Curriculum and Lesson Plans Overview
For Child Care Centers

WHO?

- 2, 3, 4, & 5 Star child care centers must post current weekly lesson plans, developed for each classroom. Lesson plans must be developmentally appropriate, meet children's needs, and stimulate learning in social, emotional, cognitive, language, creative expression, and physical development.

- In addition to the above, 3, 4 & 5 Star programs must meet the following:
  1. Curriculum may be self-developed, published, or lesson plans.
  2. Curriculum aligns with Oklahoma Early Learning Guidelines (ELGs) or Oklahoma Academic Standards.
  3. Curriculum:
     a) reflects the program's philosophy and goals AND
     b) is based on child development and appropriate practice AND
     c) provides for children's ages, abilities, developmental stages, and special needs AND
     d) provides for children's physical, cognitive, language, literacy and social-emotional development AND
     e) incorporates music and songs into children's activities multiple times of the day
  4. Curriculum and goals for children reflect in every day practice as indicated on written lesson plans. Lesson plans are reviewed by personnel trained in ELGs. ELG standards or Oklahoma Academic Standards are identified on lesson plans.
  5. Programs provide curriculum information to families.
  6. Teaching personnel daily lead and participate in at least two developmentally appropriate physical activities.

- In addition to the above, 4 & 5 Star programs must meet the following:
  1. Learning opportunities are planned for each child using observation documentation. (OST Programs are exempt from this criteria.)
  2. Enhancement activities are conducted throughout the year, rotated based on children's needs and interests, and documented on lesson plans.
  3. Lesson plans are individualized for each child's needs including age, ability, developmental state, social-emotional development, special needs, and interests. (OST Programs are exempt from this criteria.)
  4. Master teachers and teaching personnel evaluate lesson plans for effectiveness after implementation.
  5. Children/youth have access to a visual or pictorial classroom schedule.

WHY?

Carefully planned curriculum provides rich learning environments for young children and is tied to school readiness and lifelong excitement for learning. When we see children as capable, we partner with them to develop environments that meet their interests and needs.

WHAT?

- High quality curriculum is based on children's wonder, curiosity, interests, and needs.
- Infant and toddler curriculum focuses on developing secure relationships with caregivers and family members. Although social, emotional, and language development take center stage, these interactions and experiences also lay the foundation for vocabulary and concepts that support later academic development across all subject areas.
- Preschool and school age curriculum builds upon, deepens, and extends earlier learning. It reflects children's more complex knowledge and skills and continues to support all areas of development across all subject areas.

WHERE?

Below are resources and agencies you can access to support in the development of quality curriculum:

- Center for Early Childhood Professional Development (CECPD), www.cecpd.org: has a video lending library and links to additional resources including those of other agencies.

- Child Care Services Quality Coaches, email Vikki.Dobbins@okdhs.org, coaching and resources offered statewide around all QRIS criteria.

- Child Development Ages and Stages, https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/milestones/index.html (birth through 5 years); https://www.choc.org/primary-care/ages-stages/ (birth through 18 years).

- National Association for the Education of Young Children. (n.d.). DAP: Planning and implementing and engaging curriculum to achieve meaningful goals. *https://www.naeyc.org/resources/position-statements/dap/planning-curriculum*.

- *Oklahoma Academic Standards*, Oklahoma State Department of Education. Can be downloaded at *https://sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-academic-standards*.

- Oklahoma Child Care Resource and Referral Association (OCCRRA), www.oklahomachildcare.org: there are regional Resource and Referral Agencies (R&Rs) throughout the state that have resources, materials, and lending libraries, and offer professional development and onsite technical assistance and/or coaching to assist in lesson or curriculum planning.

- Oklahoma Core Competencies for Early Childhood Practitioners, http://www.okdhs.org/OKDHS%20Publication%20Library/08-91.pdf: includes knowledge and skills needed to provide quality child environments.

- Oklahoma Core Competencies for Out-of-School Time Practitioners, https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/okdhs/documents/okdhs-publication-library/14-32.pdf: includes knowledge and skills needed to provide quality environments for school age children/youth.

- Oklahoma Early Learning Guidelines for Children Ages Three to Five, http://www.okdhs.org/OKDHS%20Publication%20Library/10-54.pdf: provides resources or ideas to guide in creating developmentally appropriate activities for young children.

- Oklahoma Early Learning Guidelines for Infants, Toddlers and Twos, http://www.okdhs.org/OKDHS%20Publication%20Library/10-23.pdf: provides resources or ideas to guide in creating developmentally appropriate activities for infants, toddlers, and two year olds.

- Oklahoma Professional Development Registry (OKRegistry), www.okregistry.org: has the Statewide Training Calendar where you can search for courses by topic, key word, ELG, core competency, or CDA competency; offers approved ELG training.

- Scholars for Excellence in Child Care, www.okhighered.org: child development and curriculum courses are available through Oklahoma community colleges. Scholar coordinators are available to assist with enrollment into the program and scholarships to work toward early childhood credentials and degrees.

- Oklahoma Shared Services, www.oksharedservices.org: has many early childhood resources and templates, including lesson plan templates and examples tied to ELGs, links to curriculum options, and "choosing a curriculum".