



Early Learners

Preschool and Kindergarten Curriculum

This is Us



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Early Learners Mission Statement



Our mission is to **create inclusive learning communities for children birth through Kindergarten** and their families. We elevate student and family engagement through **hands on learning, open ended play, family support**, and community outreach. This nurturing partnership enhances **cultural identity, critical thinking, emotional intelligence, and academic growth**, in order to bring relevant contributions to the world.



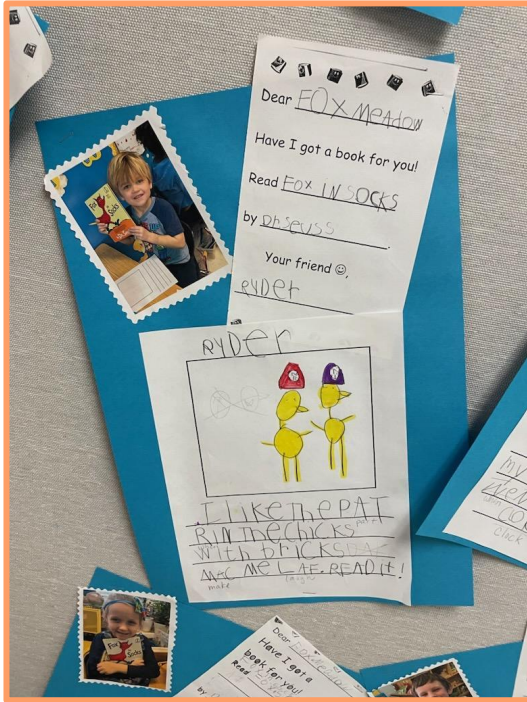
Currently in Place

Preschool

- HighScope Curriculum Resource
 - Aligned to Illinois Early Learning and Development Standards
 - Framework for classroom environment
 - Supports for social-emotional learning
 - Lesson ideas
 - Values student-led learning
- Need consistent units and equitable learning
- Teachers voiced:
 - Need for training around curriculum and curricular expectations



Currently in Place



Kindergarten

- U-46 Kindergarten Framework
 - Supports play-based learning
 - Informs curriculum and assessment
- Curricular Resources
- Integrated Units
 - Aligned to Kindergarten Standards
 - Teachers voiced:
 - concern about length of units
 - concern about students interest and engagement
 - concern about assessment

Needs Assessment



“Ensure that no matter when P-2 teachers convene, there is consistent messaging that emphasizes whole child approaches, playful learning, and developmentally informed instructional practices.”

~ National P-3 Center Audit

“Standards are not clarified for teachers to assure that students are mastering the required learning at necessary levels so they are more than equipped to be successful meeting and exceeding the standards of the IAR. The curriculum needs more suggestions for student activities, teaching approaches, resources, and materials that teachers can select from to respond to individual student needs.”

p. XII, Equity Audit of School District U-46

Rationale



There is an identified need for a curriculum that...

- Meets the developmental needs of preschool and kindergarten students
- Is highly engaging and rigorous for early learners
- Embeds playful collaboration throughout
- Provides a similar teaching framework between preschool and Kindergarten
- Builds on concepts developed in preschool and aligns with 1st grade standards
- Addresses the unique needs of multilingual students and students with IEPs within the core curriculum
- Can inform MTSS processes, interventions, and disproportionality

Stakeholder Involvement

- Teachers
 - Surveys
 - Workgroups
 - District Planning Days
- Early Learner Instructional Coaches
- MMED Coaches and Coordinators
- Curriculum and Instruction Content Coordinators
- Administrators





Units of Study

Units were built using the district model for integrated units.

Preschool	Kindergarten
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. All About Us - The First 30 Days2. On the Farm3. Animals All Around Us4. In the Kitchen5. Brrr...It's Cold6. In the Community7. I Build, I Create8. The Great Outdoors9. Changes, Changes	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. All About Us - The First 30 Days2. Farm to Table3. Traditions and Celebrations Around Us4. Animals and Their Environments5. My Community6. I Build, I Create7. All About Our Planet8. The Whys and Wonders of Water



• Alignment to the District Strategic Plan

Ensure that all students are engaged in rigorous learning, receive quality core instruction, and can develop the skills they need for better life chances* and opportunities.

1. We will implement and support a challenging and standards-based curriculum across all content areas.
 - a. Priority 1: The task and student work are at the appropriate taxonomy level or higher and demonstrate the standard as it is intended.
 - b. Priority 2: Student teammates interact equally as they make connections between their learning and their teammates' learning.
 - c. Priority 3: We assess and provide feedback on what we value, deeper authentic learning aligned to grade-level standards.

*Fit in the District Scope and Sequence

Preschool integrated units include eight developmental domains: language arts, mathematics, social-emotional, science, social studies, fine arts, physical development and health, and English language development.

Kindergarten integrated units include language arts, science, social studies and social-emotional learning:

- **Kindergarten** units included in the district **Language Arts** scope and sequence
 - Narrative, Informational, and Opinion Writing Pathways
 - Listening, Speaking, Reading, Writing
- **Kindergarten** units included the district **Science** scope and sequence
 - Life Science
 - Physical Science
 - Earth and Space Science
- **Kindergarten** units included in the district **Social Studies** scope and sequence
 - Civics
 - History
 - Economics and Financial Literacy
- **Kindergarten** units include the district **Mathematics** scope and sequence





Assessment

Preschool

- The Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP) will continue to be the observational assessment tool used to measure student growth and rate portfolio items

Kindergarten - State Requirement

The Kindergarten Individual Development Survey (KIDS) will be done only in the fall per state requirements and no longer as part of the district Kindergarten report card three times a year

Kindergarten - District Requirement

- Kindergarten will move to a standards-based portfolio to inform the report card and aligned to elementary school




• Resources and Materials Needed

 The **play-based model** used in preschool and kindergarten requires toys and materials in centers of learning that support the unit.

- Children are surrounded by the theme
- Children become deeply engaged in their learning

Classrooms have some books and play materials in the classroom.

In order to best support the play-based learning model, more **hands-on materials and books** aligned to each unit are proposed for purchase.

- Approximately five books in the language of instruction
 - Toys and materials
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Cost



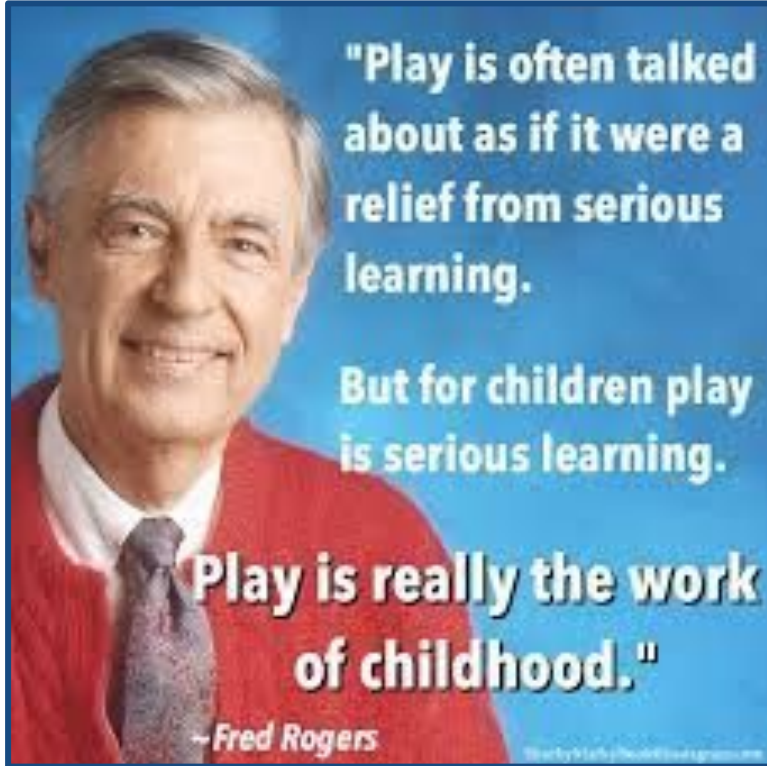
Books and Materials for Units Starting School Year 2023-2024	Number of Classrooms	Number of Units	Unit Cost	Total Cost	Cost Per Pupil
Preschool	60	9	\$500.00	\$270,000.00	approx. \$216.00
Kindergarten	160	8	\$500.00	\$640,000.00	approx. \$256.00
TOTAL	220	17	\$500.00	\$910,000.00	

Professional Development



Professional Development Plan:

Teachers	Paraprofessionals	Administrators
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• July - Train the Trainer• New Teacher Orientation• August - DCD• October - PPD• January - DCD• March - Early Learners Conference• Ongoing job-embedded coaching	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• August PPD• October PPD• March - Early Learners Conference• Ongoing job-embedded coaching	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• June - Preschool Admin.• July - Admin. Retreat• Ongoing - Network or Community of Practice meetings, with Coaches and Early Learners Admin.



Thank You!

Questions?