

# KIDBIZ Resources Newsletter

*A Newsletter for Child Care and Early Childhood Professionals*

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[News](#) [This Month's Sale Items](#) [Upcoming Events](#) *It's back to school time, for the "big" kids and our little ones. Time to figure out what it is we would like to accomplish with the children in our care over the next 9 months, which means curriculum planning. Before you groan and roll your eyes, or run to the director to get a binder, take a look at this month's article. Curriculum should be child-centered, not just for the AGES of the children in your care, but for the individual child in your care, and yes - you can do it!*

*Hug a kid for me!*

*Patricia*

## **Curriculum Planning**

The mention of curriculum usually produces one of two reactions in providers. Either they cringe thinking they could never develop one of their own, or they give you the name of the one they bought somewhere. The best curriculum is actually somewhere in between the two.

Before we begin it's important to understand just what a curriculum is. A curriculum is a long term (usually one year) set of goals for specific areas of learning. It's a plan that says these are the subjects we will work on and this is what we will accomplish in the one year that we work on them.

Next, there are lesson plans. Lesson Plans are the tools you use to reach the goals in the curriculum. They are the short term (usually one week) plans listing the specific activities you will be doing each day in order to teach the subjects designated in your curriculum. Many "curriculum" books are actually a collection of lesson plans, knowing

which one you are looking for will help in your search for information.

Understanding what the goals of a curriculum and lesson plans are will help you to organize and be effective. A lesson plan is only effective if it contains components that support your overall goals for learning. It's more than a list of fun activities for the week. Being professional means understanding the "Why" behind everything you do in your business and when creating lesson plans it's essential.

### ***Let's get started creating a curriculum...***

This is actually the easy part! There are only two simple steps:

- ◆ Find a developmental record that fits your style.
- ◆ Follow your mission statement.

Developmental assessments come in different forms. Many providers now use their states early learning standards as this guideline. Wherever you get your list of developmental milestones, what makes it work is how you use it. Do more than just check off what a child has accomplished, use it to guide you in what comes next. Learn observation skills that will tell you what a child CAN do, what a child is ATTEMPTING to do, and what they haven't tried to do yet. This will help you form your curriculum and what experiences you want to be sure will be included in the experiences you offer the children.

After deciding on a basic style, the next step is to find one that reflects your mission statement. As a professional you want more than a curriculum that is educationally sound, you want one that is as unique as you are. You want to create a curriculum that reflects your mission statement and philosophy for your daycare and lets your personality shine through.

There are many styles available. For example, if creativity is a priority in your school, be sure the developmental record will show the milestones for developing creativity such as capacity for "pretend play", ability to make choices, solve problems, create ideas, etc. If your emphasis is on preschool academics be sure the developmental record reflects those milestones, such as memory, an interest in the written word, and understanding math concepts. A good one will actually reflect all these concepts, but what you are looking for is the amount of emphasis for each, does the record you are considering give enough coverage to the issues you feel are important? Will you be able to use it to accurately assess whether or not you are reaching your goals with the children? Using the creativity focus again as an example, you would want a developmental record that included more than one line assessing this skill, you would look for one that goes into the details of the skills used to express creativity.

You will need a developmental record for each age that you care for. For instance, if you care for two year olds you should have a one year developmental record to follow while they are two. This applies to every age. This is also where it can get complicated for family day care providers who care for children of different ages. Using a "school year" that coincides with the public school year helps to figure what year each child should be in so that they progress towards being prepared for their kindergarten year. Once in the school system, children are grouped by their "school year", not their birth date.

Once you have found a developmental record or assessment tool that you like and that reflects your philosophy and mission statement, you have your curriculum! This is your plan for what you will be teaching

the children for one year. If you care for different ages, arrange the developmental records by year in a binder from infant through pre-k for a complete early childhood curriculum. Wasn't that simple?

The key is in carrying through on what your philosophies are about what you teach children and how, and being sure they are reflected in your actual practice. Don't be a cookie cutter daycare - put your heart and soul into it, all of it, and it will shine through the children.

For more, see *From Babysitter to Business Owner* on sale now!

### **Tips and Tricks**

Tip of the month from a provider in Texas:

For a hands-on way to get parents to sign up for parent conferences, give them a 4 inch colored circle with their name on it and Velcro on the back, hand it to them and ask them to stick it to the schedule on the date they want.

Create a schedule with large blocks with the date/time of each possible conference, putting a small (opposite piece) of Velcro in the middle of each square. No more procrastinating, they'll have to pick on to stick their name card to!

*If you have some great tips to share, send them to: [contact@patriciadischler.com](mailto:contact@patriciadischler.com), putting "NEWSLETTER TIPS" in the subject line to be included in the next newsletter!*

### **NAFCC Webinars**

NAFCC is quickly expanding its webinar topics and offerings, check out this convenient way to get the training you need at: [www.nafcc.org](http://www.nafcc.org).

### **In The News:**

#### **The Creativity Crisis**

Exchange Every Day recently sent a link to a story in Newsweek about the lack of creativity in the schools and how it is affecting our children and our future. Always nice when research proves my point for me! To see the article visit: <http://www.newsweek.com/2010/07/10/the-creativity-crisis.print.html>. And to do something about it, get a copy of my book, Teaching the 3 Cs: Creativity, Curiosity & Courtesy at <http://www.patriciadischler.com>! Let's take control and bring some creativity back!**This Month's Sale Items**

### **September Sale Item: From Babysitter to Business Owner - 15% Off!**

Boost your professionalism and raise your quality in every area of your business - From Babysitter to Business Owner is everything you need to know to make your business a success, create a high quality program, and build successful relationships with parents. This book was a key resource for the creation of the BAS, and is considered "the bible for every family child care provider" by many Resource and Referral agencies across the country. If you are a family child care provider, you need this book! If you are a resource and referral agency that wants to raise the professionalism of providers in your area - give them this book! Packed with no nonsense advice based on my 17 years as a provider, I promise you this book will help you avoid mistakes and get you to the top of your game quickly!

**Regular Price: \$17.95 Sale Price: \$15.26**

### **October Sale Item: Because I Loved You**

A roadmap for anyone touched by the adoption process, this is the ONLY book written about open adoption from a birthmother's point of view giving new insight to the adoption process. Part resource, part memoir, this book provides

keys to success for any adoption. Endorsed by 5 national adoption agencies and used nationwide by pregnancy counseling centers, this book not only will help guide birthmothers in their unplanned pregnancy choices, but provide insight to adoptees as to what it takes for a birthmother to follow through on the choice for adoption, and give adoptive parents the secret to success in building their family by providing them with the missing puzzle piece of their adopted child's life. The story will make you cry, laugh, and understand that families are built by love.

**Regular Price: \$16.95 Sale Price \$12.00**

**Order yours today at: [www.patriciadischler.com](http://www.patriciadischler.com) or [www.KIDBIZResources.com](http://www.KIDBIZResources.com)!**

**Upcoming Events:**

September 11, 2010

Nick Lawrence Radio Show

WEEU Radio 830 AM

Reading, Pennsylvania

*Open Adoption*

Interview is archived at: [www.weeu.com](http://www.weeu.com)

*Listen to it TODAY!*

September 11, 2010

Child Care Directors Symposium

Full Day Training for FCC Providers: *From Babysitter to Business Owner: Turning the Job You Love Into the Career You'll Keep!*

Austin, Texas

For more information call: Workforce Solutions, 512-597-7198

September 25, 2010

*Pre-YoungStar WECA/WFCCA Accreditation Mentoring  
Project Mentor Training*  
Madison, Wisconsin  
For more information visit: [www.wecanaeyc.org](http://www.wecanaeyc.org)

October 9, 2010  
*NAFCC Accreditation*  
Madison, Wisconsin  
For more information visit: [www.wecanaeyc.org](http://www.wecanaeyc.org)

October 30, 2010  
*NAFCC Accreditation*  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
For more information visit: [www.wecanaeyc.org](http://www.wecanaeyc.org)

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