 Scope

This curriculum would center on developmentally appropriate practice for the education of preschool age children. It would encompass best practice in terms of play-based learning with appropriate learning goals for young children. The curriculum would provide a framework within which teachers could make choices appropriate to their individual classes. The aspect that would set this curriculum apart is the weaving of Biblical stories and values in the curriculum. In addition to physical, social, emotional and cognitive learning, the importance of spiritual learning would be examined. It would incorporate developmentally appropriate Biblical learning. It would not be geared to a particular denomination and would not proselytize.

Tentative Outline

1. Early Learning Programs in the Church
   a. What does it look like?
   b. What are the particular challenges?
   c. How do we weave all areas of development into our curriculum?
2. Developmentally Appropriate Practice
   a. Philosophy
   b. Goals for children
   c. Social/emotional
   d. Physical
   e. Cognitive
   f. Spiritual
3. Learning Areas of the Classroom
   a. Activities that can be included in each area
   b. Importance of Learning Environment
4. Bible Stories and Concepts in Everyday Learning
5. Sample Theme Based Learning correlated with Appropriate Bible Stories
6. Bringing Families into Our Programs
   a. Take home materials for parents
   b. Outlines for parent workshops

7. Resources – Appendix
   a. Telling the Story – Sharing Bible Stories with Young Children
   b. Prop Boxes incorporating Biblical themes
   c. Fingerplays and Songs
   d. Activities and Recipes

Rationale

There are few faith-based curricula available that incorporate developmentally appropriate learning in the design scheme. As the former director of a faith-based early learning program, I struggled with finding a curriculum that was faith-based AND truly appropriate for young children. As I have led workshops with faith-based teachers and directors, I hear over and over again – “What do you suggest for curriculum?”

Author

I have been active in SECA for over 25 years. I understand the challenges of faith-based programs in the South. I have over 30 years experience working with young children in a variety of settings. The majority of the programs with which I have worked have been faith-based. I have been teaching Sunday School for young children throughout my career. I have written Sunday School curricula for the United Methodist Publishing House. I have written 7 books, Bible Zone Live for Preschoolers, an undated play-based curriculum for Sunday School and other weekday settings. I co-authored Sunday School on a Shoestring, which incorporated ways of making materials for your classroom to save money while providing a rich learning environment. I serve as a Regional Assessor for NAEYC accreditation, giving me a strong base of knowledge of appropriate learning.
EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

July, 2007 - Present   Regional Accreditation Assessor  
                      National Association for the Education of Young Children

                      Columbus State University, Columbus, GA

July, 2010 - June 2011  Technical Assistance Consultant  
                      NAEYC Accreditation Facilitation Project  
                      Georgia Association on Young Children

August, 2006 - May, 2010  Education Specialist  
                      Coastal Heritage Society

August, 2006 - October 2007   Interim Education Director  
                      Wesley Community Center Early Childhood

October, 2003 - June, 2006  Training and Technical Assistance Consultant  
                      Smart Start Program

June, 2006 - June, 2008  CDA Instructor  
                      Chatham Childcare Collaborative

January, 2005 - December, 2005  CDA Instructor,  
                      Coastal Georgia Community College

March, 2002 - December, 2007  Adjunct Instructor, Early Childhood Education  
                      Central Georgia Technical College, Macon, GA

May, 1995 - June, 2004  Methodist Home for Children and Youth, Macon, GA  
                      Church consultant to congregations in South Georgia on issues  
                      relating to children's ministries and the Bishop's Initiative on  
                      Children and Poverty. Assisted church congregations in setting up  
                      child care  
                      centers and preschools in their church building and/or improving  
                      the quality of their present center. Assisted Open Door  
                      Community House in establishing a child care center to provide  
                      high  
                      quality care for children of low income families.
May, 1997 - March, 2002
Juliette Gordon Lowe National Center
Savannah, GA
Conducted public tours, Girl Scout orientations and house tours, and led Girl Scout special interest sessions.

July, 2001 - August, 2002
Training Coordinator
Chatham Childcare Collaborative
Savannah, GA 31406

July, 1985 - August, 1994
St. Luke United Methodist Church, Columbus, GA
Director of Children’s Ministries.
Duties included: Planning and implementation of church program for children, scheduling and supervision of 7 nursery workers, supervisor for Director of Child Development Center [program employing 48 and serving 174 children], supervisor for Director of Preschool [program employing 12 and serving 62 children], teacher training for church teachers and teachers in weekday program. I oversaw the design, construction, and equipping of our new Center -- including curriculum and policy design.

October, 1984 - December, 1984
Substitute teacher, Child Development Center

May, 1982 - May, 1984
Founding Director of Mother's Morning Out Program
Porterfield United Methodist Church, Albany, GA

Ravenwood Academy, Meigs, GA
Media Specialist; Reading enrichment teacher for 1st and 2nd graders,
Reading readiness program for Kindergarten students. 8th grade reading teacher.

October, 1977 - August, 1978
Roddenbery Memorial Library, Cairo, GA
Children’s Librarian

August, 1974 - March, 1977
Leonard St. Kindergarten, High Point, NC

August, 1973 - May, 1974
St. Andrews Presbyterian College, Laurinburg, NC
Senior History Teaching Assistant

VOLUNTEER POSITIONS:
-- former Children’s Coordinator for the South Georgia Conference of United Methodist Church  
-- Sunday School and Vacation Bible School teacher  
-- Leader of courses - Conference Methodist classes for teachers of children, Early Childhood  
    Institutes, Healthy Start, Nurturing Program, Puppetry Workshops, Better Brains for Babies Project, etc.  
-- Board member of Georgia Association for Young Children, Historian, Conference Chair, SECA [Southern Early Childhood Association] Representative for Georgia, SECA Chair of Public Policy Commission, SECA representative on NAEYC [National Association for the Education of Young Children] Affiliate Council  
-- Board member and President of Columbus Regional Council on Child Abuse [1984-94]  
-- Trainer in Nurturing Program and First Steps program  
-- First Aid/CPR Instructor for American Red Cross  
-- Co-chair of the Dependent Care Committee, Savannah Step-Up Poverty Initiative  
-- Design and program consultation, Lady Bamford Early Learning Center

EDUCATION:  
BA with honors in History and American Studies, St. Andrews Presbyterian College, Laurinburg, NC  
Masters in Education, including Educational Technology, University of North Carolina - Greensboro  
Courses for GA certification

OTHER TRAINING:  
Certified lab leader for teachers of young children  
Training in workshops on Generation X and Baby Boomers  
Puppetry Workshops  
Participation in North Carolina Storytelling Festival  
Train the Trainer - ACET  
Child Care Health Consultant Training, Healthy Child Care Georgia  
CDA [Child Development Associate] Initiative Training for Instructors and Advisors  
NAEYC Accreditation Training, December, 2005 and July, 2007  
Better Brains for Babies – Train the Trainer  
Certified Playground Safety Inspector  
Environmental Rating Scales training [ECER, ITER, FDCR]

MEMBERSHIPS:  
Wynnton United Methodist Church  
Council on Child Abuse  
GAYC, NAEYC, SECA  
Coastal Heritage Society  
National Storytelling Association  
American Association of Children’s Museums
OTHER:
Contract Editor for United Methodist Publishing House – Live B.i.G. curriculum
Writer and Editor for 3/4 Curriculum for United Methodist Publishing House
Writer for Teacher in the Church School Today
Writer for Standing at the Door (1999) [Revision 2000]
Writer for Children's Teacher [United Methodist Publishing House]
Co-Author, Sunday School on a Shoestring: Exciting Learning Environments on a Budget
Instructor for Chatham County Child Care Collaborative, Resource and Referral Agency and Family Day Care providers
Presenter at Georgia Association on Young Children Conference
Presenter at Southern Early Childhood Association Conference
Presenter at National Association for the Education of Young Children Conference
Presenter at National Association for the Education of Young Children Institute for Professional Development

Team member for national United Methodist Training Reducing the Risk of Abuse in the Church
Member of Bishops Initiative Task Force on Children and Poverty
Assessor/ Internal Verifier for National Center for Professional Competence
Team member for UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) training, Tragic Times, Healing Moments
Provider of disaster child care services through United Methodist Committee on Relief
Author, Bible Zone Live [Preschool] - United Methodist Publishing House [6 volumes]