

CURRICULUM IN EARLY HEAD START

The Early Head Start program enrolls infants and toddlers from ages 0 to 3 and also pregnant women. Because of the wide variety of developmental levels, staff of Early Head Start use different curricula.

No single curriculum meets all of the needs of the program. Home Visitors and parents plan together, using a variety of available materials to meet the individual needs of each child.

Parents as Teachers is an international early childhood parent education and family support program serving families throughout pregnancy until the child enters kindergarten, usually age 5. Our Early Head Start program uses the curriculum to provide lesson plans and topics for home visits. A different PAT curriculum is available for children from birth to age three and for infants and toddlers with special needs. Specialized training is also available for working with pregnant women and teen mothers. Our program and staff must meet specific training and other criteria to maintain our International Affiliation with the Parents As Teachers National Center, Inc.

The Creative Curriculum for Infants and Toddlers is used in the classroom during socialization sessions, as well as other add-ons to meet the requirements for parent education.

The Creative Curriculum for Infants and Toddlers is used in the classroom during the classroom portion of the Combination Class. The children are learning Zoo-phonics as well as American Sign language. Parents as Teachers is used during the Home Visit portion of the Combination Program.

The Partners for a Healthy Baby Home Visiting Curricula Series, developed and available from Florida State University, is another of the curricula used with pregnant women and very young infants. The topics in this curriculum were derived from both research and practical experience.

Many other kits and curricula are used to meet the individual needs of each child and family.

ASSESSMENT PLAN

On-going Assessment is central to the curriculum process. There are 3 types of screenings/assessments used for both home-based and combination program. They are the Devereux Early Childhood Assessment for Infants and Toddlers (DECA I/T), the Denver II and Teaching Strategies Gold. All student assessment information is kept confidential and in locked file cabinets. Information is shared with the parents at home-visits. Results are used to assist parents, teachers, and home visitors in planning to meet the child's individual goals.

***The Deveraux Early Childhood Assessment (DECA I/T)** is a strengths-based assessment of protective factors which also contains a screen for behavioral concerns. The assessment is completed by the parents, and in the Combination room by the parents and the teacher. This instrument is used to help identify children with risk factors. It also provides information for referrals. The teacher/home visitors use the instrument to plan activities with the parents for the child.

***A Denver II Screening** is completed on each child within the first forty-five days of entry. This screening is reviewed with parents, and areas of concern are addressed. Goals are set accordingly between parents, teachers and home visitors. Referrals to First Steps are made from this screening.

***Teaching Strategies Gold** is an assessment system that blends ongoing, authentic, observational assessment for all areas of development and learning with intentional, focused, performance-assessment tasks for selected predictors of school success in the areas of literacy and numeracy. Goals for each child are set for each child by parents, home visitors and teachers. The assessment tracks a child's progress over time.