

Curriculum and Assessment

Curriculum Framework

ALIVE! CDC's curriculum framework is grounded in two documents:

1. The Milestones of Child Development (Revised 2013)

Virginia's Early Childhood Development Alignment Project Team developed this document to assist adults in their important roles with young children. The Milestones are a set of **child development** indicators and strategies for adults designed to support the growth and development of young children from birth to kindergarten entry.

2. The Virginia Foundation Blocks for Early Learning: Comprehensive Standards for Four Year Olds (Revised 2013)

Virginia's Foundation Blocks for Early Learning: Comprehensive Standards for Four-Year-Olds provides a measurable range of skills and knowledge essential for four-year-olds to be **successful in kindergarten**. It provides early childhood educators with a set of standards and indicators of success for entering kindergarten that are derived from scientifically-based research.

ALIVE! CDC Curriculum

In order to promote optimal learning for each child in our care, The ALIVE! CDC's curriculum draws scheduling, routines, materials and learning activities from the following curriculums:

The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool

The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool is a comprehensive, research-based curriculum that features exploration and discovery as a way of learning, enabling children to develop confidence, creativity, and lifelong critical thinking skills. It has a clear organizational structure and a focus on "Interest Areas" that enhances the **cognitive, language, social, emotional, and physical development**.

R Is For Rainbow: Developing Young Children's Thinking Skills through the Alphabet

This **alphabet recognition** program introduces one letter each week by surrounding children with sound-symbol associations linked to concrete objects and meaningful experiences. It is a multi-dimensional approach used to present each sound-symbol association in order to meet each child's learning style.

Al's Pals: Kids Making Healthy Choices

Al's Pals: Kids Making Healthy Choices is a nationally recognized, evidence based early childhood curriculum and teacher training program that develops **social, emotional, and behavioral skills** in children 3 to 8 years old. Children learn how to regulate their emotions, make healthy choices, solve their problems peacefully, and be a good friend. Al's Pals uses music, puppets, fun lessons, and effective teaching to develop these skills.

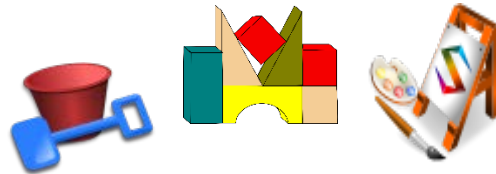


Handwriting without Tears (Specific Elements Only)

Handwriting without tears helps children develop **writing skills** through multi-sensory play, using all their senses as they develop the habits and skills essential for writing.

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics)

One of the newer educational terms that we see frequently in the news is STEM education. We build on children's curiosity by incorporating STEM learning into play-based activities to make STEM accessible and fun. Children are natural investigators. Children's minds are wired for STEM learning and they are naturally fascinated by building with blocks, moving puzzle pieces around, matching items, water play and sand activities, counting, measuring, drawing, painting, and even cooking with stirring, mixing, adding liquids and reading about all of this in books. And, of course, we are always talking about what is happening and expanding their critical thinking skills. Our lesson plans describe all of these activities and are posted for you in the classrooms.



Child Assessment

ALIVE! CDC uses several different assessment tools to track children's learning and development. Results are shared with families throughout the school year during parent-teacher conferences and home visits.

COR Advantage

COR Advantage is both a valid and reliable child assessment that measures the developmental trajectories of all children, from birth through kindergarten, regardless of their backgrounds or abilities. It focuses on children's naturally occurring activities rather than their performance on tests, allowing for a broader assessment of each child's development. The teachers use COR Advantage to record their **observations** of the children in the classroom, to group children, and to plan learning activities.

Ages and Stages Questionnaires® (ASQ-3 & ASQ:SE-2)

Ages & Stages Questionnaires® (ASQ-3 & ASQ:SE-2) is a **developmental screening** tool designed for use by early educators and health care professionals. It relies on parents as experts, is easy-to-use, family-friendly and creates the snapshot needed to catch delays and celebrate milestones. Parents complete the questionnaires twice a year, with assistance from the family support worker.

Preschool and Kindergarten Behavior Scales, Second Edition (PKBS-2)

The Preschool and Kindergarten Behavior Scales-Second Edition (PKBS-2) is a behavior rating scale designed for use with children ages 3 through 6 years. This unique behavior rating scale is easy to use, very practical, and based on a solid foundation of research. The teachers complete the PKBS-2 for each child in the fall and in the spring, to measure each child's **social skill growth**.

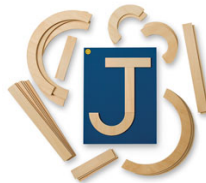


Math Skills Checklist

This checklist was developed by former ALIVE! CDC director Pam Blankenship from *Math and Science for Young Children, Seventh Edition* by R. Charlesworth and K. Lind. Children's **math skills** are assessed using a play-based format and are categorized as being observed as "always", "emerging", and "not yet".

Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS-PreK)

PALS-PreK is a scientifically based phonological awareness and literacy screening that measures preschoolers' developing knowledge of important **literacy skills**. The assessment scores indicate children's strengths and those areas that may require more direct attention. The teachers administer PALS-PreK to the Blue Classroom in the fall and in the spring.



Program Assessment

ALIVE! CDC uses two different program assessments

Early Childhood Environment Rating, Scale Third Edition (ECERS-3)

ECERS-3 is a tool used to measure quality of the **preschool environment** by assessing: space and furnishings, personal care routines, language and literacy, learning activities, interaction, and program structure.

Classroom Assessment Scoring System™ (CLASS™)

The Classroom Assessment Scoring System™ (CLASS™) is an observational instrument developed at the University of Virginia to assess classroom quality based on **teacher-student interactions** in PK-12 classrooms. It measures emotional support, classroom organization, and instructional supports

NAEYC Self-Assessment Family Survey

ALIVE! CDC conducts **a family survey** as part of its Self-Assessment to become accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). Family perspectives are essential to the NAEYC Accreditation process. Families have the opportunity to respond confidentially and anonymously to this survey.

