

Rise and Shine Daycare LLC

Curriculum Statement

Our program serves children ages 12 months through 4 years old and implements the "**Lil Dreamers Dream Big**" curriculum, which is aligned with the Maryland Early Learning Standards and Healthy Beginnings (for children 0-1 year).

Curriculum Overview

Lil Dreamers Dream Big is a comprehensive, developmentally appropriate curriculum that provides structured learning experiences across all developmental domains: cognitive, language and literacy, social-emotional, physical development, and approaches to learning. The curriculum is designed to meet the needs of mixed-age groups and provides differentiated activities for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers.

Alignment with Maryland Standards

We ensure that all instructional materials and daily activities are aligned with Maryland's state requirements:

- **For children 12–36 months:** We utilize the **Healthy Beginnings** guidelines to support developmental milestones in the areas of Personal and Social Development, Language, and Cognitive Growth.
- **For children 3–4 years:** Our curriculum is fully aligned with the **Maryland Early Learning Standards (MELS)**, focusing on Literacy, Mathematics, Social Studies, and Science.

How We Implement the Curriculum

Daily Structure

We follow the curriculum's recommended daily routine including circle time, small group activities, learning centers, outdoor play, meals, and rest periods. Each day includes teacher-directed activities and child-initiated exploration time.

Thematic Units

The curriculum provides monthly themes with weekly lesson plans. We implement these themes through intentional teaching during circle time, planned activities, and environmental setup. Current themes are reflected in our learning materials, dramatic play props, books, and art activities.

Developmental Domains

Activities are planned to address all developmental domains daily. For example, a single activity may include fine motor skills (cutting), language development (vocabulary), cognitive skills (following directions), and social-emotional learning (sharing materials).

Individualization

While following the curriculum framework, we adapt activities based on individual children's developmental levels, interests, and abilities. For children with IEPs/IFSPs, we incorporate their goals into curriculum activities. The curriculum's multi-level approach allows younger toddlers and older preschoolers to participate in the same themed activities at appropriate complexity levels.

Assessment Integration

We use the curriculum's embedded assessment tools to track children's progress toward Maryland Early Learning Standards. Observations from curriculum activities inform our quarterly developmental assessments and guide our planning.

Family Engagement

We share curriculum themes, vocabulary, and activities with families through monthly newsletters, daily reports, and posted lesson plans. Families receive suggestions for extending learning at home aligned with current curriculum topics.

Montessori Integration

We complement Lil Dreamers Dream Big with Montessori materials and approaches, particularly in practical life skills, sensorial development, and self-directed learning. The curriculum's emphasis on hands-on learning aligns well with Montessori philosophy.

Cultural Responsiveness

We adapt curriculum activities to reflect the diverse backgrounds of our enrolled families, incorporating multicultural materials, books, music, and celebrations throughout the year while following the curriculum's thematic structure.

Integration of Montessori Materials and Equipment

To support our curriculum, we provide a prepared environment using authentic Montessori toys and equipment, including:

- **Practical Life Materials:** Child-sized pouring, scooping, and cleaning tools to develop fine motor skills and self-help habits.

- **Sensorial Equipment:** Blocks, cylinders, and textures that allow children to classify and understand their physical world.
- **Preschool Learning Centers:** Dedicated areas for dramatic play, library/literacy, and manipulative math toys that encourage self-directed exploration.

Implementation and Lesson Planning

1. **Selection:** We select monthly themes from Creative Curriculum (e.g., "Trees" or "Clothes") and supplement them with hands-on activities from Learning with Kelsey.
2. **Assessment:** We observe the children's interactions with the Montessori materials to determine their "readiness" for the next level of complexity.
3. **Communication:** Monthly lesson plans and newsletters are shared with families to bridge the gap between school and home learning.

This curriculum provides the framework for intentional, standards-aligned teaching while allowing flexibility to respond to children's individual needs and interests.