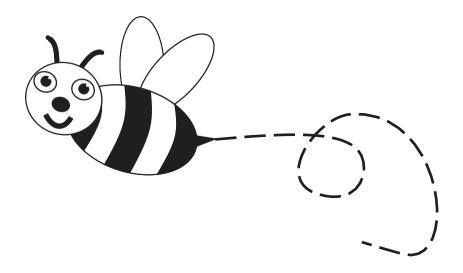


# **Parent Packet**

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# **WINGS Curricular Framework**

#### WINGS: The Ideal Curriculum for Children in Preschool

"If children are offered suitable opportunities to learn, they can do more than just fly; they can soar!"

—Dr. Bisa Batten Lewis

## What is the WINGS curriculum?

**WINGS**: The Ideal Curriculum for Children in Preschool is an active and interactive learning system for effectively organizing and implementing developmentally and culturally appropriate practices based on the interests, needs and skill levels of children from birth to age 5.

# **WINGS** is an acronym for:

Wonder Interests Needs Goals Skills

These elements provide a foundation for organizing and implementing developmentally and culturally appropriate learning experiences for young children.

## The Story of the Bumblebee

It was "known" for many years that the bumblebee couldn't fly. It had been mathematically "proven" by scientists that its **WINGS** were too small and its body was too large. According to the laws of physics and aerodynamics, it was impossible for the bumblebee to fly.



One problem emerged refuting this scientific proof—the bumblebee was indisputably flying! Fortunately, no one had told the bumblebee that it was doing the impossible; therefore, it just kept on flying!

Years later, around the mid 1970's, scientists announced that they had proven that the bumblebee could fly after all.

Thank goodness we didn't tell the bumblebee. Had it known that it was impossible for it to fly, it might have never tried. If it had never tried, the experts would have been proven right!

#### **WINGS Philosophy**

WINGS Curriculum places "The Story of the Bumblebee" at its core, to constantly remind early childhood educators that EVERY CHILD CAN LEARN. It's the job of parents and teachers to mix the right ingredients to encourage learning to happen. Therefore, parents and teachers help children take flight.

#### WING Developmental Goals & Skills

WINGS: The Ideal Curriculum for Children in Preschool is based on the developmental progression of children from infancy through age 5. WINGS Curriculum Developmental Goals & Skills are implemented in the assessment, evaluation and planning processes to connect development and learning in each of the listed domains.

- **Physical Development** (heath, safety, nutrition plus large and small motor skills)
- Social-Emotional Development (feelings about self and others, relationships, behavior)
- Language & Literacy (listening, speaking, reading, writing, communication)
- **Approaches to Learning** (interests, curiosities, initiation, persistence, independence)
- Cognitive Development (math, science, social studies, processes of thought, creativity)

#### **Benefits of WINGS Curriculum**

- ➤ Bases its foundation on sound research and developmental theories on how children appropriately develop and learn.
- ➤ Offers practical strategies for scheduling daily routines, planning activities, and assessing/evaluating learning, in accordance with national standards.
- > Supports children through their many ages and stages of development by the use of appropriate goal-setting, on-going assessment, and customized planning.
- ➤ Affords children consistent opportunities to learn by doing through discovery and exploration.
- ➤ Builds the foundation for children to become successful learners in grade school and throughout life.
- ➤ Promotes the advancement of language and literacy.
- ➤ Provides differentiated instruction techniques to include all learning styles and intelligences in daily routines and activities.
- Offers regular opportunities for intentional teaching in small groups and individually.
- ➤ Develops a sense of responsibility in children causing them to become increasingly more independent.

- > Structures child interaction, while encouraging children to make decisions, reflect on their learning, and develop positive relationships with adults and peers.
- ➤ Allows children to engage in activities that meet their personal interests, cultural/special needs, and academic goals.
- Fosters the development of critical thinking and problem-solving skills.
- ➤ Allows teachers to be flexible and innovative in their care-giving, guidance and teaching.
- Offers traditional and online curriculum support, in addition to diverse staff training opportunities.
- Provides parents on-going, documented evidence of their children's development and learning.
- ➤ Enhances program accountability practices through routine data on individual child progress, pro- gram-wide self-assessments, parent evaluations, and operational planning.

#### **WINGS** at Home

In early childhood education, the role of parents is to support the holistic development of their children working in partnership with the early learning program. At WINGS, we've made it easy for you!

Ask your child's teacher to share the listed resources, so you can support learning at home.

- ➤ WINGS Developmental Goals & Skills chart for your child's age group
- **WINGS Home Connections form** (due every Friday to your child's teacher)
- > The Parent Buzz WINGS Curriculum monthly parent newsletter

Download the **WINGS Curriculum App** (accessible on all computers and mobile devices) for access to stories, books, songs, online games, and resources to support learning and development. The featured educational tools are aligned with WINGS Curriculum Foundations for Monthly Lessons.



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# **WINGS** Curricular Framework

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Wonder	Interests	Needs	<b>G</b> oals	<b>S</b> kills
Anything that causes children to think or speculate curiously, admire, be amazed or in awe, surprised, or puzzled	Anything that is personally meaningful to or draws the attention of the adults and children within the classroom	Developmental, cultural, or exceptional conditions or situations that must be addressed for proper development and learning to occur	Intentional statements differentiating where children are intellectually, physically, socially, and emotionally—as well as how far they can go	Naturally acquired abilities and talents that become more evident as children grow and develop

"There are only two lasting bequests we can hope to give our children. One of these is roots, the other, wings."

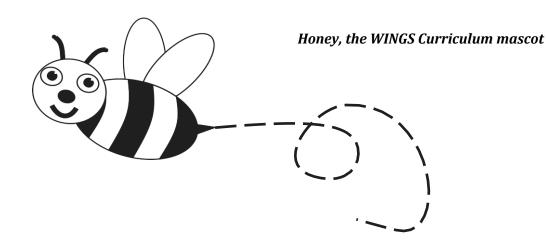
- Hodding Carter

# Children need WINGS!

#### Remember:

"The PARENT is the child's first teacher."

"The HOME is the child's first classroom."



Learn more about WINGS Curriculum at www.WINGScurriculum.com.