


How Gee Whiz Addresses the Maryland EXCELS FCC Standards

The following information details how the Gee Whiz curriculum addresses the Maryland EXCELS DAP Standards.

Developmentally Appropriate Practice (DAP)	How Gee Whiz Addresses Maryland EXCELS
DAP 1 - ENVIRONMENT	<p>A welcoming environment is very important in any early childhood program. All children of all backgrounds and languages should be welcomed and celebrated. Here are some of the ways the Gee Whiz curriculum can help in this area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The program artwork represents a wide variety of cultures and backgrounds. • The lesson plans include suggestions for helping ELL/DLL children build language skills. • Family engagement components, such as their family letters, in both English & Spanish. • An Individualization Web is included with each unit to help providers mesh each child's interests with the unit. • A Customized/Individualized Lesson Planning Sheet is provided to help providers document how they individualize activities for each child. • The Observe & Reflect Form is designed to help providers gather anecdotal notes and then plan activities based upon them. • All Gee Whiz units include a balance of child-initiated and teacher-guided experiences. • Many of the activities included in the lesson plans include adaptations for different developmental levels.
DAP 2 – LEARNING MATERIALS	<p>The learning materials and activities included in any curriculum are very important. The Gee Whiz curriculum can help providers address this area by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Add & Enhance component included with each unit provides ideas of materials to add to interest centers. These additional materials help to immerse the children in the unit both indoors & outdoors. • The Gee Whiz curriculum addresses 10 developmental domains and uses picture symbols to help connect activities to domains. For instance, the  symbol indicates the activity addresses Language Development. A full list of developmental areas and pictures symbols can be found in the Gee Whiz User's Guide. • The Gee Whiz curriculum is filled with opportunities for the children to learn through exploration and play. Again, these experiences also address all learning domains (we call them Developmental Areas). Each experience provides a list of materials needed and many have adaptations for different developmental levels. • The Gee Whiz curriculum provides suggestions for incorporating the cultures of the families in my group as well.

<p>DAP 4 – CURRICULUM</p> <p>DAP 5 - PLANNING</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gee Whiz is fully aligned with both “Healthy Beginnings” and the “Maryland Early Learning Standards.” Detailed alignment documentation can be found on our website www.geewhizeducation.com. Look under the “About the Curriculum/State Standards” tab. • The Gee Whiz curriculum is perfect for family child care because it includes experiences for all ages (infants, toddlers, twos, threes, fours/Pre-K and even afterschool children). It is also written to be used in home environment. • Each Gee Whiz Teaching Guides includes detailed directions on the materials needs, the steps to take, adaptations for different developmental levels and picture codes for all the domains addressed. • The domains/developmental areas addressed in the Gee Whiz curriculum are: Language Development, Social & Emotional Development, Physical Development and Health, Science Knowledge, Math Knowledge, Literacy Knowledge, Logic & Reasoning, Approaches to Learning, Social Studies Knowledge and Creative Arts. There is a picture code for each of these areas and these picture codes are used for each activity in the lesson plans. • Each Gee Whiz unit also included a component called “Connecting the Dots” that links specific skills (Learning Indicators) to the activities. Linking the skills in this way makes connecting to any formal child assessment easier. • All Gee Whiz experiences address more than one developmental area. • Many of the experiences in the Gee Whiz curriculum are based on guided play. There is a section in the Gee Whiz User’s Guide that explains what guided play is and how we use this approach in the curriculum. • The curriculum also provides suggestions on when to record anecdotal notes and/or take photos/videos for each child’s portfolio. • Open-ended questions are included for each Gee Whiz activity (except Infant activities). • The tools included in the curriculum that promote individualization include: the Individualization Web and the Customized/Individualized Lesson Planning Sheet. Both of these tools should be very helpful for IEP/IFSP plans.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Gee Whiz User’s Guide includes a section titled, “Gee Whiz & Your Day.” In this section, providers will find a sample daily schedule and also a blank one. • Each Gee Whiz lesson plan includes a Health & Safety Tip, Teaching Tip and Transition idea. There is also a whole group experience called “Exploring Together” each day along with 2 small group experiences and an Infant activity. There are also School-Age activities in the back of each Teaching Guide.
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DAP 6 - IMPLEMENTATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Gee Whiz experiences included in the lesson plans addresses multiple domains. The picture codes with each experience denote the developmental areas addressed. Please see the Gee Whiz User's Guide for details. • The back of each Gee Whiz Teaching Guide includes a list of books that link with the unit. • Additionally, the first unit of each month includes an original story as well as story props. The curriculum also provides a Let's Read Together! Booklet that are designed to help promote family literacy. The booklets are available in both English & Spanish.
DAP 7 – SCREEN TIME	<p>The Gee Whiz curriculum uses technology in a meaningful way. We feel strongly that children need to learn that technology is a source of information and not just entertainment. To that end, we use technology to help children build background knowledge about new and interesting topics.</p>
DAP 9 – DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRESS	<p>The tools included in the Gee Whiz curriculum to help providers assess each child include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observe & Reflect Grid (see the Gee Whiz User's Guide) • Connecting the Dots - This component is provided with each Gee Whiz unit. There is a chart within this component that details how the 40 Learning Indicators (skills) included in the curriculum are addressed within each unit. • Links to CDC Developmental Checklists are provided on the Gee Whiz website. They are available in English & Spanish. • The Gee Whiz lesson plans prompts providers on when to record anecdotal notes, take photos, record video, etc.
ADM 5 – FAMILY ENGAGEMENT	<p>The Gee Whiz curriculum helps engage families because it includes the following components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A family Letter with each unit (available in both English & Spanish). • Digital Family Notes (available in both English & Spanish) • The lesson plans also prompt providers when it would be a good time to ask families to volunteer and/or participate.