHS Preschool program provides new tools to help make your classroom the healthiest, most positive learning environment by: (1) supporting social and emotional development, (2) fostering pre-K literacy, (3) encouraging character education, (4) building the problem-solving abilities and other life skills required for positive relationships today -- and throughout students' lives.	Channing-Bete Company

* All descriptions are obtained from the websites for each instrument

Table 2: Quick Glance of Coverage of the Early Learning Standards and Curriculum Resources

Name of Curriculum Resource	Early Learning Standards Key Learning Areas										
	Approach To Learn	Creative Arts	Language and Literacy			Logical Math	Personal Social	Physical Health	Program Partnerships	Science	Social Studies
			Recept Lang	Exp Lang	Compr-hension	Literacy					
General Curriculum											
Active Learning Series for 3s and 4s	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	
*Creative Curriculum	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
* Developmental Learning Materials – DLM Childhood Express	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
*High/Scope	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
* Houghton Mifflin Pre-K-K Curriculum	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
*Innovations Comprehensive Preschool Curricula	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
*Opening the World of Learning (OWL)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
*Scholastic Early Childhood Program	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
Language and Literacy											
* Break through to Literacy	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
*Building Language for Literacy, Phases 1 and 2 © 2000	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X

Note that an "X" indicates coverage even if just at a *minimal* extent.

*Alignment at the indicator level was performed by the publisher rather than by an independent specialist.

Forthcoming Curriculum Resources under review:

- Language and Literacy: (1) Read Together, Talk Together, (2) Children’s Initiative Blueprint Curriculum, (3) Doors to Discovery, (4) Harcourt Trophies
- Mathematics: (1) Big Math for Little Kids, (2) Growing with Math,
- Science: (1) Harcourt Science/Health