Leon-Gadsden
Early Learning Coalition Curricula Reviews

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FCRR
Curriculum Review Process

- Issues Confronting Committee
  - What Counts as a Curriculum?
  - How Define “Research Based”? 
  - By What Standards do we Evaluate?
What is a Curriculum?

- Separating Curriculum from Program:
  - Not evaluating infrastructure
  - Not evaluating basic health and safety
  - Not evaluating staff
  - Not evaluating other activities beyond curriculum
What is a Curriculum?

What Counts as a Curriculum?

- Replicable
- More than Activity Suggestions
- More than Theory and Pedagogy
Curriculum Review Process

- Standards of Evaluation
  - Match to Needs
  - Content Alignment
  - Evidence of Effectiveness
Curriculum Review Process

- Standards of Evaluation

  Match to Needs + Content Alignment + Evidence of Effectiveness =

  Curriculum Evaluation Guide
Curriculum Review Process

- Evaluation Part I: Match to Needs
  - Self-Study Questions
    - Who are Children?
    - Who are Staff?
    - Size of Program?
    - Budget?

USE RESPONSES TO LOOK FOR MATCHING CURRICULUM DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION
Curriculum Review Process

- Evaluation Part I: Match to Needs
  - Outcome: Table 1

  - Basic Descriptive Information
    - Level of Detail in Content
      - Activities
      - Materials
      - Schedule

    - Languages
    - Price
    - Professional Development
Curriculum Review Process

- Evaluation Part II: Content Review
  - Alignment with Florida School Readiness Performance Standards
  - Four-Year-Old Standards
  - Assessments
Curriculum Review Process

- Evaluation Part II: Content Review
  - Outcome: Content Ratings
    - Required 75% of Indicators within Domain
    - Indicators Must be Present with Sufficient Breadth, Depth, and Frequency
  - Tables 2 (Overall) & 3 (Specific Literacy Skills)
Curriculum Review Process

- Evaluation Part II: Content Review
  - Outcome: Content Ratings
    - Not Assuming Teacher will Add
      - Assessing Content – Not Implementation
    - Not Assessing Conformity to any Pedagogical Philosophy
Curriculum Review Process

- Evaluation Part III: Evidence of Effectiveness
  - What Counts as Evidence?

  - Want to Have High Standards for Evidence
  - Want Standards Comparable to K-12
  - Want to Promote New Research
  - Want to Promote Informed Consumers
Curriculum Review Process

- Evaluation Part III: Evidence
  - Outcome: Research Ratings
    - Rating Scale of Research Quality & Quantity
    - Rated each Curriculum in 7 Domains
      - Separated Language & Literacy
Curriculum Review Process

- Evaluation Part III: Evidence

0 = No Evidence or No Comp. Grp. Study
1 = Quasi-Exp. Study of Components
2 = Randomized Study of Components
3 = Quasi-Exp. Study of Total Curriculum
4 = Random Exp. Study of Total Curriculum
Evaluation Results

- Curricula in Review:
  - Beyond Centers & Circle Time
  - Creative Curriculum, 4th Edition
  - DLM Early Childhood Express
  - Doors to Discovery
  - High Scope
  - Kaplan Planning Guide to the Preschool Curriculum
  - Let’s Begin with Letter People
  - Links to Literacy
  - Literacy Express
  - Scholastic Early Childhood Program
  - School Readiness Express
  - Wee Learn
Evaluation Results

- Descriptive Results:
  - Subset of Curricula Available in Spanish
  - Most Provide High Level of Detail
  - Price Range is Wide:
    - Some All Inclusive
    - Some Require Many Independent Purchases
Evaluation Results

- Content Alignment Results:
  - Most Curricula Very Recently Developed or New Versions
  - Many Meeting Most Domains
  - Most Frequent Miss: Physical Health
  - Lots of Variability in Style & Depth of Content
Evaluation Results

- Research Evidence Results:
  - VERY LIMITED RESEARCH!
  - More than Half Have No Research Credit at All
    - All 0 in all 7 Domains
  - Others range from Very Strong Research to “Ok” Research
    - Only 1-2 with Literacy or Language Domain Support
    - None Currently with Support in more than 3 Domains