

# CURRICULUM

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THE MOST INTIMIDATING WORD EVER WRITTEN

# WHAT YOU NEED FOR THIS TRAINING:

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- A few sheets of paper
- An open mind
- A writing instrument
- A sense of humor
- Personal self-reflective honesty

# WHAT EXACTLY IS CURRICULUM?

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Image retrieved from [desicomments.com](https://www.desicomments.com)

# CURRICULUM

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- It is a noun
- Plural form = curricula
- 1. the courses offered by an educational institution
- 2. a set of courses constituting an area of specialization



[merian-webster.com](http://merian-webster.com)



# TO OUR BENEFIT: THAT TERM IS BROAD AND VAGUE

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Photo retrieved from "Pioneer Woman Photography" pinterest.com

- The definition offers room for customization!
- The basic premise: **FCC Providers are required to provide a series of lessons or subjects (courses) within their program (educational institution)**

# STIMULATING CREATIVITY

WRITTEN BY MRS. ALYSSA N. KELLY M.A.

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The student is the highest form

of *freedom* to a teacher,

wherein the sponge-like eager brain

is his or her best feature!

Creating plans is done in *fun*:

to inspire, to ignite,  
whereupon the bright-eyed form  
of him or her alights!

Like a blank page, but more than that

we *find*.

A teacher's pupil is a muse:

an effervescent mind.



# PAST FCC CURRICULUM SURVEY RESPONSES

Curriculum In-Use	I Want More Info About My Curriculum	I Want to Explore Other Curriculums
My old preschool curriculum	No	No
My own Pinterest?	Yes	Yes
?	Yes	Yes
My Own	Yes	Yes
My Own – Mother Goose	No	No
My Own & Mother Goose	No	No
My Own & Mother Goose	No	No
My Own	No	No
Mother Goose, Pinterest, TPT	No	No
No	No	No
Old Preschool Curriculum	No	No
My Own	No	Yes
My Own	No	No
Stopped Mother Goose	No	No
My Own	No	Yes
My Own	No	Yes
What do you mean curriculum? I don't have a specific one. I plan week by week and go off of the kids.	No, I don't need more info	Yes (sure) I'm up for exploring other curriculums
What do you mean by what curriculum I use? Is that the lesson plan?	Yes	Yes
None	Yes	N/A
Early Childhood Education Standards	No	No
Mother Goose	Yes	Yes
N/A	N/A	Yes
I use KIT and the VLS. (I think that answers the question, but if not let me know)	Yes	Yes

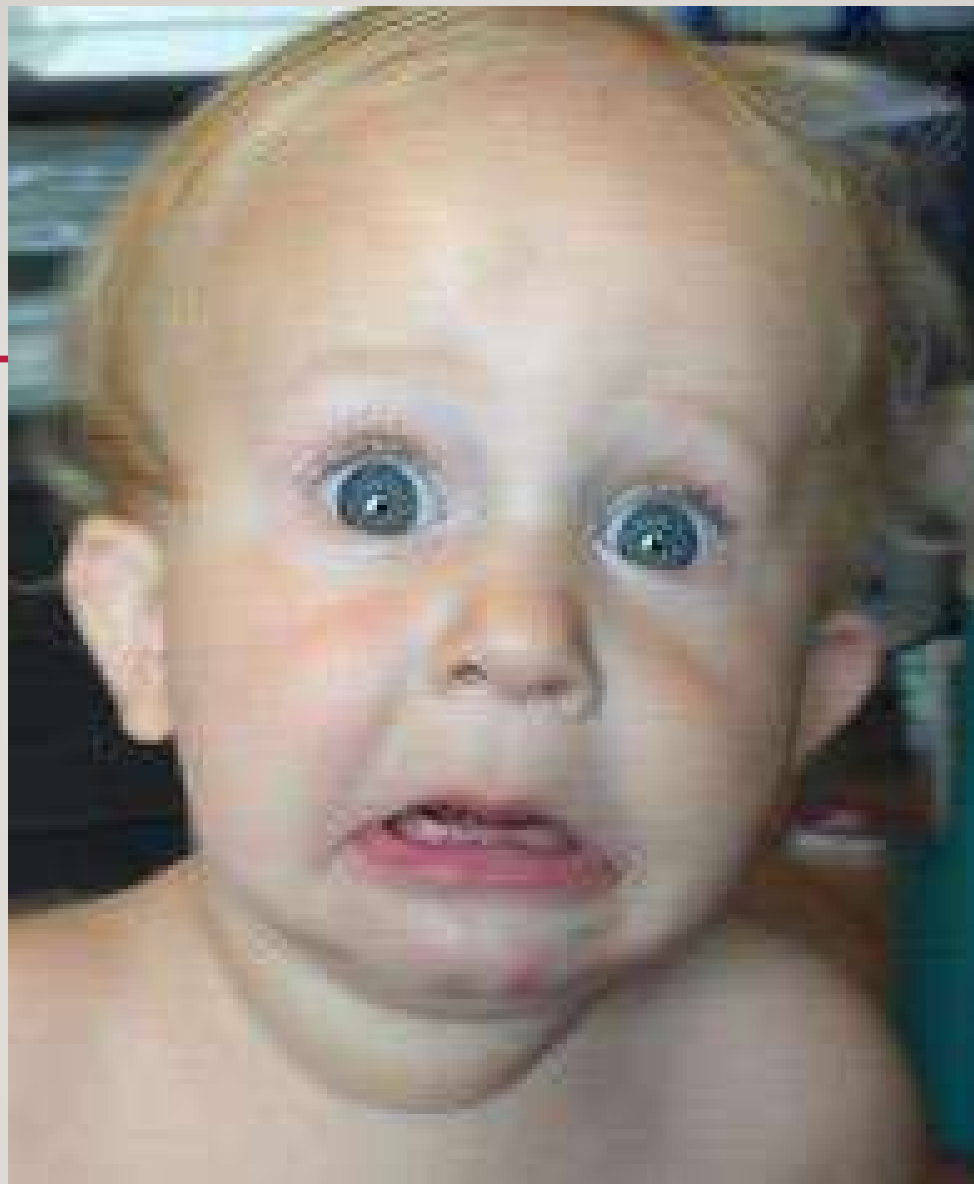


Photo retrieved from [pinterest.com](https://www.pinterest.com) "baby funny photos"





# FORTUNATELY...THERE'S HOPE!

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By the end of this training, you will....

- KNOW how to articulate your curriculum
- Be EXCITED to implement your curriculum
- SMILE because you survived

# FIRST THINGS FIRST

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Write down some of your talents and interests (yes, right now)

Here's my example:

I LOVE writing, especially poetry

I enjoy singing children's songs to/with children

I LOVE fashion, drawing/painting portraits, mixing Elmer's glue with glitter and painting with it, sensory play

I find documentaries fascinating and enjoyed learning about "tree slime" on PBS

I LOVE putting my sleep clothes in the dryer, showering, and then putting on my toasty clothes

I enjoy listening to children play and being a mother and teacher-enthusiast



# SECOND THINGS SECOND

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Write down what you were like as a child (yes, be honest)

Here's my example:

I LOVED baking with my grandmother, art class, and dressing up in pretty earrings and makeup

I enjoyed having pets. I had some box turtles and painted their shells with nailpolsh.

I had chickens (Henrietta, Miss Daisy, and Twinkie), carried them around the yard, and painted their talons bright pink.

I taught my teddy bears in the basement. They sat in rows in front of my giant green chalkboard. I graded the papers I placed in front of them.

I enjoyed traveling, especially to Europe and Alaska.

I disliked my family situation, because my parents were divorced and my dad supplied nannies while my mom remarried. When I was a teenager, I would place my fingers in my ears when my dad talked to me and recite the abc's.



# THIRD THINGS THIRD

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## Write down what you hated and loved at school as a kid

Here's my example:

I hated math, especially multiplication tables

I loved art class, reading, and open-ended assignments

I got in trouble for "day dreaming" in 1<sup>st</sup> grade

Some of my proudest moments: winning the "National Peace Poster Contest" and scoring 11 points in a volleyball game while my grandfather watched

I enjoyed attending an all-girls private boarding school for many reasons: small class-sizes, a lot of open-ended assignments, French class, one sport every trimester, the private artist who taught us how to paint a sunset, sneaking into the library to watch "Gone with the Wind," and my friend and I braiding her horse's hair for a horse show



**WE'RE DONE WRITING LISTS....  
BUT WE'RE NOT DONE YET!**

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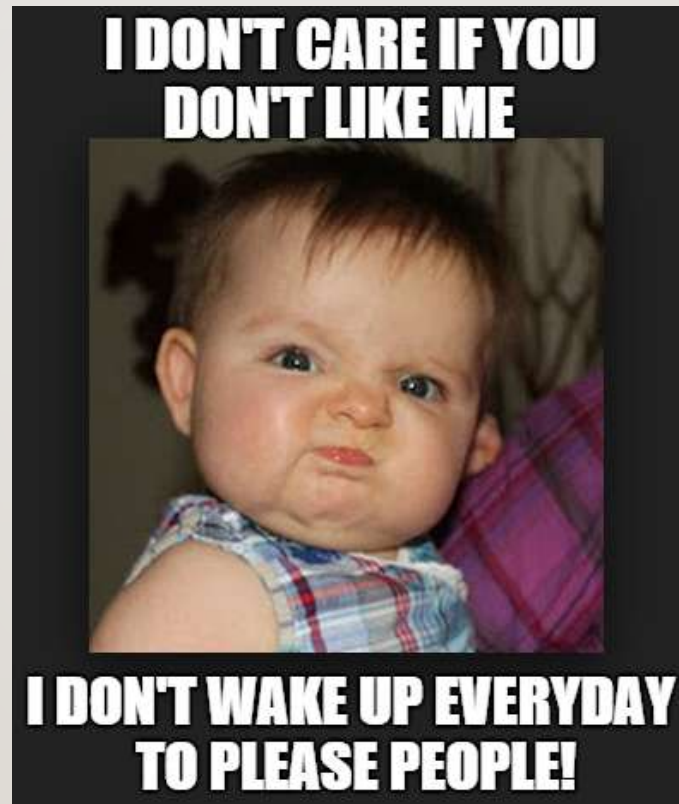


Photo retrieved from [pinterest.com](https://www.pinterest.com)



# GUIDELINES, STANDARDS, AND THE BUNCH:

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All states have their own Early Learning standards and/or guidelines

- We are in North Dakota, so it makes sense for you to choose to follow North Dakota Early Learning Standards (document you can print in office):

North Dakota (.gov) › filesPDFWeb resultsEarly Learning Standards - 2018 - ND.gov

- In addition, to easily track each child's skill-development, I highly recommend using the "Full Continuum" Map to Child Growth (ages birth to school-age) available (for free) from Mother Goose Time, Inc:

<https://www.mothersgoosetime.com/skillsresearch/>



# PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

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So, you learned about YOU through the previous 3 self-assessments.

(You now know you need a curriculum, standards/guidelines, and a tool to measure progress)

The past 13 providers who responded with “my own” to the question, “What Curriculum do you currently use?” than—chances are—already implemented/planned activities they liked as a child.



Photo retrieved from hrzone.com

Now, we can articulate it . . .

# MUSIC AND MYSTERY CURRICULUM

## SMART COOKIE CHILD CARE

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You've never heard of this curriculum, because I just made it up!

### This is what I share with parents:

- In my "Music and Mystery" Curriculum, I integrate my passion for singing, poetry, and mystery-games to inspire your child to love learning! (Yes, create a name)
- Some special learning experiences your child will have in my program: singing MANY children's songs, paper-making, a trip to "Alaska," facepainting, putting on plays for you!, playing volleyball (with a child-sized net my husband made), learning how to paint a sunset, a trip to a petting zoo, flower-pressing, card-making, Minot AFB firehouse visits, flyswatter letter/number/shape activities, listening to character-focused poems, and participating in a myriad of mystery games: mystery-bag letter/number/color sort, find the hidden object "bowl" game, and magic tricks!
- I integrate North Dakota Early Learning Standards into my activities and use the "Full Continuum" map to child growth, provided by Mother Goose Time, Inc., to track your child's Developmental Progress in my program

Easy-peasy!







# WHY CREATE YOUR OWN CURRICULUM?

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- According to my survey responses, 13 of you already use creative skills to plan what interests you
- You run your own business and already—uniquely—created your Child Care Business' Name
- You have interests, skills, and talents unique to your life that you already inherently share
- This is the most authentic, learner-focused curriculum you could use, because through your past experiences, you can do these things:

Express excitement for “Alaska,” showing off your pictures, recalling the smells and the memories to your children-in-care!

Use your papermaking, guitar-playing, cotton candy making, facepainting, singing, poetry-writing [insert anything here] skills!

Show empathy for outbursts, because you recall your own. Create opportunities for children to share and express emotions, because you know it's important.

Provide support by creating fun activities for challenging topics, like counting/writing, because you hated these as a child and want your children-in-care to like them.

Be present: validating the “What would I be doing if I wasn't here?” question through incorporating everything YOU love in your curriculum

- And, the best part: you will LOVE it! The kids will LOVE your passion and foster a love of learning as a result!



# MORE INTROSPECTION

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If you could do anything, had all the money in the world, what would you be doing right now? In this moment?

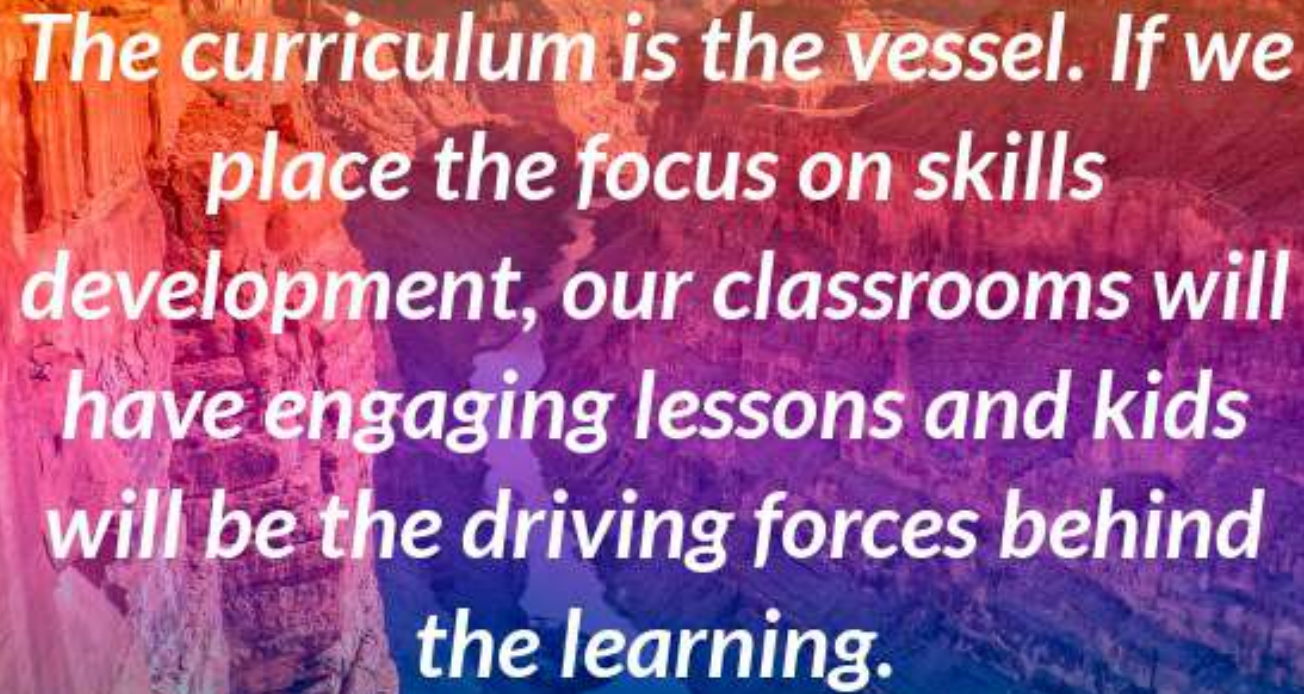
Plan these moments in your lessons.

The above question serves to align your interests with your child care business.









*The curriculum is the vessel. If we place the focus on skills development, our classrooms will have engaging lessons and kids will be the driving forces behind the learning.*

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Since there is no single set  
of abilities running  
throughout human nature,  
there is no single  
curriculum which all should  
undergo. Rather, the  
schools should teach  
everything that anyone is  
interested in learning.

John Dewey



# FOR THOSE USING THE MOTHER GOOSE CURRICULUM, SAY THIS:

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- I follow the “Experience Curriculum” by Mother Goose Time, Inc.

(I emailed the company and representative Kristy Garner said this, “Our primary curriculum system is called ‘Experience Curriculum.’ This is a comprehensive curriculum system for infants through our new after-school club.”)

And, I did my own research: Mother Goose Time, Inc. is a company that has **four** curriculums available for purchase:

1. The Experience Baby Curriculum (10-18 months)
2. The Experience Toddler Curriculum (18 months-3 years)
3. Mother Goose Time Curriculum (3-5 years)
4. Unnamed multi-age curriculum that uses Experience Preschool resources and Little Goose Toddler Teacher’s Guide

If you are **only** purchasing the “Mother Goose Time Curriculum” than you should **only** have 3-5 year-olds in care.

- Articulate what your children learn (# domains) and how you scaffold learning.
  - Articulate why you use this curriculum.
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# FOUR WIDELY-KNOWN MULTI-AGE CURRICULUMS

(IF YOU DON'T WANT TO MAKE YOUR OWN):

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- **ELM Curriculum:** <https://www.virtuallabschool.org/elm-curriculum>
- **The Creative Curriculum:** <https://teachingstrategies.com/solutions/teach/family-child-care/>
- **Oak Meadow:** <https://www.oakmeadow.com>
- MakeBelieve Arts – **The Storytelling Curriculum:**  
<https://www.makebelievearts.co.ukin>

**There are COUNTLESS curricula available to you, and there are even Outdoor Curricula, which you might be interested in during Spring/Summer!**



# TAKEAWAYS

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Every Provider Usually is the Child's **First** Teacher

- We want our children-in-care to want to learn
- We want our children-in-care to enjoy “school”
- We want to personally enjoy planning our lessons
- We want to personally enjoy executing our plans

All of this is achievable!

SO WHEN I ASK YOU THE FOLLOWING FOUR QUESTIONS, I NOW EXPECT YOU TO BE ABLE TO SAY AN APPROPRIATE RESPONSE:

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1. What is a curriculum?
2. What is your curriculum?
3. Tell me about your curriculum
4. Why do you use it?

Parents need to know this information as well; so, enjoy sharing!

I cannot wait to see all of your curricula!

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Thank  
You!

Part Two Curriculum PowerPoint will include:

A sample Lesson Plan based off my **Music and Mystery** Curriculum  
6 Skills Development Sheets with circles for each child (that I review with parent(s) at first conference)

Stay Tuned!

