



R2LP's Providence Curriculum Survey Summary of Findings

Ready to Learn Providence conducted a curriculum survey of every early learning program serving preschool children in Providence this spring as a first step in its plans to develop a common curriculum for the preschool community in Providence. Surveys were sent to all the licensed preschools and approved nursery schools, along with each of the Head Starts in Providence. Fifty-two early learning programs were serving children in when the survey was sent (one was licensed but not serving children). Combined, these fifty-two programs have the capacity to reach over 3100 preschool aged children each year.

READY TO
LEARN
PROVIDENCE

Responses were received from thirty of the fifty-two programs serving preschool children in Providence. In order to increase the response rate, follow-up calls were made after the initial deadline to increase the survey response rate. Often, the phone responses generated more detailed answers. What follows is a summary of the responses from the thirty respondents.

56 Pine Street, Suite 3B
Providence, RI 02903
Tel: 401.455.8880
Fax: 401.331.6840

Findings

Twenty-four (80%) of the programs that responded to the survey stated that they used more than one curriculum in their program. Only one program indicated they were using no set curriculum, or type of curriculum. Other curriculum used by programs included: valued-based, emergent, agency/franchise, High Scope, learning center based, thematic, literacy based, play based, social/emotional, individualized, anti-bias, and NAEYC grounded curriculum. One program indicated they were using no set curriculum.

The most frequently used curriculum named by programs is *The Creative Curriculum* by Diane Trister Dodge. Twenty programs (67%) stated they are already using the Creative Curriculum. Two other programs indicated that they are hoping to add the Creative Curriculum to their programs. Of the twenty programs using Creative Curriculum, only three programs mentioned just the Creative Curriculum mentioned it as their sole curriculum. What is not known is if all the programs are using the same addition of this curriculum, as there are comprehensive changes between the third and fourth additions.

Nine programs (30%) are already incorporating the RI Early standards into their programs. The Rhode Island Early Learning Standards are not a curriculum. The RI ELS are a set of goals for typical four year old children to establish a set of expectations about what four-year-olds children should know and be able to do as they leave preschool and enter kindergarten.

Eight programs (27%) use curriculum created by their staff and teachers. Programs surveyed by phone indicated that this method helped them to ensure that their curriculum reflects the children's individual needs and interests of the children in their program.

All six Head Start programs use the Head Start Outcomes Framework as well as the Rhode Island Early Learning Standards, which are based upon the Head Start Outcomes, for curriculum planning. The national assessments for the Head Start Standards measure the impact of two packaged curriculums: High Scope and Creative Curriculum. It is unknown at this time if the Providence Head Starts use either of these curriculums in their planning processes.