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# Implementing A Curriculum Responsively: Supporting Diverse Children and Families

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# Preschool Curricula

Provide a developmentally appropriate approach, content, and teaching strategies to support all children's development and learning.





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# The Process of Implementing a Curriculum Responsively and Effectively is a Synergy Between :

The children and families in the group

The plans and materials in the curriculum

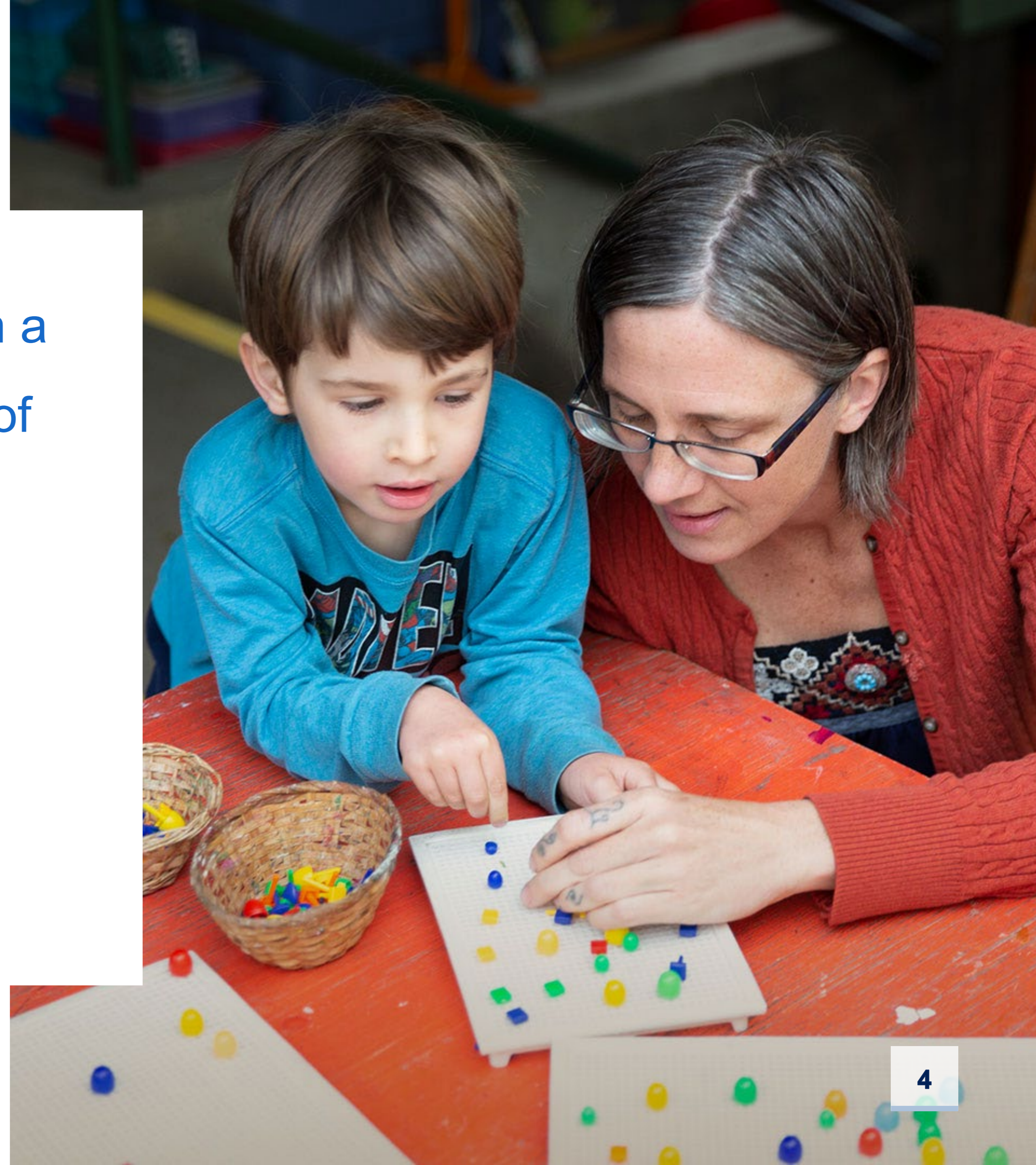
The teacher's knowledge of individual children and what's offered by the curriculum



# Early Childhood Curricula

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- Designed to support all Children within a particular age–group across domains of learning and development.
- Provide learning goals
- A scope and sequence
- Guidance on daily schedule

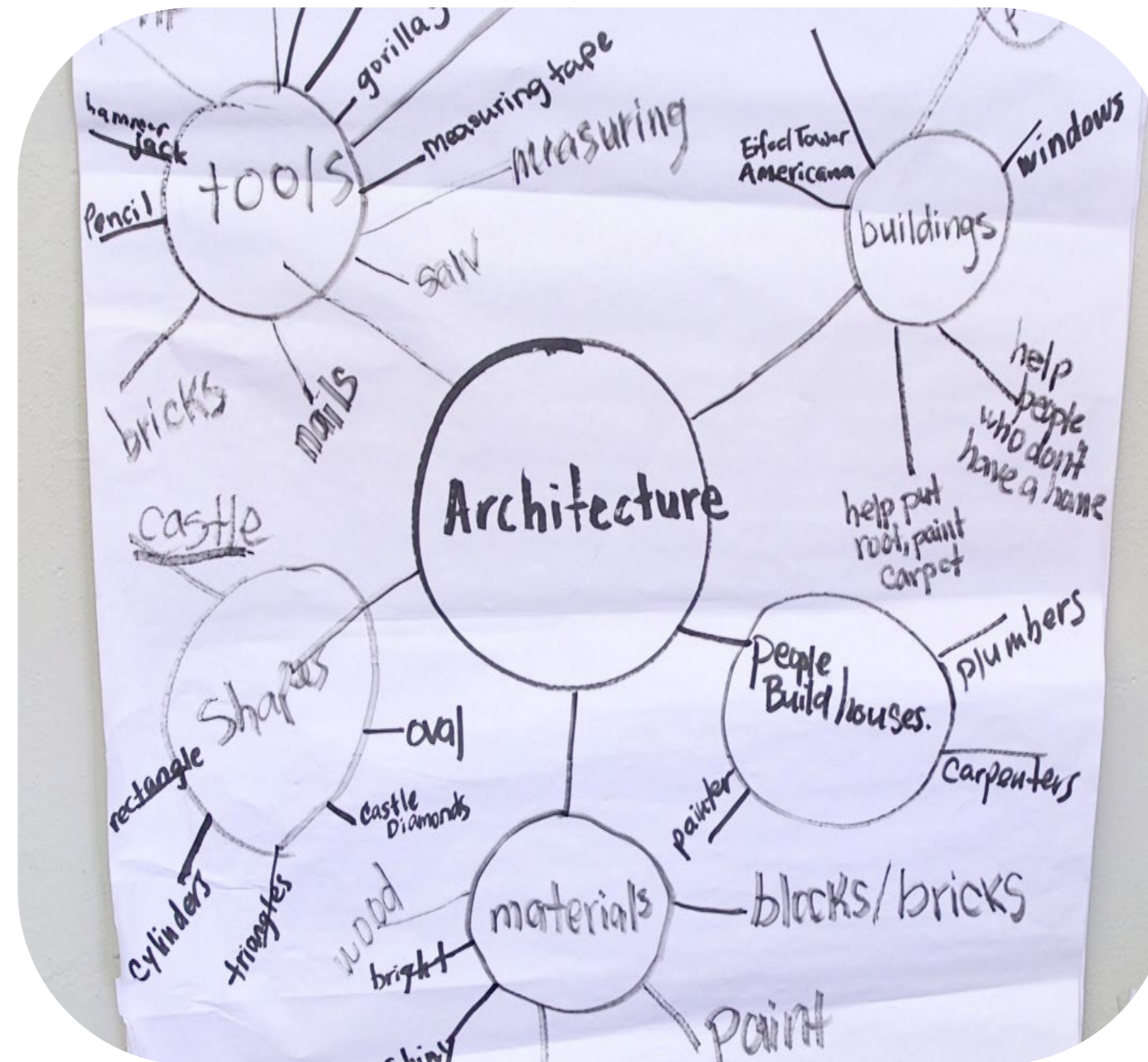




# Curricula Offer Guidance on:



Learning environments



Learning experiences



Adult - child interactions



# The Children and Families in the Group Represent Diversity in:

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- Development, strengths and needs
- Interests
- Race and ethnicity
- Cultural backgrounds, values, beliefs and traditions
- Linguistic backgrounds and abilities; home/tribal languages
- Socio-economic backgrounds





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# Early Childhood Educators

Intentionally follow the curriculum's approach and guidance while using their knowledge of children and families in the group

Implement the curriculum in ways that are relevant and meaningful to individual children and families





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# Active Role of Educators

What do I know about each child?

What does my curriculum offer?

How do I implement the curriculum to support individual children's development and learning?





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# What Guidance is Provided by Preschool Curricula to Support Effective and Equitable Implementation of the Curriculum?

Guidance to implement the curriculum in ways that support:

- Culturally diverse learners
- Multilingual learners
- Individual children's learning and development





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# Review of 17 Preschool Curricula

[Big Day for PreK™](#)

[Connect4Learning®](#)

[Core Knowledge® Preschool Sequence](#)

[Curiosity Corner, 2nd Edition](#)

[DLM Early Childhood Express®](#)

[Frog Street Pre-K](#)

[Frog Street Threes](#)

[Galileo® Pre-K Online Curriculum](#)

[HighScope Preschool Curriculum](#)

[Learn Every Day™: The Preschool Curriculum](#)

[Opening the World of Learning™ \(OWL\) ©2014  
Pre K for ME](#)

[The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool, 6th Edition](#)

[The InvestiGator Club® Just for Threes 2018 Learning System](#)

[The InvestiGator Club® PreKindergarten Learning System  
2018](#)

[Tools of the Mind®](#)

[World of Wonders](#)



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# Criteria for Effective, Comprehensive, Preschool Curricula

1. Evidence base for child outcome
2. Research-based curriculum
3. Scope and sequence
4. Alignment with the ELOF
5. Learning goals for children
6. Ongoing child assessment
7. Parent and family engagement
8. Professional development and materials to support implementation
9. Learning experiences and interactions
10. Learning environments and routines
11. Cultural responsiveness
12. Linguistic responsiveness
13. Individualization for children with disabilities and other special needs
14. Individualization based on interests, strengths, and needs.



# Rating of the Curricula



No Evidence



Minimal Evidence



Moderate Evidence



Full Evidence

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Curriculum Consumer Report Reviews and Ratings of Comprehensive Curricula About This Report Find Curriculum by Name

Head Start and Early Head Start programs must implement curricula that meet requirements outlined in the Head Start Program Performance Standards (HSPPS). This online Curriculum Consumer Report provides review summaries and ratings of comprehensive infant and toddler, preschool, and home-based curricula.

Use these reviews and ratings to learn how curricula meet effective, high-quality standards.

Select a type of curricula.



Disclaimer

The Curriculum Consumer Report has been compiled to assist programs in reviewing and assessing comprehensive early childhood curricula relevant to the HSPPS. The curricula listed in the report have been pre-screened for relevance but are not endorsed by the Office of Head Start. It is not an exhaustive list.

Learn more about the selection and review process used for each curriculum in the consumer report.

## Curriculum Consumer Report



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# Cultural Responsiveness

**Interactions:** Does the curriculum support culturally responsive ways of interacting with diverse children and families?

**Learning experiences:** Does the curriculum encourage learning experiences for children that build on their families' traditions, cultures, values, and beliefs?

**Learning materials:** Does the curriculum suggest how to use learning materials that authentically represent the cultures and ethnicities of children and families?



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# Linguistic Responsiveness

**Scaffolding strategies:** Does the curriculum provide research-based scaffolding strategies to support the development and learning of children who are dual language learners?

**Home and/or tribal language:** Does the curriculum provide guidance on how to authentically incorporate children's home and/or tribal languages into the learning environment?



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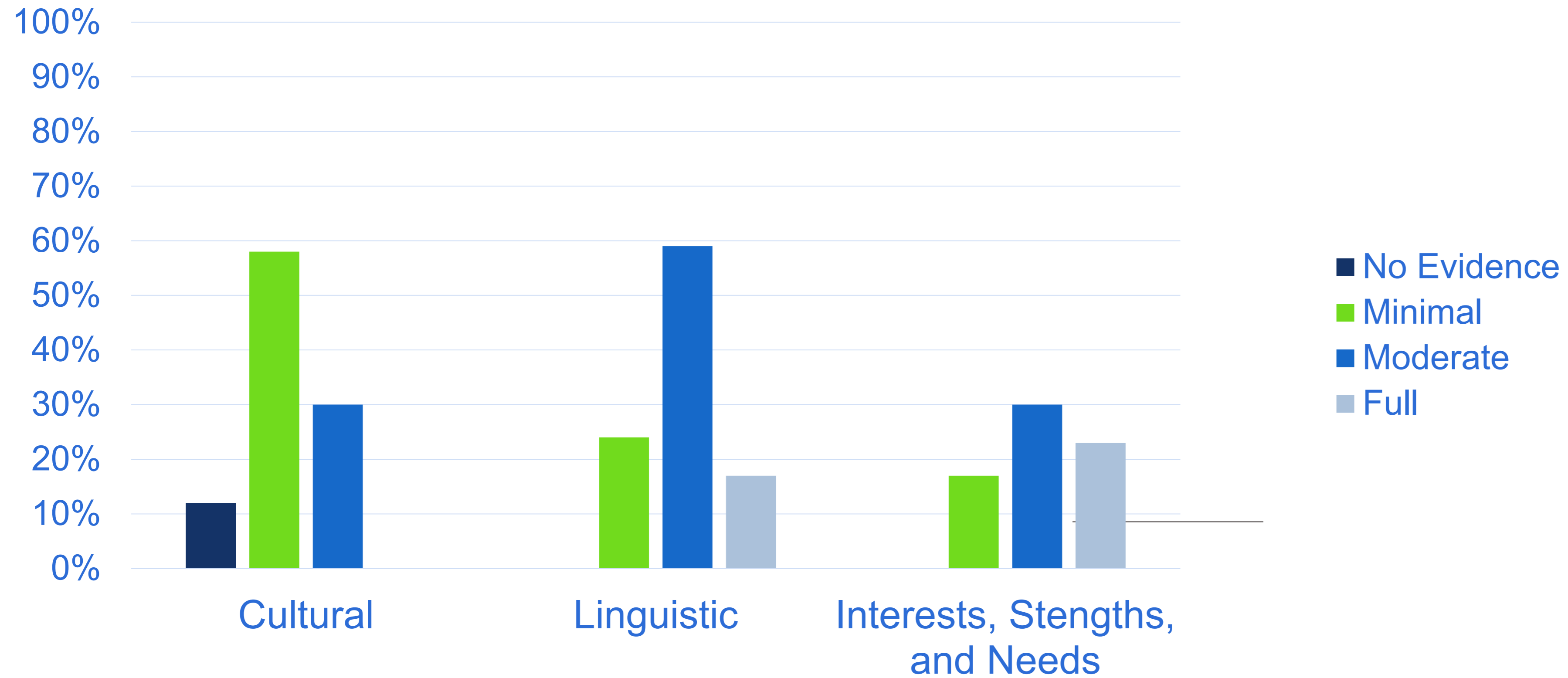
# Individualization Based on Interests, Strengths, and Needs

**Interests:** Does the curriculum offer guidance on how to plan learning experiences that build on the interests of individual preschool children?

**Strength and needs:** Does the curriculum offer guidance on how to make learning experiences responsive to individual children's strengths and needs?



# Guidance on How to Implement the Curriculum





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## Evidence:

- Majority of curricula provide general guidance on how to scaffold development and learning of children who are dual language learners, or how to incorporate children's home language into the learning environment.
- Vast majority of curricula do provide general or specific guidance embedded throughout the curriculum on how to make learning experiences responsive to individual children's strengths and needs.
- Very few curricula provide guidance on how to implement culturally responsive practices
- Very few curricula provide guidance on how to implement learning experiences based on children's individual interests.



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# Parent and Family Engagement

Vast majority of curricula (15 out of 17) provide strategies for how to communicate with families, and many provide materials to distribute to families, some in English and another language.

The curricula lack information on how to communicate with families in culturally or linguistically responsive ways, how to engage parents from diverse cultures, or parents who do not speak English.

How to learn from parents and families (not just share information with them).



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# Beyond Curricular Supports, Early Childhood Educators Need:

- Curriculum training
- Ongoing feedback on implementation through coaching and mentoring
- Professional development focusing on specific topics to support effective implementation and how to adapt the curriculum.
  - Observing and noticing children's learning
  - Cultural and linguistic responsiveness
  - Family engagement
  - Individualization based on children's strengths and needs







# Effective Implementation of the Curriculum is a Process

It grows and deepens over time and  
changes every year.