

Gee Whiz Education Curriculum & Supporting Evidence for the Oklahoma Stars Program for FCC Homes

The Gee Whiz Education curriculum is a comprehensive approach designed to help educators address the unique needs of mixed-age groups. This document details specifically how utilizing the Gee Whiz curriculum can help providers early recognition points in many areas.

OK QRIS Criteria	Gee Whiz Education can help by...
LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT CRITERIA	
<p>OAC 340: 110-1-8.8(d)(1)-(3)</p> <p>A written daily schedule reflecting a balanced program of opportunities for learning, physical activity, indoor and outdoor play, rest periods, and meals is followed with flexibility meeting children's individual needs. Learning activities balance child-initiated play and caregiver-guided activities. The daily schedule is posted and reflects reading to children for a minimum 15 minutes each day.</p>	<p>We provide a sample daily schedule in our comprehensive User's Guide. This guide includes a section titled, "Gee Whiz & Your Day." Here is the link: https://geewhizeducation.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Gee-Whiz-and-Your-Day.pdf. There is also a blank schedule printable that providers can use to create their own daily schedules.</p> <p>We also discuss, in this section, both guided and free play with an emphasis on balance.</p>
<p>OAC 340: 110-1-8.8(d)(5)</p> <p>Caregivers prepare children for transitions. A written plan is maintained, per OAC 340: 110-1-8.5</p>	<p>In order to help providers transition children from their program to public school (KG), Gee Whiz has a set of printable activity calendars for families to use over the summer. You can view these calendars here: https://geewhizeducation.com/helpful-tools-for-providers/</p> <p>Additionally, our daily lesson plans contain transition ideas to help providers move children both mentally and physically from activity to activity during the day.</p>
<p>OAC 340: 110-1-8.8(e)(1)</p> <p>Children have access to art, block building, book reading, dramatic play, manipulative play, and music and movement.</p>	<p>The Gee Whiz curriculum is written to cover 10 developmental areas in an extremely comprehensive fashion. We use picture codes in the lesson plans to help providers quickly associate each experience with the areas of development they address. Please see our User's Guide for more information on how we achieve this goal: https://geewhizeducation.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Developmental-Areas-and-Learning-Indicators.pdf</p> <p>Additionally, each Gee Whiz unit includes a component called Add & Enhance. This component helps providers add materials to their interest centers that enhances the monthly unit. Please see our Components slide deck for a sample: https://geewhizeducation.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/GeeWhizcomponents2022-2023.pdf</p>

LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT CRITERIA

<p>OAC 340: 110-1-8.8(e)(2)& (3)</p> <p>The program implements lesson plans with developmentally appropriate activities aligning with ELG or Oklahoma Academic Standards. Lesson plans identify ELG and Oklahoma Academic Standards and are shared with families. Curriculum or lesson plans provider for the children's various ages, abilities, developmental stages, social-emotional development, special needs and interests.</p>	<p>Gee Whiz is fully aligned with the Oklahoma Early Learning Guidelines and Standards. Here is a link to the page on our website where you can view these documents: https://geewhizeducation.com/state-standard/oklahoma-early-learning-standards/</p> <p>Additionally, as mentioned earlier, we use picture codes in the lesson plans to help providers connect activities to developmental areas. We also include a component called "Connecting the Dots" which enables providers to go deeper and connect each activity included in the lesson plans to specific skills. We call these Learning Indicators. There is a recorded webinar on our website that walks providers how to use this component. Here is the link: https://geewhizeducation.com/webinar-training/</p> <p>Our User's Guide has a wealth of information on individualization as well. We also include several components to help providers individualize. These include our Individualization Web and our Customized/Individualized Lesson Planning Sheet. For more information on these components, please see this section of our User's Guide: https://geewhizeducation.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Individualization-and-Authentic-Assessment.pdf</p> <p>Additionally, the lesson plans contain adaptations for different developmental levels. Please see any Teaching Guide for examples or view our onboarding webinars: https://geewhizeducation.com/onboarding-training-webinars/</p>
<p>OAC 340:110-1-8.8(e)(4)</p> <p>Caregivers lead and participate daily in at least two developmentally-appropriate physical activities for all children</p>	<p>The Gee Whiz curriculum contains a LOT of physical activities for children! These are indicated with a "Get Moving" symbol in the lesson plans. While there may not be exactly 2 each day, there are many! Please see any Teaching Guide for examples.</p>
<p>OAC 340:110-1-8.8(e)(5)(A) & (B)</p> <p>In addition to lesson plans, children 2 years of age and older are given the opportunity to join enhancement activities promoting basic skills and higher-level thinking. Enhancement activities are conducted routinely throughout the year, documented on the lesson plan, and may be rotated based on children's needs and interests. Four-star homes implement one or more enhancement activities and five-star homes implement two or more enhancement activities.</p>	<p>Each Gee Whiz unit includes our Add & Enhance component which can be used by providers to address this area. Additionally, experiences like cooking and exploring nature are written into the lesson plans. We also have opportunities in many units for experimentation. Open-ended questions, which are built into ALL Gee Whiz units, help providers promote higher-order thinking skills. They also encourage back-and-forth conversations between providers and children every single day.</p>

FAMILY PARTNERSHIP CRITERIA

<p>OAC 340: 110-1-8.9(c)(4)</p> <p>The primary caregiver provides at least two family involvement opportunities annually.</p> <p>OAC 340: 110-1-8.9(c)</p> <p>The primary caregiver respects children's and families' home languages and cultures by adapting communication methods.</p> <p>OAC 340: 110-1-8.9(d)(2)</p> <p>The primary caregiver establishes and maintains a system for sharing and communicating with families information specific to the child's physical and emotional state.</p> <p>OAC 340: 110-1-8.9(d)(3)</p> <p>The primary caregiver provides at least three family involvement opportunities annually.</p>	<p>Gee Whiz provides a Family Goal Sheet as part of our, "Parent Involvement & Family Engagement" booklet which can be found here on our website: https://geewhizeducation.com/parent-involvement-family-engagement/.</p> <p>Additionally, each Gee Whiz unit providers a newsletter for families that exposes them to the unit topics and providers simple experiences they can do at home with their child. This family letter is available in both English & Spanish. We also provide Digital Family Notes with are very simple activities parents/families can do with their children. These are JPEG files that can even be texted if desired.</p> <p>In addition, each unit has 2 "All About My Week" Reports that providers can complete and send home on Friday. A copy of should also be added to each child's developmental file.</p> <p>We also have a set of developmental checklists available to all providers on our website: https://geewhizeducation.com/developmental-checklists/</p> <p>In our User's Guide, under the Meeting the Needs of All Children & Gee Whiz section, we address working with families. Our "All About My Weekend" Report is a way for families to share information about their child's weekend activities. Additionally, in this same section, there are interview questions providers can use when enrolling new children into their program. Here is a link to that section of the User's Guide: https://geewhizeducation.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Meeting-the-Needs-of-All-Children-and-Gee-Whiz.pdf</p>
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PROGRAM EVALUATION FOR CONTINUOUS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT CRITERIA

<p>OAC 340: 110-1-8.10(c)(2)</p> <p>Personnel and families are surveyed annually identifying program strengths and weaknesses and evaluating effectiveness in meeting children's, families' and personnel's needs.</p>	<p>Please see the Family Goal Sheet noted in the section above.</p>
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ADDITIONAL FOUR- AND FIVE-STAR CRITERIA

OAC 340: 110-1-8.11(b)(2)(B)

Four-star homes implement two and five-star homes implement four health and safety criteria listed below. Homes accredited by a CCS-approved national accrediting organization are exempt from this criteria. The program:

- (A) Offers evidence-based developmental assessment or screenings by trained personnel.

Because of the comprehensive nature of the Gee Whiz curriculum, it can be successfully utilized with any formal child assessment tool (e.g., GOLD®, Ages & Stages®, DRDP, etc. Our “Connecting the Dots” component (included with each unit) helps providers connect activities to specific skills. This makes connecting to formal assessment tools quite easy.

Additionally, the Gee Whiz curriculum includes tools to help providers gather and reflect upon anecdotal notes. We include an Observe & Reflect grid with all units. There is also extensive information about anecdotal notes and reflections in our User’s Guide (<https://geewhizeducation.com/gee-whiz-users-guide/>).

Our new onboarding webinar series includes 2 webinars designed to help providers learn more about authentic assessment. Please see onboarding webinars #3 and #4 on this page of our website: <https://geewhizeducation.com/onboarding-training-webinars/>.

The Gee Whiz curriculum includes tools to help providers individualize. These include our Individualization Web and our Customized/Individualized Lesson Planning Sheet. In addition, we provide Goal Setting Sheet for families in our “Parent Involvement & Family Engagement” booklet which can be found here on our website: <https://geewhizeducation.com/parent-involvement-family-engagement/>

A copy of, “The Stars Program for Family Child Care Homes” (effective 6-1-22) was used to create this document.