



## HighScope Curriculum

### Infants and Toddlers

Active Learning, Trusting  
Relationships, Continuity of Care

Like all HighScope programs, the Infant-Toddler Curriculum is based on the principle that children learn best through direct, hands-on experiences with people, objects, events, and ideas. During this active learning process, infants and toddlers are encouraged to discover the world around them by exploring and playing. Learning and development are anchored by long-term, trusting relationships with caregivers, who are close at hand to support the children as they play. Adults scaffold further learning as they interact with children throughout the day.

#### HighScope INFANT-TODDLER Curriculum Components

The Infant-Toddler Curriculum is the infant-toddler component of HighScope's complete, research-based system of early childhood education and care. Components include:

- **Proven teaching practices** to support children's growth and learning
- **Content areas** for infants and toddlers (ages 0–3)
- **Assessment tools** to evaluate and plan for children's learning and measure program quality
- **A training model** to help caregivers implement the program effectively

#### ► **Content: How and What Infants and Toddlers Are Learning**

In a HighScope setting, children explore, ask and answer questions, solve problems, and interact with other children and adults as they pursue their choices and plans. During this process, they engage in teacher- and self-initiated learning experiences in six child development content areas. Within each content area are key development indicators (KDIs) that identify observable behaviors reflecting a child's knowledge and skills. The Curriculum includes 42 KDIs for the infant-toddler years along with support strategies for each.

Center arrangement, materials and equipment. The space and materials in HighScope infant-toddler settings are arranged to promote active learning within a safe, comfortable and secure environment. Each center is divided into areas organized around specific kinds of play and care, such as small toy area, book area, movement area, art area and spaces for diapering, meals, and naps. The areas are located around the perimeter of the room and the middle space is used for large-muscle movement.

Daily schedules and caregiving routines. HighScope teachers give children a sense of control over the events of the day by planning a predictable yet flexible daily routine. The routine consists of arrivals and departures, choice times, group times, meals, and outside times. These common daily events are scheduled to accommodate the eating, sleeping, and bodily care cycles of each infant or toddler.

Assessment. The Infant-Toddler Child Observation Record (COR) enables caregivers and administrators to assess each child's progress and plan educational experiences that will encourage further learning. This assessment is designed to coordinate with the HighScope Preschool COR. In cases where programs serve a mixed age group, both instruments are used.

## Preschool

Adults and Children — Partners in learning

Active learning — whether planned by adults or initiated by children — is the central element of the **HighScope Preschool Curriculum**. Children learn through direct, hands-on experiences with people, objects, events, and ideas. Trained adults who understand child development and how to scaffold the important areas of learning in the preschool years offer guidance and support.

The preschool component of the HighScope Curriculum includes

- A set of **teaching practices** for adult-child interaction, arranging the classroom and materials, and planning the daily routine.
- **Curriculum content areas** for 3- to 5-year-olds
- **Assessment tools** to measure teaching behaviors and child progress
- **A training model** to help teachers implement the curriculum effectively.

TEACHING PRACTICES In the HighScope Preschool Curriculum

Adult-child interaction. In the HighScope approach teachers and children are active partners in the learning process. This balanced approach to adult-child interaction — also called "intentional teaching" — is critical to the effectiveness of the program. It includes techniques for encouraging learning in specific content areas as well as strategies for helping children resolve conflict.

### ► An Ideal Choice for Pre-K Programs

As a comprehensive, research-based system — one that includes child instruction, staff development, and accountability assessment — HighScope meets the needs of states and school districts seeking a proven Pre-Kindergarten model. (For details, see our [Pre-K Prospectus](#) HighScope is compatible with state standards for program implementation and early childhood learning as well as with Head Start Performance Standards and Child Outcomes.

Classroom arrangement, materials, and equipment. The space and materials in a HighScope setting are carefully arranged to promote active learning. The center is divided into interest areas organized around specific kinds of play; for example, block area, house area, small toy area, book area, sand-and-water area, and art area.

Daily routine. HighScope teachers give preschoolers a sense of control over the events of the day by planning a consistent daily routine that enables the children to anticipate what happens next. Central elements of the preschool daily routine include the plan-do-review sequence, small- and large-group times, greeting time, and outside time.

#### Curriculum Content

Key developmental indicators. The curriculum is built around teacher- and child-initiated learning activities in five main curriculum content areas: approaches to learning; language, literacy, & communication; social and emotional development; physical development, health, and well-being; and arts and sciences. Within these areas are 58 key developmental indicators (formerly called "key experiences") — observable early childhood milestones that guide teachers as they plan learning experiences and interact with children.

#### ASSESSMENT

Developmentally oriented instruments for assessing child progress and program quality. The Preschool COR (Child Observation Record) is used to evaluate child progress in HighScope Preschool Programs. In addition, HighScope's Preschool Program Quality Assessment (PQA) offers a powerful tool for evaluating program quality in seven key areas: learning environment, daily routine, adult-child interaction, curriculum planning and assessment, parent involvement and family services, staff qualifications and staff development, and program management.