

Side By Side

The Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards and The Beyond Cribs & Rattles Curriculum

Beyond Cribs and Rattles (BCR) was written with the Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards in mind. The author of BCR worked on committees that focused on the writing of the standards and trained the standards trainers in communities across the State of Florida. Video footage taken at The Creative Pre-School which is the home of the Beyond Centers and Circle Time Curriculum trilogy was used to help trainers create learning situations for the early care educators that attend their workshops. Every facet of the BCCT, BCR, and BDD curriculum is infused with information that has been written to guide adults working with young children towards the creation of quality environments that will support the total development of young children.

The Beyond Cribs and Rattles Curriculum Book is divided into the same age groupings as the standards:

- Birth to eight months
- Eight to 18 months
- Eighteen to 24 months
- Two years

The Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards for Birth to Three Years are presented using five Domains. These five Domains are as follows:

- Physical Development
- Approaches to Learning
- Social and Emotional
- Language and Communication
- Cognitive Development and General Knowledge

Physical Development is divided into four components:

- Gross motor development
- Fine motor development
- Self-help
- Health

Each of these components are discussed in the text as caregivers are provided information concerning the proper developmental milestones of each age, as well as appropriate feeding techniques, nutrition requirements, and diapering. Developmentally appropriate toilet training techniques are discussed in the 24 to 36 month old section.

Gross and fine motor development is discussed throughout the four age groups and play materials that support development in both areas are discussed.

Approaches to Learning is divided into three components:

- Eagerness and curiosity
- Persistence
- Creativity and inventiveness

How children approach learning opportunities is based on their security with the caregivers around them. Each of the age groups contains a list of caregiver characteristics, which focus on their ability to bond with the infants and toddlers in their care and meet each child's unique developmental needs. The ability to persist at a task begins to develop during the first months of infancy and continues to strengthen through the interactions between the adults and the child. Singing, talking, and reading books help the young child focus. Attentive adults help infants and toddlers feel secure and strive to achieve new skills. Throughout the first three years of life the play materials and experiences provided by the caregivers helps the child develop curiosity and the confidence to try to new things. BCR discusses in each age group the appropriate play materials and experiences that should be offered.

Social and Emotional Development is divided into three components:

- Trust and emotional security
- Self-regulation
- Self-concept

The importance of continuity over time and the attentiveness of caregivers are discussed throughout each age group in the BCR curriculum book. Characteristics of quality caregivers is listed in each section as well as the brain research and theory that supports the

importance of loving, attentive caregivers. The adults in the lives of young children help them develop their sense of self and provide the supports needed so that self-regulation of their behavior is begun during infancy. Many programs for infants and toddlers do not understand their unique emotional and social needs and how the amount and kind of play material, the arrangement of the play environment, and the scaffolding provided by the adults can provide the infrastructure needed for positive social and emotional development. BCR discusses the biting child and provides caregivers with research-based information that will help them plan and arrange appropriate daily experiences designed to support the emotional and social development of each child.

Language and Communication is divided into four components:

- Listening and understanding
- Communicating and speaking
- Early reading
- Early writing

Language and understanding begins to develop at birth and are supported through attentive, loving interactions between the child and the caregivers. BCR discusses language development in a special section titled "Language" within the text for each age group. The developmental milestones for language and understanding expectations are presented. Examples of appropriate adult and child interactions are provided. Research has shown that young children must have a language rich environment in order to develop the skills needed for communication and speaking.

Examples of appropriate language rich experiences are provided throughout each age group. Books and the use of books help develop early reading skills and the fine motor skills needed for later writing are supported by early play on the floor, crawling, and finger feeding. All of this is discussed throughout BCR. The stages of drawing, painting, and cutting are provided in the curriculum and appropriate caregiver scaffolding behaviors are discussed.

Cognitive Development and General Knowledge is divided into three components:

Exploration and discovery
Concept and memory
Problem-solving and creative expression

All positive development in the young child comes through the support of a loving, playful attachment. BCR discusses the importance of these attachments and the attention of caregivers to the interests of the young children in their care. The development of general knowledge is dependent on the adult's encoding of objects and events in the child's world. The choice of play materials and the interactions of caregivers help children develop concepts, the ability to solve problems, and to express themselves creatively in their play. Theory and research are used throughout BCR to help caregivers understand the stages of development experienced by the child, birth to three. Examples of playful experiences that will support this development are provided.

The conclusion of the book *Beyond Cribs & Rattles* is attached to demonstrate its connection to the Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards.

*At the present time the BCCT materials are only written in English but plans are made to translate the new revised versions of the main two books into Spanish.