

Explorations with Young Children

Explorations with Young Children: A Curriculum Guide from the Bank Street College of Education is written for early childhood professionals serving infants through eight year olds. It is a curriculum guide, a *framework* for planning and carrying out work with young children. Bank Street believes that a sound framework based on a solid understanding of how children grow and learn, rather than a series of lesson plans and specific curricula-is the best guide for those working with children. The curricula, the lessons, the pacing-these will grow out of the particulars of the school or setting, the needs and interests of the children, and the professional's own strengths and interests. The Guide offers a way of thinking about, or helping others think about, program issues and make decisions on what to teach and how to teach it. This framework emphasizes "meeting" children on their own terms. To do this, teachers must have a deep knowledge of human development and be highly skilled at observing children in their daily lives. Explorations approaches curriculum not as a series of recipes for activities, but rather the opportunities for experience you offer children that help them deepen their understanding of the world.

Principals of the Bank Street Approach

- Work with children is based on knowledge of child development, and especially of the interdependence of social-emotional, physical and intellectual growth.
- Learning about a particular group of children occurs through observation and recording, through children's works or products, through children's families, and through others that have worked with them.
- A physical environment is created for children that encourage their active participation in their own learning.
- A social/emotional environment is created that encourages a sense of community and the value of each individual in the community.

Chapters in the Book Include:

- Principals of the Bank Street Approach
- Child Development
- Observing and Recording Children's Behavior
- The Learning Environment
- The Group Process
- Discipline and Management
- Valuing Diversity
- Creating Curriculum in Early Childhood
- Planning for Infants, Toddlers, and Threes
- Integrated Curriculum for Four-through Eight Year Olds
- Literacy in Early Childhood
- Mathematics in Early Childhood
- Science in Early Childhood
- Art in Early Childhood
- Music in Early Childhood
- Movement in Early Childhood
- A Study of Bread and Bakeries: An Example of Integrated Curriculum
- You as Teacher or Caregiver
- Working With Families
- Assessment through the Curriculum

Appendices

- Using the Curriculum Guide to Prepare for a CDA
- Using the Curriculum Guide for Staff Development

Purchase Information

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Bank Street is ready to help with your professional development needs. Our expert staff specialize in building programs to fit the needs of your staff and school in online or in-person formats. For more information, or to schedule a consultation, contact [Joy Lundeen Ellebbane](#) at [212-875-4707](tel:212-875-4707).