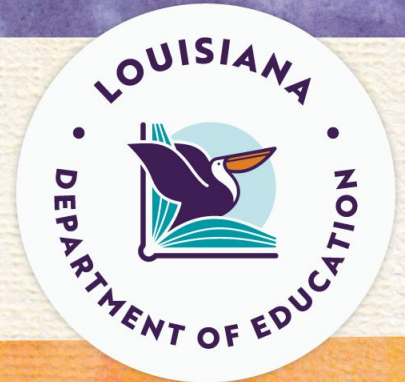




EARLY CHILDHOOD
CONFERENCE 2024
SHAPING LOUISIANA'S FUTURE



**The Importance of Using
An Early Childhood Curriculum**



Louisiana's Education Priorities

- ✓ **Early childhood** leading to kindergarten readiness
- ✓ **Literacy** instruction aligned to the Science of Reading
- ✓ **Foundational math** instruction advancing to conceptual understanding
- ✓ Opportunities ensuring a **meaningful high school experience**
- ✓ An effective **teacher for every student**
- ✓ Expand **educational choice** for students and families

Purpose and Objectives

Purpose:

This session will provide participants with an understanding of the importance of using a curriculum, specifically Infant and Toddler classrooms.

Objectives:

During this session, participants will:

- Gain an understanding of the components of an infant/toddler curriculum
- Gain knowledge on how to support Educators with curriculum use
- Have an opportunity to collaborate on effective ways to improve curriculum implementation in the early childhood classroom

Agenda

- I. Session Objectives
- II. Agenda
- III. Activity 1: An Infant Lesson Plan
- IV. What is Curriculum
- V. How To Use Curriculum
- VI. Why Use Curriculum
- VII. Activity 2: A Toddler Lesson Plan
- VIII. Discussion
- IX. Closing



Activity 1: An Infant Lesson Plan

Activity 1: An Infant Lesson Plan

Follow the Ball

Most babies can begin to track objects with their eyes at 2 months. This is an important skill because children need to track with their eyes to develop hand and eye coordination tasks.

Learning Objectives:

- Looks at and follows faces and objects with eyes
- Demonstrates persistence in learning and discovery

What would be some activities that an infant teacher could use to develop this skill throughout the day? What should the teacher do if the infant is having difficulty with the task?



What is Curriculum?

What is Curriculum?

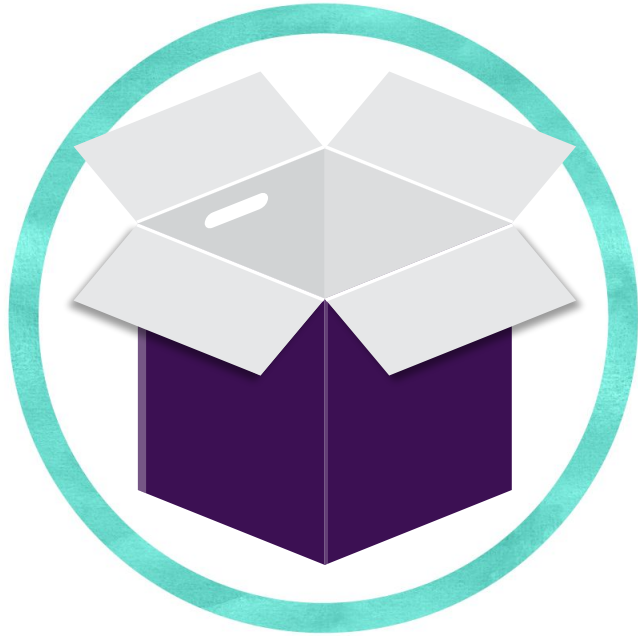
The word *curriculum* brings to mind a formal, rigid classroom setting.

However, curriculum in terms of the needs of infants and toddlers is

- Blended content and teaching style
- Embedded within a child development focus by the teacher



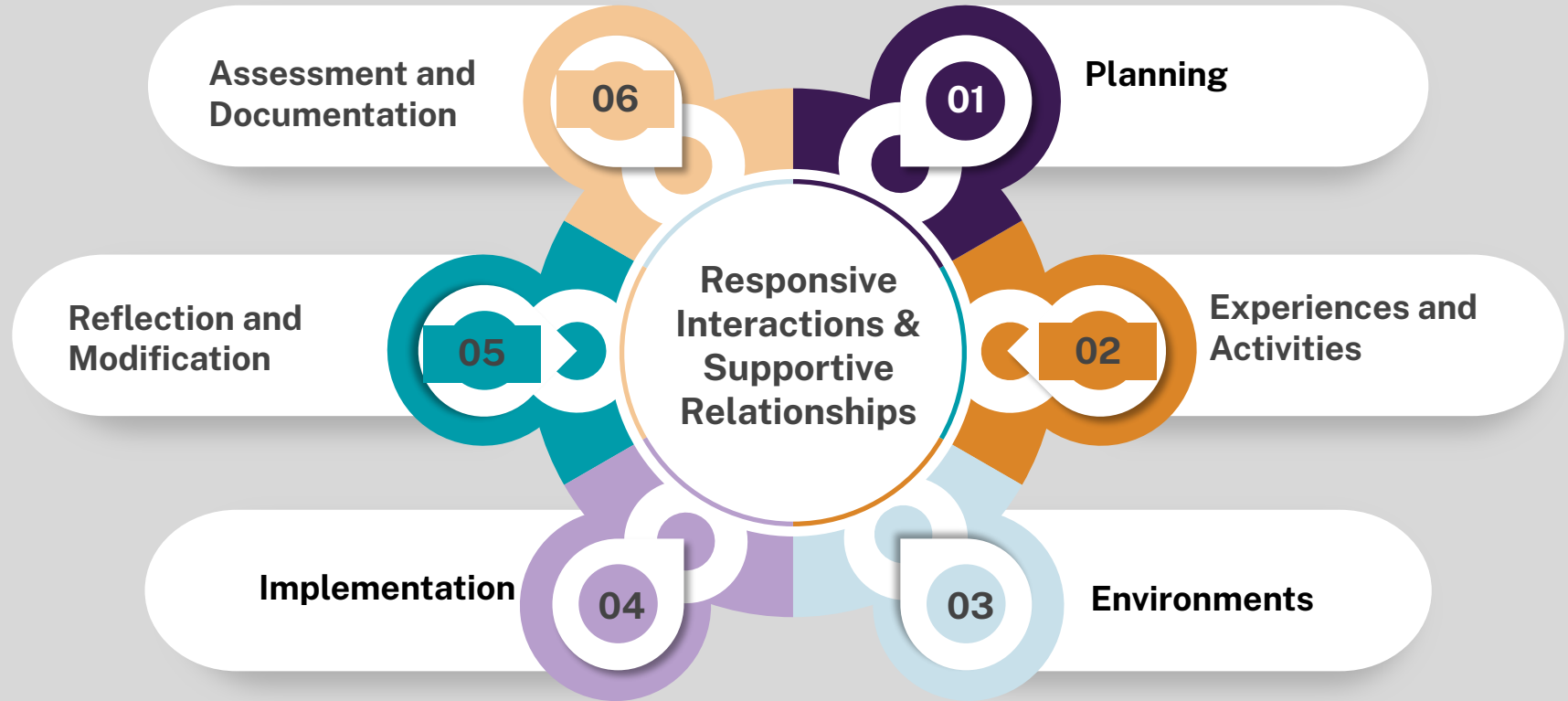
What is Curriculum?



A quality curriculum will include some of the following components

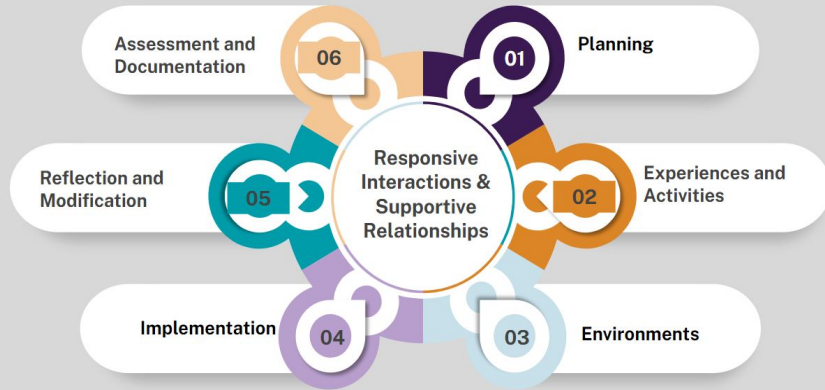
- Thematic teacher guides
- Literature library
- Music collection
- Manipulatives
- Posters and activity cards
- Assessment
- Family connection materials

The Curriculum Process



What Is Curriculum?

The Curriculum Process



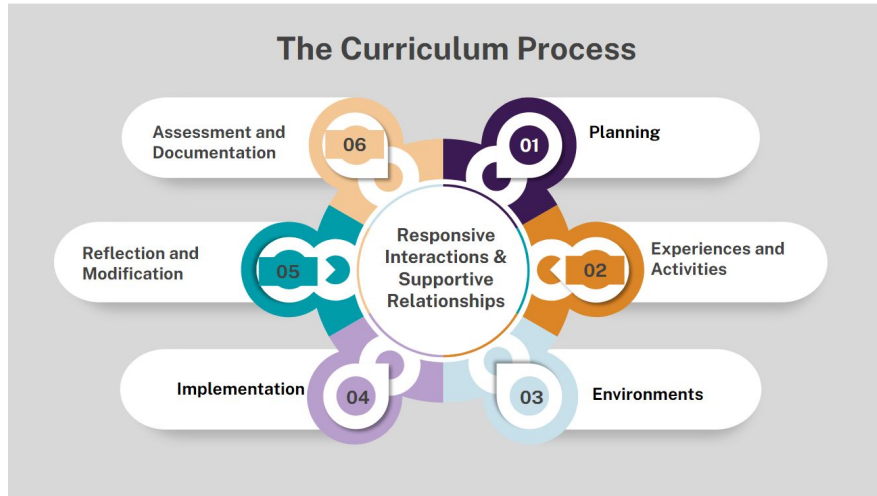
Curriculum is a tool to support the teacher by addressing learning domains, and defining developmental goals.

- Planned high-quality learning experiences or activities can extend infant/toddler learning and skill level
 - These activities should be based on the child's interests, abilities, and individual schedule

How to Use Curriculum

The image features a dark blue, textured background. In the center, there is a large, light yellow rectangular area with a fine, woven texture. This yellow area is partially overlaid by three overlapping, L-shaped decorative elements on the right side. The top-most element is dark purple, the middle one is orange, and the bottom one is teal. These elements appear to be layered, creating a sense of depth and movement.

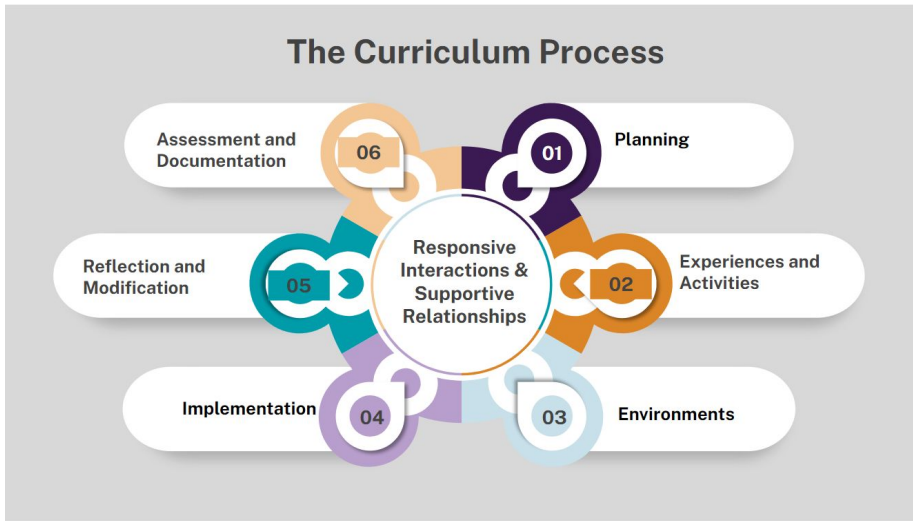
How to Use Curriculum



Curriculum promotes responsive exchanges and supportive relationships through

- Organized activities can target desired learning and skill development outcomes
- Children's responses to learning content or skill development can direct individualized support and improve teacher-child exchanges

How to Use Curriculum



Curriculum can be used to assess and plan additional support based on children's progress

- Curriculum content embedded in learning activities provides
 - Learning outcomes and skill development
 - Opportunities to individualize the redelivery of content based on student needs

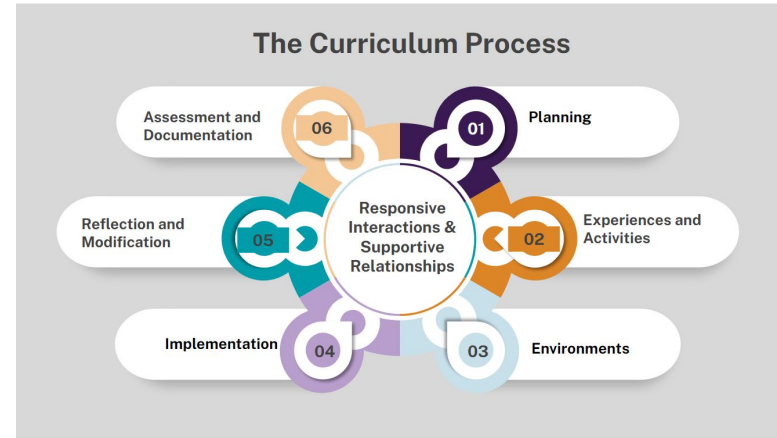
Why Use Curriculum



Why Use Curriculum

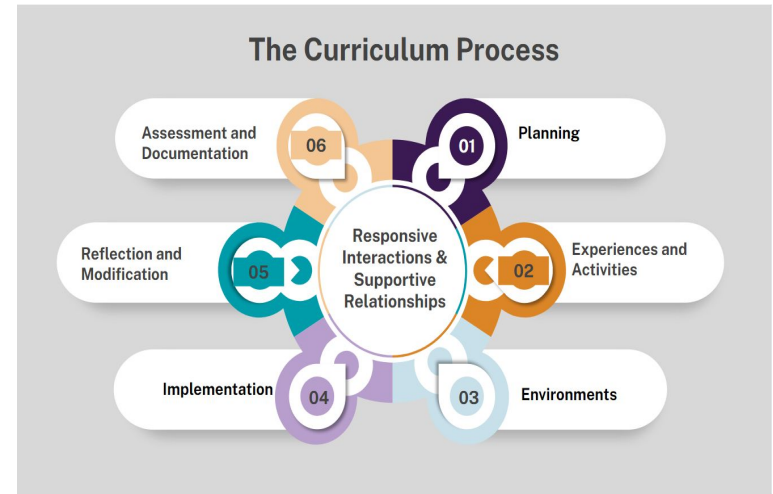
Curriculum is a resource guide to provide teachers with appropriate content and activities

- Supports a strength-based approach to learning
 - Reflect on your teaching practices
 - List your strengths and areas that need improvement
 - Address areas of needs with your strengths



Why Use Curriculum

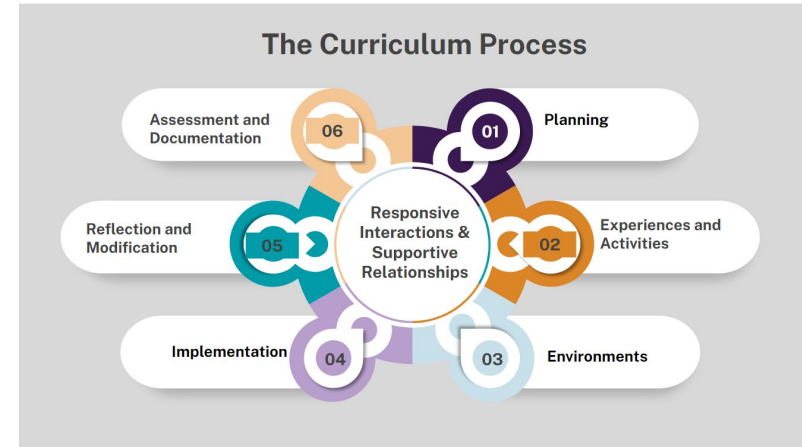
- Encouraging a play-based approach
 - Educators engage in play with children while introducing new concepts and modeling language
- Providing continuous learning opportunities for engaged learning
 - Encourage classroom collaborative activities
 - Seize a teachable moment



Why Use Curriculum

Supports teachers' understanding of child development within supportive relationships

- Provides a guide for identifying goals that related to children's interests and promotes child development
- Provides resources for activities that facilitate learning experiences and builds off of prior learning
- Supports daily high-quality experiences for children



Activity 2: A Toddler Lesson Plan

Activity 2: A Toddler Lesson Plan

Create A Path

Young children use the information obtained through their senses to develop knowledge in their brains. The more opportunities that mobile infants and toddlers have to participate in sensory activities (e.g., seeing, hearing, touching, smelling, and tasting) allows development and understanding of their environment.

Learning Objectives:

- Uses the senses to investigate the environment
- Crawls into, over, and around objects

Design an activity that will support this learning objective.

Question & Answer

Question & Answer

- When you think about curriculum, what component(s) can be incorporated into daily routines that can improve quality outcomes for children?
- How can responsive interactions and supportive relationships be used by teachers to increase the quality of curriculum implementation ?
- What are some key actions that can help you (the teacher) improve curriculum use in the classroom?

Summary

- Curriculum should be considered blended content and teaching style
- Curriculum can organize experiences to improve children's learning and skill development
- Curriculum can support the teacher to reach struggling children with skill development and improve teacher-child exchanges
- Curriculum encourages a play-based approach
- Curriculum provides continuous learning opportunities that can build to improve engaged learning for children

Contact Information

Tonya Normand, M.Ed.

Child Care Resource & Referral Manager
Louisiana State Department of Education
1201 North 3rd Street
Baton Rouge, LA
Tonya.Normand@la.gov

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