

Lesson Plans

Child Care Learning Centers: 591-1-1-.03(1) - The Center shall provide a daily planned program of varied and developmentally appropriate activities that promote the social, emotional, physical, cognitive, language and literacy development of each child. Center Staff shall use a variety of teaching methods to accommodate the needs of the children's different learning styles. **591-1-1-.03(2)** - Current lesson plans shall be kept on site and reflect appropriate instruction practices and activities to support children's development. The Center shall have sufficient and varied play and learning equipment and materials to support the above program of activities in all developmental areas.

Family Child Care Learning Homes: Although there is no rule requirement for Family Child Care Learning Home (FCCLH) providers to develop and/or to use lesson plans, FCCLH programs are still required to plan and to provide a variety of daily activities appropriate for the chronological ages and the developmental levels of the children enrolled in the Home. Developing and using a lesson plan is a best practice and ensures that children are exposed to developmentally appropriate activities and to a variety of teaching methods.

Rule Type: Non-Core Rule

Intent of the Rule

To provide opportunities for children to choose from a variety of activities and materials appropriate for specific age groups and to carry out the activities with attention to children's individual needs and developmental levels. To provide structure for children's activities by ensuring that staff thoughtfully consider and plan each activity throughout the day.

Clarification

Each child in care is unique, but all children from infant to school-age benefit from a variety of developmentally appropriate activities that support the growth of the whole child. Staff support children's growth by planning appropriate activities and by planning days with a variety of learning centers and activities that are safe and developmentally appropriate. A written lesson plan for each day gives staff and parents/guardians a common understanding and gives them the ability to compare the program's actual performance to the stated intent.

Indicators

- ✓ Lesson plans that offer varied, developmentally appropriate activities shall be developed for each group each day.
 - Recommendation: Consider children's unique differences (e.g., children of the same age may not be on the same developmental level or have the same interests). Lead teachers should be responsible for developing lesson plans for their classrooms and should have a plan in place in case they are absent.
 - Organizational TIP: Blank lesson plan forms are available on the Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning website. (See resources below.)
 - TIP: Refer to the Georgia Early Learning and Development Standards (GELDS) and the Planning Educational Activities for Children (PEACH) websites when developing lesson plans to ensure that they include activities from each developmental domain area, are age-appropriate, and support individual rates of development. (See resources below for the links to these two websites.)
 - Note: Develop lesson plans based on the children's interests. Talk with the children; listen to their conversations; and watch their play to see what they may be interested in learning. Develop the

lesson plans based on those interests and incorporate concepts into those topics. For example, if children are excited to watch construction trucks outside the playground fence, allow further exploration of the topic by creating a variety of activities based on that interest to meet their social, emotional, cognitive, physical, language and literacy development needs. By using a topic of interest, children are more excited to participate in the planned activities.

- ✓ Child care program staff shall use a variety of teaching methods to accommodate the needs of the children's different learning styles.
 - Note: A child's learning style refers to the preferential way in which the child absorbs, processes, comprehends, and retains information. Since each child is likely to have a different learning style, children need a variety of activities within the lesson plan to engage the entire class. Understanding how children learn will make it easier to create appropriate lesson plans for child care programs. Although different learning styles might develop as children get older, children in early childhood programs will generally learn in a combination of three ways:
 - Visual: Children with a visual style of learning will remember information best when presented with pictures or images. Visual learners will often recognize numbers and letters better than peers with another type of learning style.
 - Auditory: Auditory learners are best able to understand when they hear information. In early education, auditory learners are more likely to prefer listening to stories or telling stories as a major method of understanding information.
 - Kinesthetic: Children with a kinesthetic learning style are the physically active members of the class. The children learn best by manipulating objects and engaging in physical activities to learn the material.
 - Reminder: Early education is not always easy to manage, but it is possible to incorporate a combination of teaching styles into lesson plans. Teachers can engage the entire class by providing visuals, telling stories, and offering hands-on activities that explore the curriculum children need to learn. Lesson plans should include a balance of teacher-directed and child-directed activities. More time should be allotted for small group or individual experiences so that the teacher can talk with and explain concepts to the children as they participate in the activities.
 - Tip: Observe each child in the classroom to determine their individual learning style. Based on the results, include a variety of activities in lesson plans to accommodate each learning style.
- ✓ Child care programs shall keep current lesson plans on site.
 - Note: Lesson plans should be readily available in each classroom and used by child care program staff throughout the day.
 - Recommendation: Post lesson plans on the classroom wall or near the classroom entrance.
- ✓ Child care programs shall have sufficient and varied play and learning equipment and materials to support the activities included in the lesson plans.
 - Tip: Before each week starts, have the teacher(s) in each classroom gather materials needed for the activities in the lesson plan.
 - Note: Materials and equipment should accommodate each child's learning style (e.g., CDs or books on tape for auditory learners, flannel boards or pictures for visual learners, and blocks or sand/water table for kinesthetic learners).

Resources:

Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning blank lesson plan forms

<http://www.decal.ga.gov/BftS/FormList.aspx?cat=Child Care Learning Center>

Diverse Learning Styles in Early Childhood Education

<http://education.cu-portland.edu/blog/early-education/diverse-learning-styles-in-early-childhood-education/>

GELDS

www.gelds.decal.ga.gov

PEACH

www.peach.decal.ga.gov