

ACCESS CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

START
HERE

The Intentional Curriculum Decision-Making Cycle

Program
Evaluation

Planning

Implementation

Assessment

Intentional Planning throughout the day, week or year

INVESTIGATIONS

MINI-
INVESTIGATIONS

DAILY ROUTINES

IN-BETWEENS

Elements of ACCESS

ASSESSMENT SUPPORTED

Ongoing authentic assessment informs instruction.

The assessment system provides options for data collection but requires that data are aggregated to inform whole class and individualized instruction.

Instructional decisions are data supported and not exclusively textbook driven. Textbooks are seen as a resource not a curriculum.

Formative and summative assessment informs student learning as well as the professional development of teachers.

CHILD/STUDENT CENTERED

Curriculum is age appropriate and avoids push-down models.

Curriculum reflects an understanding of development and learning.

Curriculum respects and reflects family culture.

Environment supports active and/or play based learning in all domains of development.

Teachers utilize authentic instructional material.

All children/students have access to rich, challenging and engaging curriculum.

EMERGENT/ NEGOTIATED

The strengths, needs and interests of children/students are reflected in curriculum decisions.

Relevant curriculum is planned with an evolving understanding of the children/students and not out of context over the summer.

Many of the topics that are emphasized reflect the interests of the children/students.

Children/students have choices that make the curriculum personally meaningful and socially relevant.

SCIENCE/ INQUIRY EMPHASIS

Meaningful opportunities are provided for children/students to pose questions, make predictions, test hypotheses, interpret results and solve problems.

Science is taught regularly by teachers who have a commitment to content knowledge.

Science concept developments support inquiry and allow children/students to make sense of their world.

STANDARDS INTEGRATED

Curriculum is developed within the context of a seamless system for children ages birth to age 8 as well as middle school.

Curriculum is integrated across subject areas and developmental domains.

Curriculum is integrated around important topics of study from the disciplines of science, social studies, and in faith-based schools, religion.