

# Alignment of Gee Whiz Education Curriculum with the South Dakota Early Learning Guidelines

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 South Dakota.

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](http://www.geewhizeducation.com) as well as in the Gee Whiz Education User's Guide.

South Dakota Early Learning Guidelines	Gee Whiz Education Learning Indicators
<b>COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY</b>	
Communicating and Oral Language Development	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
Foundations for Reading	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.)
Foundations for Writing	LK3 Begins to name letters and identify their sounds LK5 Begins to use a variety of writing tools to use writing (invented or true) as a way to convey thoughts and ideas
Learning New Languages	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 AL1 Shows interest in many topics and a desire to try new things
<b>APPROACHES TO LEARNING</b>	
Curiosity, Information-Seeking, and Eagerness Initiative, Effort, Engagement and Persistence Risk-Taking, Problem-Solving, Flexibility and Resiliency Play and Imagination	AL1 Shows interest in many topics and a desire to try new things AL2 Displays persistence when completing tasks and is able to avoid distractions AL3 Engages in cooperatives 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

Full versions of the South Dakota Early Learning Guidelines used to create this alignment document can be found at: [https://dss.sd.gov/docs/childcare/early\\_learning\\_guidelines.pdf](https://dss.sd.gov/docs/childcare/early_learning_guidelines.pdf)

South Dakota Early Learning Guidelines	Gee Whiz Education Learning Indicators
<b>COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT</b>	
<p>Construction of Knowledge Thinking and Reasoning</p> <p>Mathematical Thinking and Expression</p>	<p>MK1 Understands that numbers tell “how many”</p> <p>MK2 Recognizes that numbers go in a specific order</p> <p>MK3 Recognizes shapes and positional concepts</p> <p>MK4 Creates, imitates and/or extends patterns</p> <p>MK5 Utilizes measurement (standard and nonstandard) to compare and contrast objects (includes graphing)</p> <p>MK6 Sorts or groups objects based on common characteristics</p>
<p>Scientific Exploration and Knowledge</p>	<p>SK1 Utilizes observation and other senses to explore and gather information about objects and experiences</p> <p>SK2 Makes and tests predictions using simple experimentation</p> <p>SK3 Gathers information about the natural world through hands-on exploration</p>
<p>Social Studies, Family, and Community Connections</p>	<p>SS1 Understands how families are unique and different</p> <p>SS2 Develops a basic understanding of community, including common jobs</p> <p>SS3 Recognizes the importance of caring for the environment</p> <p>SS4 Develops a baseline understanding of how the past affects us and our community</p>
<p>Creative Arts and Expression</p>	<p>CA1 Participates in musical activities including singing and utilizing instruments</p> <p>CA2 Uses movement and dance to express ideas and emotions</p> <p>CA3 Utilizes a variety of art materials (both two and three-dimensional) to express self</p> <p>CA4 Engages in pretend play with, or without, the use of props</p> <p>SE2 Demonstrates a positive self-concept by sharing preferences, expressing feelings freely and displaying confidence</p>
<b>HEALTH AND PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT</b>	
<p>Physical Health &amp; Growth</p> <p>Motor Development</p> <p>Self-Care, Safety, 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 basic 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**

Developing a Positive Self of Self

Developing Relationships

Self-Regulation and Pro-Social Behaviors

SE1 Demonstrates a secure relationship with caregivers or other adults as well as positive interactions with other children

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SE2 Demonstrates a positive self-concept by sharing preferences, expressing feelings freely and displaying confidence

SE4 Demonstrates a range of appropriate emotions

AL3 Engages in cooperative group experiences

