



# Pre-K Lead Teacher: Curriculum

- ▶ **Audience:** Pre-K Lead Teachers
- ▶ **Type:** Self-Paced with Rolling Enrollment
- ▶ **Enrollment:** September 1, 2022-April 14, 2023
- ▶ **Duration:** September 1, 2022 - May 19, 2023

**Description:** The Early Childhood Curriculum course has been specifically designed for early childhood educators working full-time in West Virginia Universal Pre-K classrooms. This course will address the following topics:

- ▶ *Defining and Identifying Characteristics of High-Quality Early Childhood Curriculum*
- ▶ *The Role of Curriculum in a High-Quality Early Childhood Program*
- ▶ *The Role of the Classroom in a High-Quality Early Childhood Program*
- ▶ *The Role of Parent Engagement in a High-Quality Early Childhood Program*
- ▶ *The Role of Assessment in a High Quality-Early Childhood Program*
- ▶ *The Importance of Social Emotional Competence in Early Childhood Education*

## Course Goals:

- ▶ *Define high-quality early childhood curriculum.*
- ▶ *Distinguish the relationship between curriculum and standards.*
- ▶ *Determine the characteristics indicative of a high-quality early childhood curriculum.*
- ▶ *Gain an understanding of how standards are supported through the use of curriculum.*
- ▶ *Investigate the relationship between curriculum and integration of standards.*
- ▶ *Explore the curriculum/curricular framework adopted by your program.*
- ▶ *Explore the role of the classroom environment in a high-quality early childhood program.*
- ▶ *Understand the importance of consistent schedules and routines.*
- ▶ *Recognize how schedules and routines impact the quality of an early childhood program.*
- ▶ *Understand the challenge of engaging families in their programs.*
- ▶ *Share strategies for enabling families to be active participants.*
- ▶ *Learn about the six (6) principles of family engagement.*
- ▶ *Understand how to build on children's prior knowledge.*
- ▶ *Recognize role of formative assessment.*
- ▶ *Explore methods of capturing evidence of individualized learning.*
- ▶ *Explore ways to support children's social competence through integration of high-quality early childhood curriculum.*
- ▶ *Understand that social emotional skills are essential to later academic success.*
- ▶ *Recognize developmentally appropriate practices for developing social emotional skills.*



## Session Overviews

- ▶ **Session One - Defining and Identifying Characteristics of High-Quality Early Childhood Curriculum**  
During this session educators will explore basic fundamentals of curriculum, standards, and characteristics inherent to high quality early childhood curricula. Gaining a basic understanding of the relationship between each of these elements will establish a foundation for the rest of this course.
  
- ▶ **Session Two - The Role of Curriculum in a High-Quality Early Childhood Program**  
This session focuses on how the use of curriculum interplays with content standards and objectives in an integrated approach to early childhood education. The importance of understanding the distinctions between curriculum and standards is a central focus of this session. Exploration of adopted curricular framework/ curricula based on individual educator's various programs will be introduced.
  
- ▶ **Session Three - The Role of the Classroom in a High-Quality Early Childhood Program**  
An exploration of two (2) major components of high-quality early childhood programs, and the relationship of each to early childhood curriculum, serves as the focus of this session. During this session the early childhood classroom environment and the establishment of consistent schedules and routines are examined. Predictable routines and a well-designed classroom nurture the development of young children.
  
- ▶ **Session Four - The Role of Parent Engagement in a High-Quality Early Childhood Program**  
Engaging families in early childhood programs can be challenging. However, this involvement benefits the child, the family, and the classroom. During this session participants will begin to understand that challenge. Strategies for involving families in their children's learning will be shared.
  
- ▶ **Session Five: The Role of Assessment in a High-Quality Early Childhood Program**  
During this session the importance of individualizing learning for all children will be examined. Understanding the importance of building on children's prior knowledge, as well as the role of formative assessment and methods for capturing evidence of learning, serve as the main components of this session.
  
- ▶ **Session Six: The Importance of Social Emotional Competence in Early Childhood Classrooms**  
The final session of this course asks educators to look at how encouraging children's social competence will be addressed. Social-emotional skills are thought to be the foundation for positive human interactions and future academic success. Much of what happens in early childhood classrooms should address the social-emotional development of young children.

## Course Grades

All grades in the course gradebook must be a checkmark for successful course completion. A checkmark indicates that all work has been completed and the work meets the expectations for that assignment. Quiz scores must meet the minimum expectations as stated in the course.

