Your Curriculum Solution





2020-2021 Catalog

Gee Whiz ... Where Quality & Value Meet



Welcome to Gee Whiz! Gee Whiz Education is a leader in the early childhood market. Our digital curriculum, which is designed for family child care but is also used in centers, is supported by the latest ECE research. Using a digital model ensures the Gee Whiz curriculum is up-to-date at all times. Gee Whiz is also easy-to-use, affordable and it addresses all ages in one curriculum program. Plus, Gee Whiz is aligned with state and national ECE standards. We are also approved in many states for QRIS programs. Finally, Gee Whiz offers everyone FREE training offered via both live and recorded webinars. It is a complete and easy-to-use package for one very attractive price!

Who's behind Gee Whiz? Here is a little bit about us:

Beth Smith - Partner

bsmith@geewhizeducation.com

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

smayberry@geewhizeducation.com

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

mmayberry@geewhizeducation.com

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.

Why is Gee Whiz Your Best Curriculum Choice?



ALL ages covered (infants through school-age)

If you are a family child care provider, you now have a curriculum written for your mixed-age group. All your ages are covered ... from infants to school-age.

Open-ended questions built into all lesson plans

Asking open-ended questions helps you engage in back -and-forth conversations with children. <u>Isn't this one of the things you are assessed on when your Quality Specialist comes to observe?</u>

Picture codes linking experiences to developmental areas addressed + Learning Indicators (skill) charts

Our lesson plans have picture codes to help you link the activities you do to the 10 developmental areas. Then we go further and provide you with our NEW "Connecting the Dots" component to help you link specific skills to your chosen child assessment tool.

Common household materials become teaching materials

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 on weeknights ...
not weekends

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 your busy schedule.

Works well with formal assessment tools

Why reinvent the wheel? Gee Whiz covers all 10 developmental areas for all ages so you can choose the formal assessment tool that works best for you and their children. Our "Connecting the Dots" piece makes this easy!

Gee Whiz ...

A Curriculum You Will Definitely Use!

We know it has probably happened to you before ... you choose a curriculum but then it ends up gathering dust on a shelf or stuffed in a closet because it is too complicated, takes too much preparation time or it just turned out to be something that did not work for you.

So ... why do providers who choose Gee Whiz actually USE the curriculum?

Because Gee Whiz...

- 1) Is easy-to-use AND flexible enough for you to "make it your own"
- 2) Enables you 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 you engage parents/families
- 5) **AND THE BIGGEST REASON:** It is written for mixed-age groups (just like family child care) and yet centers like it so much now they are using it, too!





We know, you are probably thinking...

"But I've never used a digital curriculum. Is it hard to use?"

At Gee Whiz, we know that using a curriculum that is not printed in book or shipped in a box can be a new experience. Never fear! We have tools to help you access the curriculum, free webinars to help you get started and we are always here to help at customerservice@geewhizeducation.com.

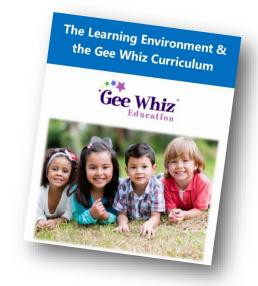
So Much More Than Just "Lesson Plans"



This **Gee Whiz User's Guide** explains everything you 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
- **NEW!** Gee Whiz & Your Day
- Curriculum Components
- And much more...

The **Learning Environment Guide** helps you enhance the learning environment in your programs and prepare for your Environmental Rating Scale assessment. The guide reinforces the importance of your role in the learning environment as well as materials you can offer children within different learning centers.





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

To access all of these <u>Training Guides</u> on the Gee Whiz website, click here.

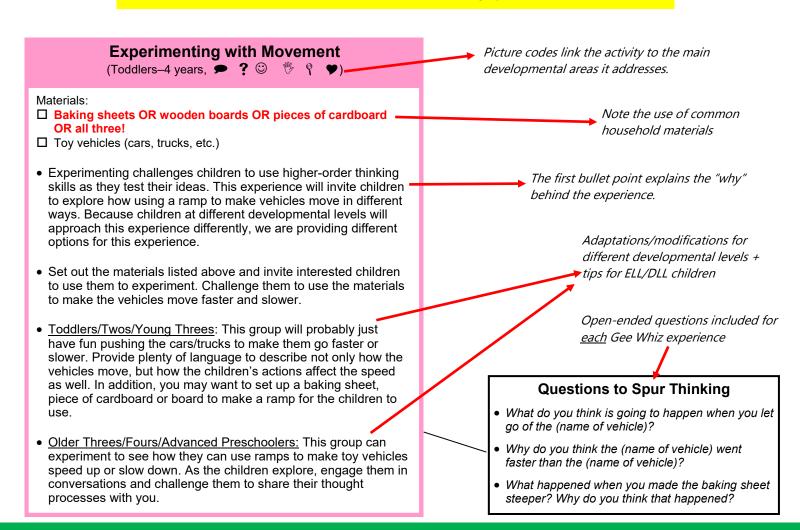
How Does Gee Whiz Address All Ages & All 10 Developmental Areas?

First, the Gee Whiz curriculum uses picture codes within each experience to help you connect developmental areas to the activities you 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 ③
- ☑ Creative Arts & Music 🗸 & 🎜

- ☑ Literacy Knowledge
 豪
- ☑ Logic & Reasoning ?
- ☑ Math Knowledge
 ●
- ☑ Social and Emotional Development ♥
- ☑ Physical Development and Health

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



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 you (the provider), the children and even their parents/guardians. We give you the building blocks you need to create an amazing learning environment in your program.

Components for You

- 2 Teaching Guides (10 days of lesson plans in each guide = 100+ experiences for ALL ages infants through school-age)
- Story Prop (1st unit) & Teaching Tool (2nd unit)
- Materials List
- Letters & Literacy Booklet
- Add & Enhance
- Puppet Printable (2nd unit only)
- FREE Webinar Training
- Customized/Individualized Lesson Planning Sheet
- NEW! Connecting the Dots Booklet





All available in English & Spanish

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

Components for Children

- Individualization Web
- Make It! Sheets (2 per unit)
- All About My Week Report This report is available in English & Spanish!

Want to see more? Check out a sample!

Look What's Planned for 2020-2021

At Gee Whiz, we try to plan activities and experiences around topics that are innovative and easy to expand in many directions. Our goal is to provide you with a starting point from which you can build a curriculum that addresses the unique needs of the children in your care. We will also have a STEM focus as well as a Character Education focus during each unit. Please note that letters and pre -literacy skills will be a part of ALL units PLUS they are also addressed in our Letters & Literacy component. Want to see our detailed outline? Just head to: https://geewhizeducation.com/gee-whiz-curriculum-outline/

	Unit #1	Unit #1 Focus	Unit #2	Unit #2 Focus
September 2020	Super Senses	The Five Senses	Taking Care of Me	Nutrition, Safety, Rest, Exercise
October 2020	Let's Harvest!	Foods that are Harvests How Food Travels	Kitchen Kaboodle	All about Kitchen Activities including Cooking & Baking
November 2020	Exploring Colors & Shapes	Primary & Secondary Colors 2 & 3-Dimensional Shapes	Pretty Patterns	Exploring Patterns Patterns in Nature
December 2020	1, 2, 3 Count with Me	What are Numerals? Using Math	Magnificent Music	Musical Instruments Musicians & Types of Music
January 2021	What Should I Wear?	Clothing & Weather Clothing & Work	Spoons, Plates & Cups	Different Types & Sizes Using in Common & New Ways
February 2021	Building Fun	People Who Build Building Things	ABCs for You & Me	Exploring Letters & Words Why Do People Read & Write?
March 2021	Hands Can. Feet Can.	Exploring What Our Feet & Hands Can Do	Messy & Fun	Messy Things: Art, Mud, Food Cleaning Up
April 2021	Over It. Under It.	Traveling Over, Under & Through	Perfect Pets	Many Different Pets Caring for Pets
May 2021	Let's Climb!	Who Climbs? Jobs that Involve Climbing	What Is Up There?	Things that Fly Making Things Fly
June 2021	Fantastic Farm Life	Farm Animals Planting Crops	A Home for a	Different Types of Homes Animal Homes
July 2021	Exploring the Forest	Forest Animals Mountains, Rivers, Lakes	Off to the Beach	Ocean Animals Beach Fun & Safety
August 2021	When the Sun Goes Down	Nighttime Activities Nocturnal Animals	Adventures with Friends	What is a Friend? Being a Good Friend

What Do the Daily Lesson Plans Look Like?

The first page of each day includes the following:

Picture codes to show the developmental

areas addressed.

Activities with this symbol build gross motor skills because they get children moving.

The first bullet of each activity explains the "why" behind it.

This group experience invites children to learn how they do best...through exploration! This activity is inclusive of all ages.

Be Healthy & Safe!

DAY 2

Fresh air and sunshine are very important to the health and well-being of children and adults. Make sure to have outdoor play time every day...weather permitting.

Teaching Tip of the Day

Unit: Balls, Blankets & Boxes

Today's Focus: Fun with Packing Boxes

Developmental Areas Addressed Today:

Teaching children to push in their chairs after eating is a simple way for them to practice responsibility.

Transition Time

Have the children pretend to deliver packages as they move from activity to activity today.

Get Moving!

Exploring Together: Deliver the Package! (all ages, 🗩 🦻 💝 🤌 🥱 🔘

Materials:

- ☐ Max the Mail Carrier puppet
- Packing/Mailing box with your address printed on the outside (You can get Priority Mail boxes for free at the post office. See link on page 2).
- ☐ Recorded music
- Let's face it...children love to move! This experience incorporates
 music and movement in a fun way. As the children participate, they
 will also engage in dramatic play as they pretend to be mail carriers
 delivering packages. This would be a great experience to take
 outdoors if the weather is nice in your area.
- Sit on the floor with the Max the Mail Carrier puppet and one of the packing/mailing boxes. As the children gather, invite them to explore the box. What does the box look like? Are there any words written on the outside of the box? Challenge more advanced children to point out the words they see and then read them to them. Do they recognize any letters within those words?
- Encourage the children to talk about a time when they may have received a box like this in the mail. What was inside? Who sent the box? How do they think the box got from where it was sent to their own house? Use these discussions to help the children learn more about how boxes get from here to there. Sometimes they fly on airplanes, sometimes they go by truck and many times are delivered on foot. This would be a great time to involve Max in the discussions!
- Next, introduce the game, "Deliver the Package." Use a lawn chair, bucket or any other object to designate the turning around point (about 15 feet from the children). Then, turn on recorded music and give one child a box. Have this child pretend to be a mail carrier as he/she runs to the turning around point and then back to the group to "deliver" the package to the next person. Continue playing until each child has a turn to "deliver the package."

This symbol indicates the activity addresses character education.

Today's Vocabulary

Use some of these words in conversations with children today!

package deliver weight address post office



As younger children participate in activities today, model language by...

- Using words, such as those listed above, while engaging children in conversations during the day's activities.
- Talking with children as they role-play a post office (p. 7).
- Describing children's actions as they use boxes to make music (p. 7).

Questions to Spur Thinking

- What do you see on the box? What do you think those words say?
- How does the mail carrier know where to deliver a package?
- How long do you think it would take to mail a package to (place)?
- Who would you like to mail a package to?
 What would you send him/her?

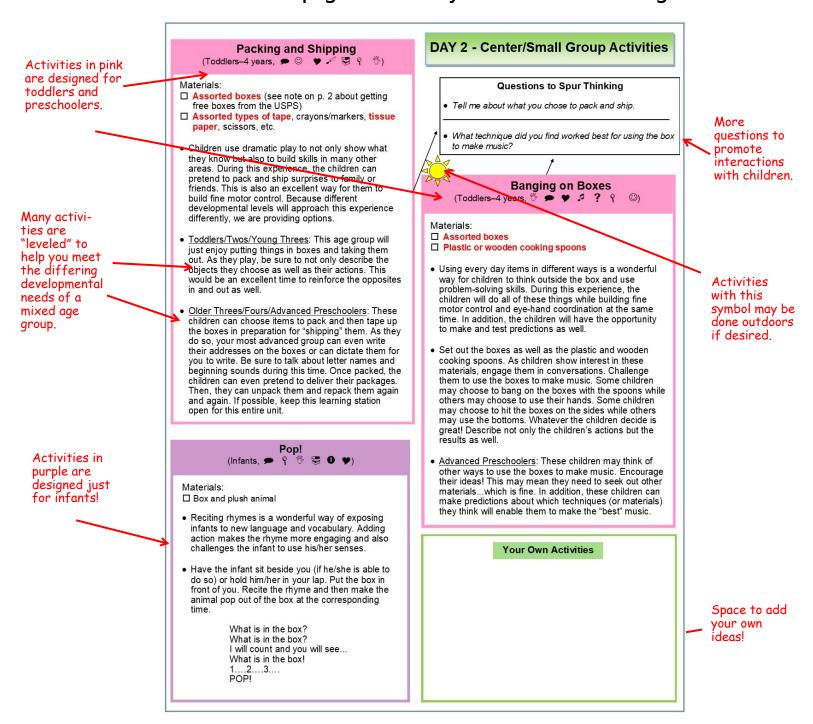


Tips to help you model language and build vocabulary each day.

Questions to get children thinking and help you engage them in meaningful conversations.

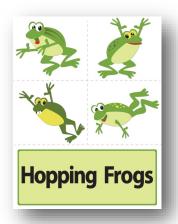
What Do the Daily Lesson Plans Look Like?

The second page of each day includes the following:

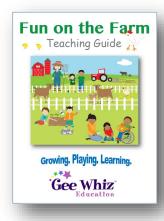


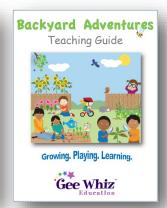
TEACHING GUIDES

2 Teaching Guides are included each month. These booklets contain your lesson plans. Each one contains 10 days of activities + extras for school-age children and those getting ready for kindergarten. Over 100+ total activities for all ages each month.









STORY PROPS

We include a variety of story props to help you share an original story with the children. The ones pictured, for instance, are props that went with a unit we did about the pond. This component is included with the 1st unit each month.

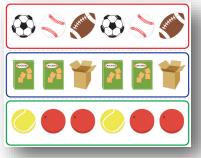
PRINTABLE PUPPET

The second unit each month contains a printable puppet. The puppet may be a paper bag puppet, a paper towel roll puppet, a pocket puppet, etc. You will use the puppet to introduce new concepts and ideas throughout the unit.



TEACHING TOOL

The teaching tool can be used in many different ways. The patterning strips and cards featured here are just one example. Others include lotto games, memory games and even, "I Spy" scenes. This component is included with the 2nd unit each month.

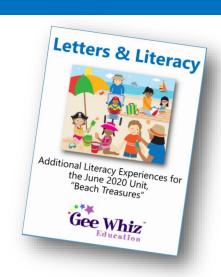




^{*} Please note...all materials pictured are representative of those received and not actual units planned for 2020-2021. The actual materials are still in production.

Letters & Literacy booklet

This component is designed to help you expose children who are ready to letter names and letter sounds. The experiences included in this booklet integrate with the activities in the Teaching Guide to make this process meaningful to children.



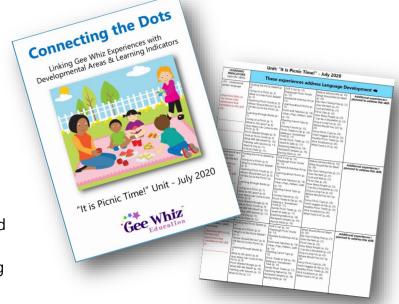
Add & Schwarz - "Creepy Crawford" Interioring this illustration processor and the second proces

Add & Enhance

This component is designed to help you enhance the learning environment for each unit. Included are suggested materials to add to centers that integrate with the unit. There is one Add & Enhance included for each teaching unit. We also include a guide, "The Learning Environment & Gee Whiz" included on our website to help you address many of the areas commonly evaluated on Environmental Rating Scales. Information about this booklet can be found on page 4 of this catalog

NEW! Connecting the Dots

This new component is designed to help you connect the experiences in the Gee Whiz curriculum to developmental areas and Learning Indicators (skills). From there, it is easy for you to connect the specific skills addressed by each experience to the skills you must evaluate on your chosen formal assessment tool. Please check out our recorded webinar on this concept. You can find it by looking under the "Support" tab on our website. You will receive a 16-17 page "Connecting the Dots" booklet with each Gee Whiz unit.



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FAMILY LETTERS

AVAILABLE IN ENGLISH & SPANISH!

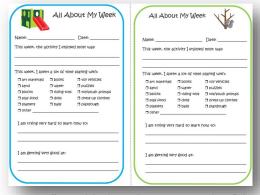
2 Family Letters are included each month. Download and print as many copies as you need OR simply email to parents/ caregivers...the choice is yours!



ALL ABOUT MY WEEK REPORTS

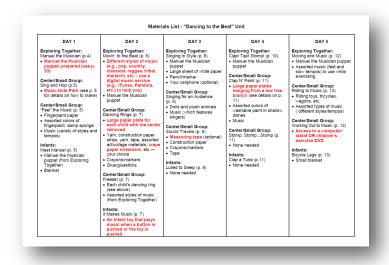
AVAILABLE IN ENGLISH & SPANISH!

These easy-to-use notes help you take a good look at each child as an individual and then help you share this information with parents or caregivers. Need 4 copies? Print 4! Need 2 copies? Print 2. The choice is yours.



MATERIALS LIST

A Materials List is included with each unit so you can gather the items you need ahead of time.



DIGITAL FAMILY NOTES

AVAILABLE IN ENGLISH & SPANISH!

4 Digital Family Notes are included each month. These are .jpeg images (like photos) that you can download and then email or even text to parents. Each note contains a simple activity parents/ caregivers can do at home to reinforce the concepts you are introducing in your program.



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INDIVIDUALIZATION WEBS

A web is included for each Teaching Unit. This component helps you adapt and modify the curriculum based on each child's needs and interests. For detailed information on how the Individualization Web is designed to be used, please consult the Gee Whiz User's Guide. There is an entire section dedicated to individualization and authentic assessment. https://

geewhizeducation.com/gee-whiz-curriculum-users -quide/



RECENTLY ADDED! CUSTOMIZED/INDIVIDUALIZED LESSON PLANNING SHEET

Each Gee Whiz unit now includes a Customized/ Individualized Lesson Planning Sheet you can use to help you record how you plan to adapt and individualize the Gee Whiz experiences + add your own. This planning sheet will come in extremely handy as you work with children with disabilities, suspected developmental delays or other special needs. This form is included in the program files for each unit. It is available in Word (so you can type in the boxes) or PDF (if you prefer to write).

MAKE IT! SHEETS

4 sheets are included each month (2 per unit). These are totally <u>optional</u> activities that can be used to reinforce new ideas and concepts...particularly at home.

^{*} Please note...all materials pictured are representative of those received and not actual units planned for 2019-2020. The actual materials are still in production.

Tech is EASY with Gee Whiz!

Using tech can be challenging ... 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 you through the process. It even contains screenshots so you exactly what to do to access the curriculum components.



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

Once you subscribe, accessing the curriculum is as easy as $1 \dots 2 \dots 3!$

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

How Does Gee Whiz Support Providers?



Aligned & Approved

Gee Whiz is an aligned with state and national standards and is an approved curriculum for QRIS programs in many states. When you choose Gee Whiz as your curriculum, you can be assured that you are addressing the developmental areas and skills you need to each and every day!

Gee Whiz is also founded on strong research and designed with the you in mind. We do not want Gee Whiz to be a curriculum that ends up on the shelf. Instead we want Gee Whiz to be a curriculum that you, and your children, look forward to using every day!

FREE Webinar Training

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. These webinars are also designed to provide a interactive experience where you can not only learn but share ideas. Best of all, they are FREE!

All webinars are recorded and posted both on the Gee Whiz Curriculum for FCC YouTube channel and our website under the "Support" tab. That way, you can access them at a time that works for you!



Commonly Asked Questions & Answers

Question: Do I have to wait for the materials to be shipped?

No! Everything you need is on the Gee Whiz website. We are an online curriculum. Once your payment processes, you will sign in to access and download all the files you need.

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. <u>All of these skills are covered within the teaching units</u>. Letters are also covered in our new Letters & Literacy component that is included with each unit.

Question: 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 pulldown 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."

Question: Does the program include a formal assessment tool?

The Gee Whiz curriculum is designed to be comprehensive enough so you can choose the formal assessment tool you feel works best for your children. Keep in mind that the curriculum addresses ALL 10 developmental areas and is extremely intentional by design. Our new component, Connecting the Dots, will help you link each Gee Whiz experience to specific skills (Learning Indicators). It is then a snap to link these to your chosen formal assessment tool.

Question: What if I have trouble accessing the files?

We are here to help! First, we have a super easy-to-follow, step-by-step document that walks you through this process. You can find this document under our "Support" tab. We also have recorded, "Introduction to Gee Whiz" webinar available on both our website and our YouTube channel which covers this topic. Finally, if you still need assistance, email us at customerservice@geewhizeducation.com.

Question: When will I be charged and can I cancel at any time?

You will be charged monthly, quarterly or yearly (depending on the subscription you choose) and you can cancel at any time. Think of Gee Whiz just like a magazine or newspaper. Your subscription, and associated charges, will continue until you decide to stop. You can do this at any time under "My Account" on our website.





Gee Whiz is a Curriculum You CAN Afford

At Gee Whiz, we know that you work with an EXTREMELY tight budget. We know that you 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 your 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

\$18.95/month

Quarterly Price

\$53.95/quarter

Yearly Price

\$192.95/year

Best value!

SPECIAL DISCOUNT OFFER

Want to save even more? Just use discount code CAT2021 to save \$10 off your <u>first</u> monthly, quarterly or yearly payment.*

*This offer cannot be combined with any other discount or offer. After your first payment, you will automatically be charged at the regular rate until you cancel (e.g., \$18.95/month, \$53.95/quarter or \$192.95/year).