

**LAGOS STATE GOVERNMENT  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**

**CURRICULUM SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

**EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE EDUCATION  
UNIFIED SCHEMES OF WORK  
2018**





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## PREFACE

Lagos State Ministry of Education Curriculum Services Department blazed the trail in 2015 by producing for the first time ever in Nigeria the Early Childhood Care Schemes of Work from the National Curriculum. This singular pioneering effort at the time helped to streamline and regulate what was taught at various pre-schools the dotted that state.

Our quest for excellence, as Lagos State is known for, in offering the best possibilities for our young children to garner knowledge, skills, attitudes and feelings that are critical to transforming them into great and responsible citizenry is what has informed the review of the 2015 ECCE Schemes of Work.

This document encapsulates the vision of Lagos State Government that Early Childhood Care Education is the bedrock for greater successes in our children's education pursuit.

The various subjects have been systematically presented through simple and easy to use activities that should awaken the geniuses of the learners at this level and at the same time help the care-givers/teachers be at their very best.

We hope, through this document, that the proliferation of variation of teaching materials that are inappropriate for two to five-year-olds will be a thing of the past.

The Head teachers and other practitioners of Early Childhood Care Education are charged to ensure teachers/care-givers employ the use of simultaneous multisensory instruction approach (the combination of kinestics, vision and auditory) in implementing this document as this is the 21st century approach to teaching at this level of education.

We sincerely hope that the care-givers/teachers will find this document handy in providing pupils with inspiring and life changing learning experience.

Curriculum Services Department  
Lagos State Ministry of Education  
2018



## INTRODUCTION

Early Childhood Care and Development Education (ECCE) is concerned with the care and education of children aged 0-5 years or just before the age of formal schooling. The age 0-5 years is perceived as the period of immense opportunity for growth and development. It is a critical period in the development of the child as experience gained at this stage may make or mar the child permanently.

The Federal Government of Nigeria has translated the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) into Child Rights Act and furthermore into Universal Basic Education (UBE) Act 2004 which placed Early Childhood Education (ECE) into the mainstream. These laws and acts provide for interventions and actions that will improve the well being of Nigerian children. The Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council (NERDC) and United Nations International Children Education Funds (UNICEF) took the lead in providing a National Curriculum for ECE.

The Curriculum planning emphasizes and caters for the physical development and stimulation of the child. It addresses all the critical aspects of early childhood care which yields the highest dividends and the most sustainable gains for children and their families, communities and the nations of the world. It is aimed at not only assuring child's survival but nutrition inclusive.

The integrated approach to ECE comprises programmes on various topics that are grouped into eight (8) themes which focus and reflect on the objectives of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). These are:

- Physical Development
- Affective /Psychosocial Development
- Cognitive Development
- Foods and Nutrition
- Health
- Water and Environmental Sanitation

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- Safety Measures
- Protection Issues

The Lagos State Ministry of Education reviewed and compiled these themes into eight (8) Nursery subjects which are arranged into weekly teachable topics for the three terms in an academic year to produce Unified Schemes of Work for Pre-Primary classes (Nursery classes).

The subjects are arranged as follows:

- Physical Development (PD)
- Social Habits
- Letter Work
- Number Work
- Health Habits
- Basic Science and Technology
- Civic Education
- Yoruba Language for Kindergarten Class (Age 5) Only

These subjects are arranged into four (4) age cohorts of learning, which are:

- 0-2 years – Crèche/Playgroup
- 3 years – Nursery One
- 4 years – Nursery Two
- 5 years – Kindergarten

The objectives, contents, activities and caring/learning materials are selected and prescribed for every topic. Some emergent issues such as HIV/AIDS, Peace and Gender Issues are also included in the Nursery Curriculum. The ECE prepares the child for smooth transition into primary schools which ensures universal access to primary education. It is also to provide enough care and supervision for the children while parents are at work.

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**DEVELOPMENTAL MILESTONES 0 – 18 MONTHS**  
**CRÈCHE**

**ONE (1) MONTH**

A child should be able to:

- bring both hands towards his or her mouth
- turn towards familiar voices and sounds
- suckle the breast and touch it with his or her hands
- have BCG and DPT immunization
- be registered officially (Birth registration)
- should be able to open eyes and see

**THREE (3) MONTHS**

A child should be able to:

- turn head towards bright colours and light
- make fists with both hands
- move eyes to loud sounds
- wriggle and kick with legs and arms
- enjoying playing and clapping
- smile
- make coding sounds
- breastfeed frequently
- DTP immunizations
- sleep well during the day

**TWELVE (12) MONTHS**

A child should be able to:

- sit without support
- crawl on hands and knees and pull up to stand
- try to imitate words and sounds and respond to simple requests.
- potty or toilet training when a child is not using disposable nappy
- enjoy playing and clapping
- picking things up with thumb and one finger
- start holding objects such as spoon and cup and attempt self-feeding



- give affection to a specific person
- say two or three words
- breast feed frequently and have other foods three to five times a day
- have measles immunization (9 months)

### **EIGHTEEN (18) MONTHS**

A child should be able to:

- walk unaided
- enjoy playing and clapping
- play with Lego
- arrange simple puzzles
- improve on self-feeding
- improve on toilet training
- imitate songs and dancing steps
- feed five to six times a day
- smile always

### **EARLY CHILDHOOD SCREENING TOOLS**

**HEARING** – if the child:

- does not run towards the source of new sounds or voices
- has frequent ear infections (discharge from ear, ear-ache)
- does not respond when you call unless he can see you
- watches your lips when you speak
- talks in a very loud or soft voice
- does not talk or talks strangely

**SEEING** – if the child:

- is often unable to find small objects which he/she has dropped
- has red eyes or chronic discharge from eyes, spots on the eyes, a cloudy appearance to eyes, frequently rubs eyes
- often bumps into things while crawling or moving around.
- sometimes or always crosses one or both eyes (after six months of age)



**TALKING** – if the child:

- does not say mama (or equivalent) by 18 months of age)

**UNDERSTANDING** – if the child:

- does not react to own name by age 1
- cannot identify parts of face by age 1

**PLAYING** – if the child:

- does not enjoy playing games by the age of 1 year

**MOVING** – if the child:

- is unable to sit unsupported by 10 months

### **DEVELOPMENTAL MILESTONES 1½-2 YEARS**

#### **PLAYGROUP**

A child should be able to:

- walk, climb and run
- carry an object while walking
- point to objects or picture when they are named (e.g. nose, eyes etc.)
- recognize family members, people and objects
- say several words together
- scribble if given pencil or crayon
- enjoy simple stories and songs
- imitate the behaviour of others
- begin to eat by self
- repeat words that others say
- use two or three-word sentences
- feed five to six times a day
- learn to defecate in an appropriate place





## **EARLY CHILDHOOD SCREENING TOOLS**

### **HEARING – if the child:**

- does not respond when you call unless he/she sees you
- watches your lips when you speak
- talks in a very loud or soft voice
- does not talk or talks strangely

### **SEEING – if the child:**

- holds head in an awkward position when trying to look at something
- has red eyes or chronic discharge from eyes, spots on the eyes, a cloudy appearance to eyes.

### **TALKING – if the child:**

- cannot name a few familiar objects or people by age 2

### **UNDERSTANDING – if the child:**

- seems to have difficulty in understanding things you say, when compared to other children of the same age

### **PLAYING – if the child:**

- does not play with common objects (e.g. spoon, pot, ball) by age 2

### **MOVING – if the child:**

- cannot walk without help by age 2