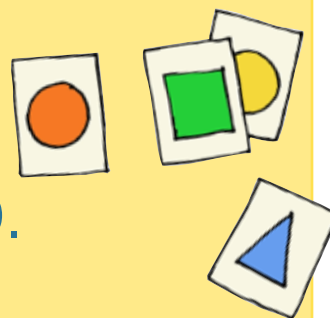


Using the Mississippi Early Learning Guidelines Complete Curricula for Three- and Four-Year-Olds

Volume 1

Lynn Darling, Ph.D.



Mississippi State University
Early Childhood Institute

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Design and Production: Lynn Bell

Illustrations: Lynn Bell

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Introduction

Every cloud has a silver lining.

Hurricane Katrina was a terrible experience for every child, family, and early childhood program in southern Mississippi. It will take a long time for us to fully recover from the storm, and in some ways we were changed forever.

However, the August 29, 2005, hurricane created an opportunity for early childhood programs in Mississippi to recreate themselves – and thanks to the support of many wonderful friends in Mississippi and around the country, we have been able to work together to do so.

This curriculum is one of the results of the Rebuilding After Katrina Initiative of the Mississippi State University Early Childhood Institute. With funding from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, we asked Lynn Darling, Ph.D., of Tupelo, Mississippi, to write a unique teaching guide that would help early childhood teachers and caregivers of three-year-old children put the new Mississippi Early Learning Guidelines (Mississippi Department of Education, 2006) to work.

Dr. Darling compiled a wonderful set of activities. The activities are parts of twelve one-month thematic units, with weekly schedules and ideas for indoor and outdoor learning and play. The book also contains a section, “Understanding the Mississippi Early Learning Guidelines,” that walks the teacher and caregiver through the state’s learning goals for three-year-olds. We have included a reproducible Checklist of Early Learning Objectives that teachers and caregivers can use to record when individual children meet specific objectives such as “The child is learning to do tasks with his/her hands” (Physical Skills 3.1).

Congratulations! – To the W. K. Kellogg Foundation for supporting this project, to the many early childhood educators in Mississippi who contributed to the Mississippi Early Learning Guidelines, and, most of all, to teachers and caregivers across Mississippi who will use this curriculum to help young children become happy, healthy, lifelong learners.

Cathy Grace, Ed.D.
Professor, Curriculum and Instruction
Director, Early Childhood Institute
Mississippi State University

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