

THE Solution for Family Child Care

**Gee Whiz**TM
Education

Family Child
Care is What
We Do



Information for Quality Specialists

www.geewhizeducation.com

Gee Whiz ... Where Quality & Value Meet



Gee Whiz Education is a leader in the early childhood market. Our curriculum, which is specifically designed for family child care, is always supported by the latest ECE research because it is digital. This approach ensures Gee Whiz is always up-to-date. Gee Whiz is also easy for providers to implement, economical and addresses all ages in one curriculum program. Finally, it is backed by FREE training offered via both live and recorded webinars as well as the many support tools for providers on our website. It is a complete and easy-to-use package for one very attractive price!

Here is a little bit about the founders of Gee Whiz:

Beth Smith – Partner

B.S. Juniata College

M.Ed. Penn State University

Beth has over 30 years of experience in the education field. She's taught public school KG and 1st grade, worked in early childhood centers, been the lead curriculum developer for HighReach Learning and trained at both the state and national levels.

Sherry Mayberry – Partner

B.A. UNCC

M.Ed. UNCC

Sherry has been in Education for 46 years with experience as a public school KG teacher, owning and operating a child development center and founding HighReach Learning.

Mike Mayberry – Partner

B.S. UNCC

Mike has been working in early childhood education for the past 25 years and have a wide breath of knowledge about the industry.

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How Does Gee Whiz Support FCC/FCCH Providers?



Gee Whiz creates an online curriculum product specifically for FCC/FCCH providers... not centers. Aligned/Approved for QRIS programs across the nation, Gee Whiz is quickly becoming an amazing resource for FCC/FCCH programs as well as the Quality Specialists that support them.

Founded on strong research and designed with the FCC/FCCH provider in mind, Gee Whiz is NOT a curriculum that will end up on the shelf. Instead it is one that providers will actually implement because it is designed just to meet the challenges they face such as working with a mixed-age group and most often working alone.

At Gee Whiz, we know how important training is and that is exactly why we started the Gee Whiz Cohort. The cohort is designed to help Gee Whiz customers learn more about the curriculum as well as ECE topics such as diversity, the “why” behind experiences and the power of open-ended questions. It is also designed to provide an interactive experience where providers can not only learn but share ideas.

We also provide Train-the-Trainer webinar for Quality Specialists and other that work with FCC/FCCH providers.

All webinars are recorded and posted both on the Gee Whiz Curriculum for FCC YouTube channel and our website under the “Support” tab.



Why is Gee Whiz the Best Curriculum Choice for FCC/FCCH Providers?



ALL ages covered (infants through school-age)	FCC/FCCH providers no longer need to try to make a curriculum designed for a center or a single age group work for their mixed-age group program.
Open-ended questions built into all lesson plans	Asking open-ended questions helps provider engage in back-and-forth conversations with children. <u>Isn't this what frequently used environmental rating scales are looking for?</u>
Picture codes linking experiences to developmental areas addressed	It is VERY important for providers to understand the "why" behind the activities they do with children. Right? That is exactly what these picture codes do.
Designed for a home ... not a center	Common household materials like measuring cups and plastic bowls become teaching & learning tools with Gee Whiz.
Based on solid research about how children learn & develop	Check out our website to learn more about the basis behind Gee Whiz and our approach that encourages exploration and learning by discovery.
Tools to help providers individualize are included	Documenting individualization is easy with our Customized/Individualized Lesson Planning Form and our Individualization Webs.
FREE webinar training included that is not just informative but interactive as well	No extra \$ required for training not just on the curriculum but other ECE topics as well. Plus, webinars conducted in the evening and recorded so they fit into an FCC/FCCH provider's busy schedule.
Works well with formal assessment tools	Why reinvent the wheel? Gee Whiz covers all 10 developmental areas for all ages so providers can choose the formal assessment tool that works best for them and their children.

So Much More Than Just "Lesson Plans"

Gee Whiz Education Curriculum
2019-2020 User's Guide



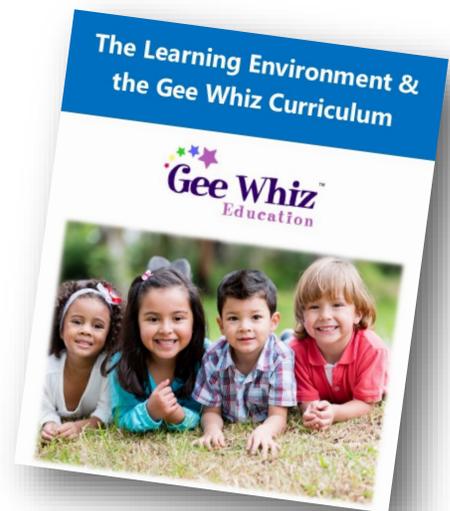
Gee Whiz
Education

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This helpful guide explains everything providers need to know about the curriculum and includes the following sections:

- Your Role
- Anecdotal Notes, Observations & Individualizing the Curriculum + Formal Assessment Options & Gee Whiz
- Developmental Areas & Learning Indicators
- Meeting the Needs of ALL Children (cultural & linguistic responsiveness and addressing disabilities)
- Philosophy & Research Behind the Curriculum
- Curriculum Components
- And much more...

This guide was added to help providers enhance the learning environment in their programs and prepare for their Environmental Rating Scale assessment. The guide reinforces the importance of the provider's role in the learning environment as well as materials they can offer children within different learning centers.



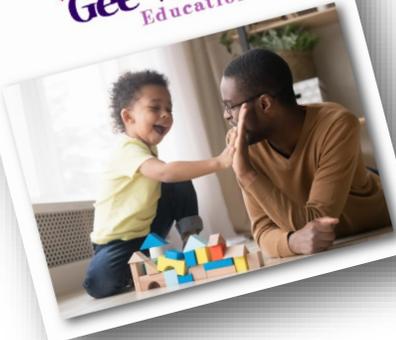
The Learning Environment &
the Gee Whiz Curriculum

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Parent Involvement,
Family Engagement & Gee Whiz

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At Gee Whiz, we recognize that it is VERY important to both involve and engage parents/families. This guide is designed to help providers do just that and more as they utilize the Gee Whiz curriculum. The guide is packed full of information as well as a few printable components designed to help providers involve and engage parents/guardians/families.

You can find all of these components on the Gee Whiz website under the "Why Gee Whiz?" tab.

Just look under "Information for Quality Specialists"

www.geewhizeducation.com

A Curriculum is Only Worthwhile IF It is Used

We know you have seen it before ... a provider chooses a curriculum to use but then it ends up gathering dust on a shelf or stuffed in a closet. Why does this happen? The reasons are many but a curriculum sitting on the shelf does not benefit the provider, the children or their families.

So ... why do providers using the Gee Whiz curriculum actually USE it?

Because Gee Whiz is...

- 1) Easy-to-use AND flexible enough for providers to "make it their own"
- 2) Enables providers to meet the needs of many developmental levels within all planned experiences
- 3) Relieves the stress of meeting state/national standards
- 4) Includes tools to help providers engage parents/families
- 5) **AND THE BIGGEST REASON:** It is written JUST for family child care providers



We know, you are probably thinking...

"But how will I know that a provider that chooses Gee Whiz is actually using the curriculum AND using it with fidelity?"

We provide a Utilization Checklist to help you evaluate whether a provider who is using the curriculum is using it with fidelity. It provides guidance on what to look and listen for as well as ask when visiting programs using Gee Whiz. You can find this checklist under the, "Information for Quality Specialists" (under "Why Gee Whiz?") on our website.

How Does Gee Whiz Address All Ages & All 10 Developmental Areas?

First, the Gee Whiz curriculum uses picture codes within each experience to help providers connect developmental areas to the activities they do with children. Here are the 10 developmental areas covered in the Gee Whiz curriculum:

- ☑ Language Development 🗨️
- ☑ Approaches to Learning 😊
- ☑ Science Knowledge 🔍
- ☑ Social Studies Knowledge 🌐
- ☑ Creative Arts & Music 🎨 & 🎵
- ☑ Literacy Knowledge 📖
- ☑ Logic & Reasoning ?
- ☑ Math Knowledge ①
- ☑ Social and Emotional Development ❤️
- ☑ Physical Development and Health 🖐️

So ... what does a Gee Whiz activity plan look like?

Experimenting with Movement

(Toddlers–4 years, 🗨️ ? 😊 🖐️ 🔍 ❤️)

Materials:

- Baking sheets OR wooden boards OR pieces of cardboard OR all three!**
- Toy vehicles (cars, trucks, etc.)

- Experimenting challenges children to use higher-order thinking skills as they test their ideas. This experience will invite children to explore how using a ramp to make vehicles move in different ways. Because children at different developmental levels will approach this experience differently, we are providing different options for this experience.
- Set out the materials listed above and invite interested children to use them to experiment. Challenge them to use the materials to make the vehicles move faster and slower.
- **Toddlers/Twos/Young Threes:** This group will probably just have fun pushing the cars/trucks to make them go faster or slower. Provide plenty of language to describe not only how the vehicles move, but how the children's actions affect the speed as well. In addition, you may want to set up a baking sheet, piece of cardboard or board to make a ramp for the children to use.
- **Older Threes/Fours/Advanced Preschoolers:** This group can experiment to see how they can use ramps to make toy vehicles speed up or slow down. As the children explore, engage them in conversations and challenge them to share their thought processes with you.

Picture codes link the activity to the main developmental areas it addresses.

Note the use of common household materials

The first bullet point explains the "why" behind the experience.

Adaptations/modifications for different developmental levels + tips for ELL/DLL children

Open-ended questions included for each Gee Whiz experience

Questions to Spur Thinking

- *What do you think is going to happen when you let go of the (name of vehicle)?*
- *Why do you think the (name of vehicle) went faster than the (name of vehicle)?*
- *What happened when you made the baking sheet steeper? Why do you think that happened?*

What Components are Included in the Gee Whiz Curriculum?

Each month, there are 2 units included in the curriculum. Each unit includes 10 days of hands-on experiences for ALL ages. There are additional components for providers, the children and even their parents/guardians. We give providers the building blocks they need to create an amazing learning environment in their programs! To see samples of all of these components, just visit our website and look under the "Our Product" tab.



Components for Providers

- 2 Teaching Guides (100+ experiences for ALL ages)
- Story Prop & Teaching Tool
- Materials List
- Letters & Literacy Booklet
- Add & Enhance
- Puppet Printable
- FREE Webinar Training



Components for Parents

Available in English & Spanish

- Family Letter
- Digital Family Notes
- All About My Week Reports

Components for Children

- Individualization Web
- Customized/Individualized Lesson Planning Sheet
- Make It! Sheets (2 per unit)
- All About My Week Report *This report is available in English & Spanish!*

Tech is EASY with Gee Whiz!

Using tech can be challenging for providers ... we get it. But Gee Whiz makes tech SUPER easy! All of our materials are either PDF files or JPEG files so they can literally be downloaded at the click of a button. Plus, we have a very helpful step-by-step guide that guides providers through the process. It even contains screenshots so they know what to do next!



If you can click a link, you can use Gee Whiz

Once you subscribe, accessing the curriculum is as easy as
1 ... 2 ... 3!

Sign In

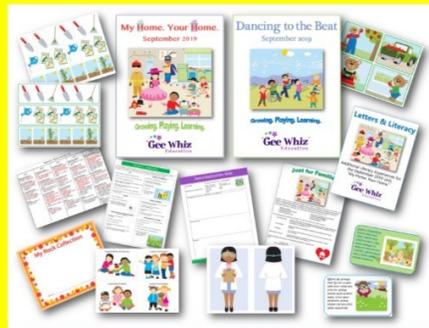
SIGN IN

Click the button and enter your email & your password on the Gee Whiz website



Access

Go to the GWE Customer & click "This Month's Units" to access all of this each month!



Click

Simply click the "download" button to open & save each component

DOWNLOAD

Print if you want or just view on your tablet, computer or phone

Commonly Asked Questions & Answers

Question: Do providers need to sign up for a whole year?

No! Providers control the length of their subscriptions. Once they sign up, [they may cancel your recurring payment at any time.](#)

Question: Does the curriculum cover basic skills (e.g., colors, numbers, shapes and letters)?

Yes! These important skills are integrated into the activities. This is a meaningful way for children to learn these concepts. [All of these skills are covered within the teaching units.](#) Letters are also covered in our new Letters & Literacy component that is included with each unit.

Question: What is the research base behind Gee Whiz?

We are constantly reviewing new research related to family child care and incorporating it into what we do. The establishment of the Gee Whiz Cohort is a great example of this! To review ALL of the research upon which our approach is based, please go to our website and look under the "Why Gee Whiz?" tab OR you can also find this information in the Gee Whiz User's Guide.

Does the program address state standards and national (e.g., Head Start) standards?

Yes! We are still working on creating alignments in some states but most are complete. Just visit our homepage... www.geewhizeducation.com ... and scroll down to the map of the United States. There you will find a pull-down menu that includes the standards documentation. Gee Whiz is also fully aligned with the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework and is approved/recognized as fully aligned in FL, NC, DE, PA, MN, IL, NE ... with several other states "in process."

Does the program include an assessment tool?

The Gee Whiz curriculum is designed to be comprehensive enough that providers can choose the formal assessment tool they feel will work best for their children. Keep in mind that the curriculum addresses ALL 10 developmental areas and is extremely intentional by design. At Gee Whiz, we assert that if you are using the curriculum as designed, your children should score well on any formal assessment tool. Gee Whiz does include authentic assessment tools such as our Observe & Reflect grid to help providers gather and reflect upon anecdotal notes. See User's Guide for more information.

Question: How does Gee Whiz support Quality Specialists as they work with providers?

At Gee Whiz, it is just as important for us to support you as it is for us to support providers. We conduct "train-the-trainer" webinars during the year just for Quality Specialists so they can support providers using Gee Whiz. We also are more than happy to provide flyers for you to share with providers during curriculum fairs, training events, etc. If this is of interest to you, please reach out to us at customerservice@geewhizeducation.com.

Question: What if a provider has trouble accessing the files?

We are here to help! First, we have a super easy-to-follow, step-by-step document that walks providers through this process. We also have recorded, "Introduction to Gee Whiz" webinars available on both our website and our YouTube channel we encourage providers who are new to the curriculum to watch before they begin. Finally, if a provider needs assistance, they can always email us at customerservice@geewhizeducation.com.



Gee Whiz is a Curriculum Providers CAN Afford

At Gee Whiz, we know that providers work with EXTREMELY tight budgets. They do not have hundreds of dollars to spend on curriculum materials. That is why we've priced Gee Whiz to make it fit in most providers budgets. And do not forget ... the Gee Whiz cost per month also includes FREE training webinars not just on the curriculum but other ECE topics as well.



Monthly Price



Quarterly Price



Yearly Price



Does your agency offer start-up or QI grants?

Because Gee Whiz addresses all ages, all developmental areas, helps providers improve the educational environment, engages parents/guardians and so much more, many agencies invite providers to purchase Gee Whiz using start-up or QI (Quality Improvement) grants. Some agencies even purchase subscriptions for their providers. If this is something of interest to you, please reach out to Sherry Mayberry (smayberry@geewhizeducation.com). She can help you set up bulk subscriptions and provide invoices and/or price quotes.