

Introduction to the ELM Curriculum	1
Key Characteristics of ELM: Intentional, Meaningful, Plentiful	2
Intentional	2
Meaningful	6
Plentiful	6
ELM’s Starting Points	9
Developmentally Appropriate Practice	9
Guidance from Research Evidence and Experts	9
Pilot Testing	10
Staff Credentials and Turnover	10
Areas Promoted by ELM	13
Language/Literacy	13
How ELM Promotes Language and Literacy Development	14
Understanding Sounds	14
Understanding Letters	15
Understanding Words	17
Print Knowledge	20
Writing	21
Integration with Other Areas	21
Building on the Activity Plans	22
More Practices for Promoting Language and Literacy	22
Strengthening Your Understanding of Language and Literacy	23
Mathematics	27
How ELM Promotes Mathematics Skills	28
Counting Things	29
Working with Shapes	31
Making Patterns	32
Measuring Things	32
Integration with Other Areas	33
Building on the Activity Plans	33
More Practices for Promoting Mathematics Skills	33
Strengthening Your Understanding of Math	34

Self-Regulation 37

 How ELM Promotes Self-Regulation 38

 Using Self-Control 38

 Paying Attention 39

 Focusing and Remembering 40

 Integration with Other Areas 41

 Building on the Activity Plans 41

 More Practices for Promoting Self-Regulation 41

 Strengthening Your Understanding of Self-Regulation 42

Social-Emotional 44

 How ELM Promotes Social-Emotional Development 45

 Getting Along With Others 45

 Understanding Feelings 46

 Being Responsible 47

 Integration with Other Areas 48

 Building on the Activity Plans 48

 More Practices for Promoting Social-Emotional Development 48

 Strengthening Your Understanding of Social-Emotional Development 48

Social Studies 52

 How ELM Promotes Social Studies Knowledge 53

 Respecting Our Differences 53

 Appreciating Our Families 53

 Exploring Where We Live 54

 Exploring Time 56

 Integration with Other Areas 56

 Building on the Activity Plans 57

 More Practices for Promoting Social Studies Knowledge 57

 Strengthening Your Understanding of Social Studies 57

Creative Expression 59

 How ELM Promotes Creative Expression 60

 Creating Art 60

 Creating Dance 60

 Doing Drama 60

 Making Music 61

 Integration with Other Areas 61

 Building on the Activity Plans 62

 More Practices for Promoting Creative Expression 62

 Strengthening Your Understanding of Creative Expression 62

Science64

 How ELM Promotes Science Knowledge65

 Being a Scientist.....66

 Exploring Living Things.....66

 Exploring Life Cycles67

 Exploring Habitats67

 Exploring Earth and Space68

 Integration with Other Areas.....68

 Building on the Activity Plans.....69

 More Practices for Promoting Science Knowledge69

 Strengthening Your Understanding of Science Knowledge69

Physical/Health71

 How ELM Promotes Physical Development and Good Health Practices.....72

 Moving Our Bodies72

 Staying Healthy and Safe73

 Integration with Other Areas.....74

 Building on the Activity Plans.....74

 More Practices for Promoting Physical Development and Good Health Practices74

 Strengthening Your Understanding of Physical Development and Good Health Practices74

Sequence of Skills and Learning Goals77

Effective Use of ELM.....91

Planning a Daily Schedule91

 Guidelines.....91

 Planning Form.....92

 Transitions.....93

How to Use Activity Plans94

 Organization94

 Components95

 Adaptations95

 Guidelines.....96

 Attendance Considerations98

 Children Who Participate for More than a Year99

 Quality of Implementation100

Individualizing Children’s Learning Experiences	100
Assessments	101
Observations	102
Frequency	104
Implementing Follow-up Plans	105
Connecting with Families	107
<i>Readiness Starts Early</i>	107
<i>What Children Will Learn this Week</i>	107
Tools for Communicating about Child-Specific Progress	107
Training Resources	108
Basic Training Plan: Five Key Steps	108
ELM Online Trainings	109
<i>ELM Activity Observation Checklist</i>	109
Appendix	113
<i>ELM Planning Form: Week of _____ Sample</i>	114
<i>Guide for Observing and Individualizing: Self-Regulation</i> (includes examples)	115
<i>ELM Snapshot of Child Progress: 3–5 Years Sample</i>	120
<i>ELM Activity Observation Checklist Sample</i>	125