

# LEADERS' *Lagniappe*



ISSUE:  
**JANUARY**  
**2020**

CARRIE IS  
STARTING SOME  
NEW ROUTINES  
**TO BETTER  
IMPLEMENT  
CURRICULUM IN  
HER CENTERS.**



*Carrie Henry*  
**DIRECTOR,  
CREATIVE KIDZ**

**Creative Kidz Director Carrie Henry is fully focused on making sure that high-quality curriculum is being implemented with fidelity** to ensure that children are ready for kindergarten when they leave her center. With four centers across two states, Carrie serves many children. As a Frog Street trainer, she helps strengthen the field in their understanding of curriculum across Louisiana. With all of this energy spent around the state, she recently had an “aha moment” about how she is using these materials in her own center.

“We have boxes of high-quality curriculum and should use it every day. This is a missed opportunity with our children to receive an excellent education. Teachers want to do the right things. They might not know how,” Carrie stated. “This is something I have the training to support.”

Carrie is starting some new routines to better implement curriculum in her centers.

WE HAVE THE  
KNOWLEDGE AND  
MATERIALS  
**TO REACH FOR  
THE STARS WITH  
OUR CHILDREN.**



To achieve this goal, Carrie and the educational coach on her staff hold monthly curriculum meetings with her teachers in all centers. To accomplish this, she has begun using a virtual tool, Zoom. By utilizing Zoom, her teachers can connect with others teaching the same age group. She hosts meetings across her infant, toddler, threes, and preschool groups. The groups—separated into age group teams—dig into curriculum and GOLD. Together, they review books and discuss lesson plans.

Teachers are enjoying this time to connect with each other, and looking forward to future meetings. The work is ongoing, and Carrie has created systems to support it. To increase cohesiveness across all levels and centers, teachers are required to text her a lesson plan and a picture of the materials they will use to implement curriculum the following week. Having the pictures makes it easy for Carrie to archive information on who is following through with this expectation. Each Friday, teachers are required to enter data into GOLD. Carrie, with the help of the educational coordinator for all four centers, sends email reminders to her teachers. These records are helpful in providing positive feedback to teachers who are growing in their practice, as well as holding those who are struggling accountable.

Carrie is active in her network and community as an early childhood leader. She is a certified coach for University of Florida Lastinger Center and CLASS™ reliable in all areas. Carrie is trained in Making the Most of Classroom Interactions (MMCI) and My Teaching Partner (MTP). Additionally, she is engaged in a host of community leadership roles. Carrie has recently committed to spending more time in her center’s classrooms using these skills to observe curriculum and interactions in her classrooms. Her participation as a Louisiana Early Leaders Academy (LELA) fellow is helping her focus her time and energy on activities that have the greatest impact on children’s learning.

“With the help of my LELA coach, I developed a calendar to devote time in my schedule each week to accomplish this goal,” said Carrie.

By combining her training in the community with time management skills, Carrie is fully focused on instructional leadership.

“I’m ready to take our center to the next level,” said Carrie. “We have the knowledge and materials to reach for the stars with our children.”

Did you learn something helpful?  
Want to recommend a leader for Leaders  
Lagniappe? Contact  
[emmy.odwyer@la.gov](mailto:emmy.odwyer@la.gov).

 **DEPARTMENT of  
EDUCATION**  
Louisiana Believes