

Curriculum Philosophy Series

What is a curriculum? Curriculum is *what you do* in your program and what children learn as a result. It encompasses how children learn through intentional teaching practices, thoughtfully designed environments, play-based experiences, and teacher-directed activities. Curriculum guides educators to developmentally appropriate practices when teaching and caring for children.

What is a curriculum philosophy? Curriculum philosophy is an educational framework that *guides* what you do in your program. Curriculum philosophies, also referred to as approaches and methods, offer a set of values to consider when progressing toward desired child outcomes. The set of teaching beliefs lead the “*how*” of children’s learning.

Let’s talk about curriculum and family child care. We’re diving into five curriculum approaches, highlighting how each can be implemented in family child care programs. Where do your beliefs and passions align? You could become an expert in one curriculum philosophy or mold a combination into a unique philosophy that best suits your program. The curriculum philosophies covered in this series:

Children as Naturalists: Forest School in Family Child Care

April 17, 2024, 6 – 8pm Zoom [Register here](#)

Forest School is a nature-based approach to early childhood education that prioritizes frequent sessions of unstructured play in natural wooded areas. The Forest School approach supports risk taking in play, nurturing both children’s independence and self-confidence. This philosophy recognizes children’s innate desire to connect with the natural world. In this training, we will discuss how you can adapt this approach to family child care settings to promote new forms of discovery in nature. (2 Registry hours)

Children as the Co-Constructors of Their Own Learning: Emergent Curriculum in Family Child Care

May 15, 2024, 6 – 8pm Zoom [Register here](#)

Emergent Curriculum stemmed from the Reggio Emilia approach and is a flexible way of planning learning opportunities for young children. Emergent curriculum recognizes children as competent, curious learners and acknowledges that children learn best when given a say in their education. This results in a curriculum that is co-constructed by the educator and the child. In this training, we will discuss in depth how this can be implemented in family child care. (2 Registry hours)

Fostering True Play in Your Program: AnjiPlay in Family Child Care

June 26, 2024, 6 – 8pm Zoom [Register here](#)

AnjiPlay is an educational philosophy developed in China and centered around five interconnected principles – love, risk, joy, engagement, and reflection. AnjiPlay recognizes that children have the right to extended periods of self-directed, unguided true play. The AnjiPlay philosophy focuses on creating environments that can best support deep engagement in play. In this training, we will discuss how to apply this philosophy in family child care. (2 Registry hours)

Nurturing Children’s Imagination: Waldorf in Family Child Care

July 17, 2024, 6 – 8pm Zoom [Register here](#)

Waldorf is a curriculum approach rooted in nurturing children’s imagination through creative expression. Storytelling is at the heart of Waldorf curriculum; educators are encouraged to use fables, fairy tales, and myths for teachable moments. Waldorf education concentrates on hands-on learning through art, dance, and music in sensory rich environments. In this training, we will discuss how the Waldorf approach may be a good fit for your family child care program. (2 Registry hours)

Building Children’s Independence: Montessori in Family Child Care

August 14, 2024, 6 – 8pm Zoom [Register here](#)

Montessori is an educational method centered on five key areas of study: practical life, sensorial, mathematics, language, and culture. It uses independent hands-on work as a method of teaching real-world skills and emphasizes individualized pacing of curriculum. The Montessori method is best implemented in a multi-age setting where children can develop mentoring relationships. In this training, we will dive into how the Montessori philosophy can be adapted for family child care programs. (2 Registry hours)

This opportunity is available to you through Satellite Family Child Care System, a YoungStar Connect Partner.