

Alignment of Gee Whiz Education Curriculum with the Virginia Milestones for Child Development (2008)

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 the Gee Whiz Education Learning Indicators align with the standards for early childhood in the state of Virginia.

Additional information on the Gee Whiz Education approach to learning, including the program philosophy and the evidence/research on which the program is based, can be found on our website www.geewhizeducation.com as well as in the Gee Whiz Education User's Guide.

Virginia Milestones for Child Development	Gee Whiz Education Learning Indicators
LANGUAGE AND LITERACY	
Strand 1: Listening and Speaking Strand 2: Phonological Awareness and Alphabetic Knowledge Strand 3: Print Awareness and Concepts Strand 4: Comprehension Strand 5: Early Writing	LD1 Understands spoken language LD2 Understands and then uses an ever-increasing vocabulary LD3 Uses language to express ideas, wants, and needs LD4 Increasingly engages adults and other children in conversations LK1 Shows an interest in books and understands they are a way of sharing information LK2 Understands that language is made up of words, which can be broken down into syllables LK3 Begins to name letters and identify their sounds LK4 Understands concepts about print (e.g., reading from left to right, logos as symbols, etc.) LK5 Begins to use a variety of writing tools to use writing (invented or true) as a way to convey thoughts and ideas
FINE ARTS	
Strand 1: Dance Arts Strand 2: Music Strand 3: Theatre Arts Strand 4: Visual Arts	CA1 Participates in musical activities including singing and utilizing instruments CA2 Uses movement and dance to express ideas and emotions CA3 Utilizes a variety of art materials (both two and three-dimensional) to express self CA4 Engages in pretend play, with or without, the use of props

Full versions of the Virginia Milestones for Child Development used to create this alignment document can be found at:

<http://www.earlychildhood.virginia.gov/documents/milestones.pdf>

Virginia Milestones for Child Development	Gee Whiz Education Learning Indicators
COGNITION AND GENERAL KNOWLEDGE	
<p>Strand 1: Learning About Mathematical Concepts Sub-Strand A: Numbers and Operations Sub-Strand B: Measurement Sub-Strand C: Patterns and Relationships Sub-Strand D: Shapes Sub-Strand E: Spatial Sense Sub-Strand F: Data Collection and Analysis Sub-Strand G: Time and Sequence</p>	<p>MK1 Understands that numbers tell “how many” MK2 Recognizes that numbers go in a specific order MK3 Recognizes shapes and positional concepts MK4 Creates, imitates and/or extends patterns MK5 Utilizes measurement (standard and nonstandard) to compare and contrast objects MK6 Sorts or groups objects based on common characteristics LR1 Demonstrates the ability to identify a problem and then seeks ways to solve it LR2 Understands that symbols or objects can be used to represent different things</p>
<p>Strand 2: Learning About the World Sub-Strand A: Scientific Knowledge Sub-Strand B: Scientific Inquiry and Exploration</p>	<p>SK1 Utilizes observation and other senses to explore and gather information about objects and experiences SK2 Makes and tests predictions using simple experimentation SK3 Gathers information about the natural world through hands-on exploration</p>
<p>Strand 3: Learning About Families and Communities Sub-Strand A: History Sub-Strand B: Geography Sub-Strand C: Economics Sub-Strand D: Families and Communities</p>	<p>SS1 Understands how families are unique and different SS2 Develops a basic understanding of community, including common jobs SS3 Recognizes the importance of caring for the environment SS4 Develops a baseline understanding of how the past affects us and our community</p>
APPROACHES TO LEARNING	
<p>Strand 1: Persistence Strand 2: Curiosity and Initiative Strand 3: Creativity and Inventiveness Strand 4: Reasoning & Problem-Solving</p>	<p>AL1 Shows interest in many topics and desire to try new things AL2 Displays persistence when completing tasks and is able to avoid distractions AL3 Engages in cooperative group experiences LR1 Demonstrates the ability to identify a problem and then seeks ways to solve it. LR2 Understands that symbols or objects can be used to represent different things</p>

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PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT AND HEALTH	
<p>Strand 1: Gross Motor Development</p> <p>Strand 2: Fine Motor Development</p> <p>Strand 3: Health and Well-Being</p>	<p>PD1 Understands the importance of exercise and rest</p> <p>PD2 Takes pride in caring for self (e.g., brushing teeth, dressing, eating healthy foods, etc.)</p> <p>PD3 Practices safe habits and understands safety rules</p> <p>PD4 Demonstrates gross motor skills (e.g., running, hopping, skipping, etc.)</p> <p>PD5 Demonstrates fine motor control (e.g., writing, pouring, cutting, etc.)</p>
SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT	
<p>Strand 1: Relationships with Others</p> <p>Strand 2: Learning About Self (Self-Perceptions)</p> <p>Strand 3: Expression of Feelings and Self-Regulation</p>	<p>SE1 Demonstrates a secure relationship with caregivers or other adults as well as positive interactions with other children</p> <p>SE2 Demonstrates a positive self-concept by sharing preferences, expressing feelings freely and displaying confidence</p> <p>SE3 Demonstrates self-regulation by handling emotions in an appropriate way and following simple rules</p> <p>SE4 Demonstrates a range of appropriate emotions</p> <p>AL3 Engages in cooperative group experiences</p> <p>LD4 Increasingly engages adults and other children in conversations</p>