Curriculum Fidelity – Prenatal to 5

APPROACH:

Southern Oregon Head Start ensures Curriculum fidelity, which is the extent to which a curriculum is implemented as teachers use instructional strategies and deliver the content and process of the curriculum in the way to be used and delivered.

Curriculum fidelity involves:

- Curriculum differentiation – choosing our curriculum to meet the needs of the program
- Curriculum adherence – or the extent to which our curriculum components are delivered as described in the curriculum manuals, the components that make up the curriculum and the different strategies or practices outlined in how to deliver them
- Curriculum quality – how we prepare teachers to implement curriculum, including training and coaching provided to help teachers feel confident about implementing the curriculum.

The instructional strategies included in the curriculum are implemented with fidelity, consistency, frequency, and intensity to ensure children’s mastery of a skill. Children make more gains when teachers faithfully implement the teaching strategies or curriculum.

Fidelity ensures the interactions and activities that make up the curriculum result in positive child outcomes and achievement of school-readiness goals and includes engaging interactions with children, researched-based curriculum and teaching practices, (specific statements of the actions and behaviors of teachers, specialists and home visitors that support children’s learning), ongoing assessment of children’s skills, and individualized teaching and learning.

HEAD START PROGRAM PERFORMANCE STANDARD:

1302.32 Curricula. (a) Curricula. And 1302.35 Education in Home Based programs (2) A program must support staff to effectively implement curricula and at a minimum monitor curriculum implementation and fidelity, and provide support, feedback, and supervision for continuous improvement of its implementation through the system of training and professional development.

1302.92 (b)(5) Research-based approaches to professional development for education staff who are focused on effective curricula implementation.
PROCEDURE:

Our Head Start curriculum includes Creative Curriculum for Preschool, 5th edition (or 6th for Full day programs) and Second Step, including the Child Protection Unit and program premade lesson plans.

Early Head Start curriculum includes Creative Curriculum for Infants, Toddlers & Twos and Partners for a Healthy Baby.

Fidelity is assessed through:

- The education department classroom observations (EMTs)
- Creative Curriculum Teacher Fidelity Checklist
- Creative Curriculum Administrator Fidelity Checklist
- CLASS observations
- HOVRS observations
- Review of lesson plans, including:
  - Child and class Individualization
  - How closely planned learning experiences match the goals for the activity and materials needed to implement the activity or an aspect of the curriculum

Training and coaching are provided to education staff focused on curriculum implementation. Training is provided ongoing and as needed to individual staff at the center level by Education Supervisors who are trained by Creative Curriculum trainers. New Teachers/Specialists are trained entering the program during New Teacher Content training and throughout the year during New Teacher Cohort Training.

Education Department staff and center education staff review child progress and outcomes regularly and adjust lesson plans to meet the needs of children, attain positive outcomes and achievement of school readiness goals. Curriculum is directly utilized in creating all lesson plans.