



*EARLY CHILDHOOD*  
***CONFERENCE 2024***  
*SHAPING LOUISIANA'S FUTURE*



**The Importance of Using  
An Early Childhood Curriculum**



# Louisiana's Education Priorities

- ✓ **Early childhood** leading to kindergarten readiness
- ✓ **Literacy** instruction aligned to the Science of Reading
- ✓ **Foundational math** instruction advancing to conceptual understanding
- ✓ Opportunities ensuring a **meaningful high school experience**
- ✓ An effective **teacher for every student**
- ✓ Expand **educational choice** for students and families

# Purpose and Objectives

## **Purpose:**

This session will provide participants with an understanding of the importance of using a curriculum, specifically Infant and Toddler classrooms.

## **Objectives:**

During this session, participants will:

- Gain an understanding of the components of an infant/toddler curriculum
- Gain knowledge on how to support Educators with curriculum use
- Have an opportunity to collaborate on effective ways to improve curriculum implementation in the early childhood classroom

# Agenda

- I. Session Objectives
- II. Agenda
- III. Activity 1: An Infant Lesson Plan
- IV. What is Curriculum
- V. How To Use Curriculum
- VI. Why Use Curriculum
- VII. Activity 2: A Toddler Lesson Plan
- VIII. Discussion
- IX. Closing



# **Activity 1: An Infant Lesson Plan**

# Activity 1: An Infant Lesson Plan

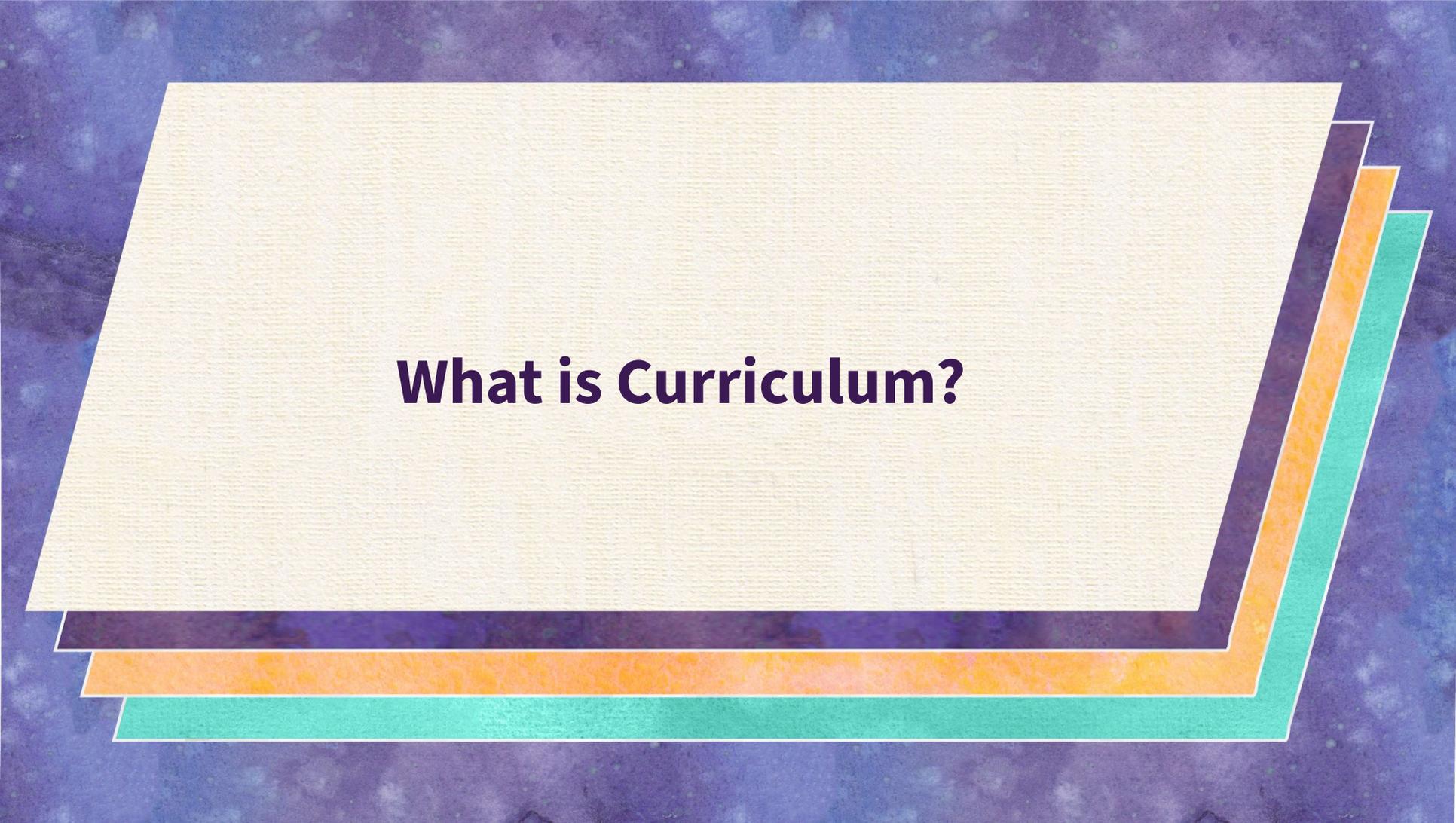
## Follow the Ball

Most babies can begin to track objects with their eyes at 2 months. This is an important skill because children need to track with their eyes to develop hand and eye coordination tasks.

### Learning Objectives:

- Looks at and follows faces and objects with eyes
- Demonstrates persistence in learning and discovery

What would be some activities that an infant teacher could use to develop this skill throughout the day? What should the teacher do if the infant is having difficulty with the task?



# **What is Curriculum?**

# What is Curriculum?

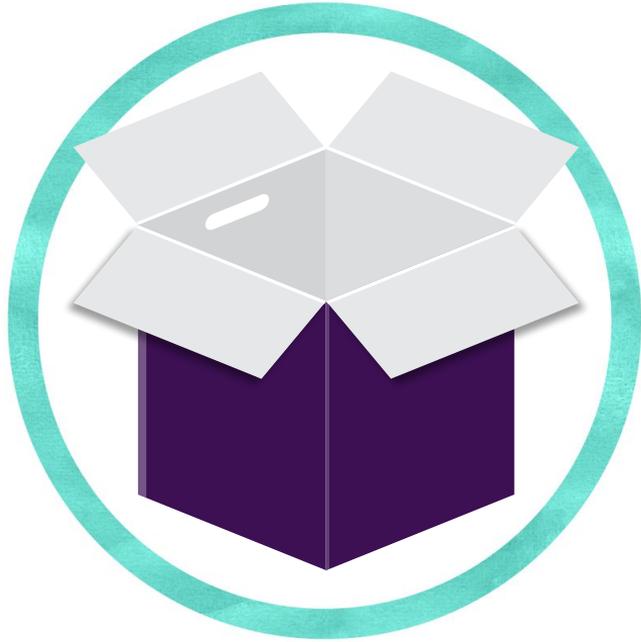
The word *curriculum* brings to mind a formal, rigid classroom setting.

However, curriculum in terms of the needs of infants and toddlers is

- Blended content and teaching style
- Embedded within a child development focus by the teacher



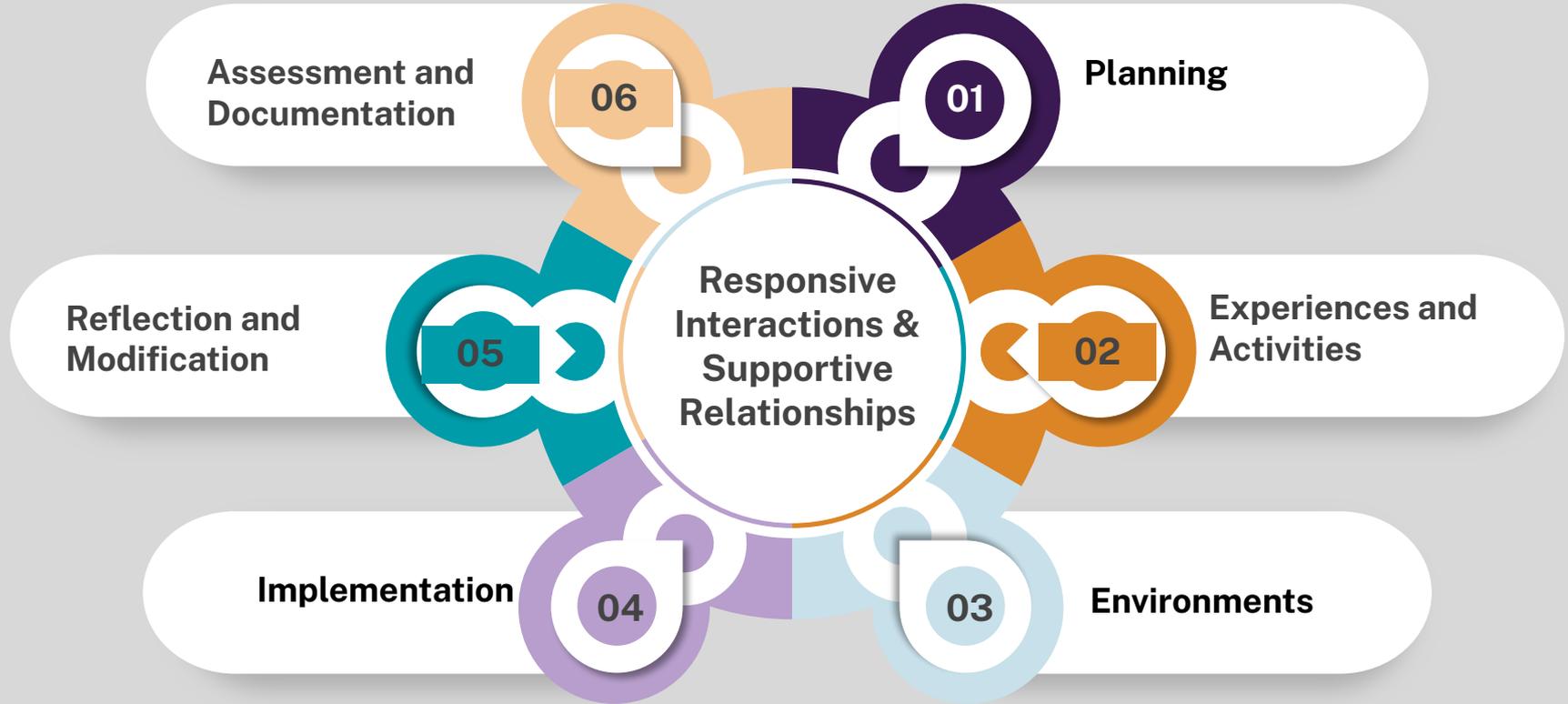
# What is Curriculum?



A quality curriculum will include some of the following components

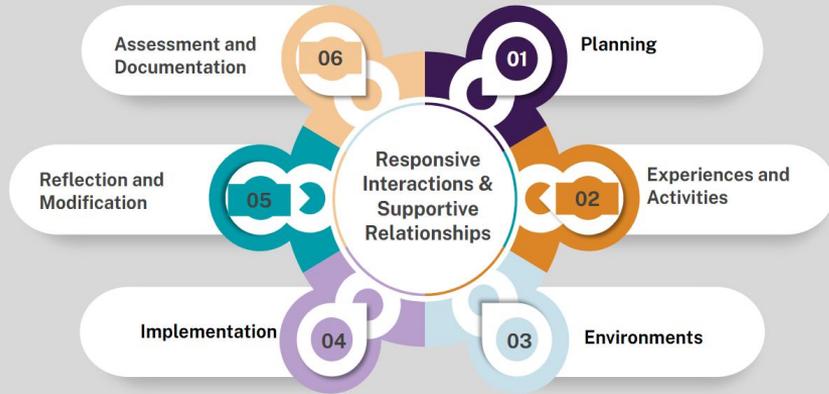
- Thematic teacher guides
- Literature library
- Music collection
- Manipulatives
- Posters and activity cards
- Assessment
- Family connection materials

# The Curriculum Process



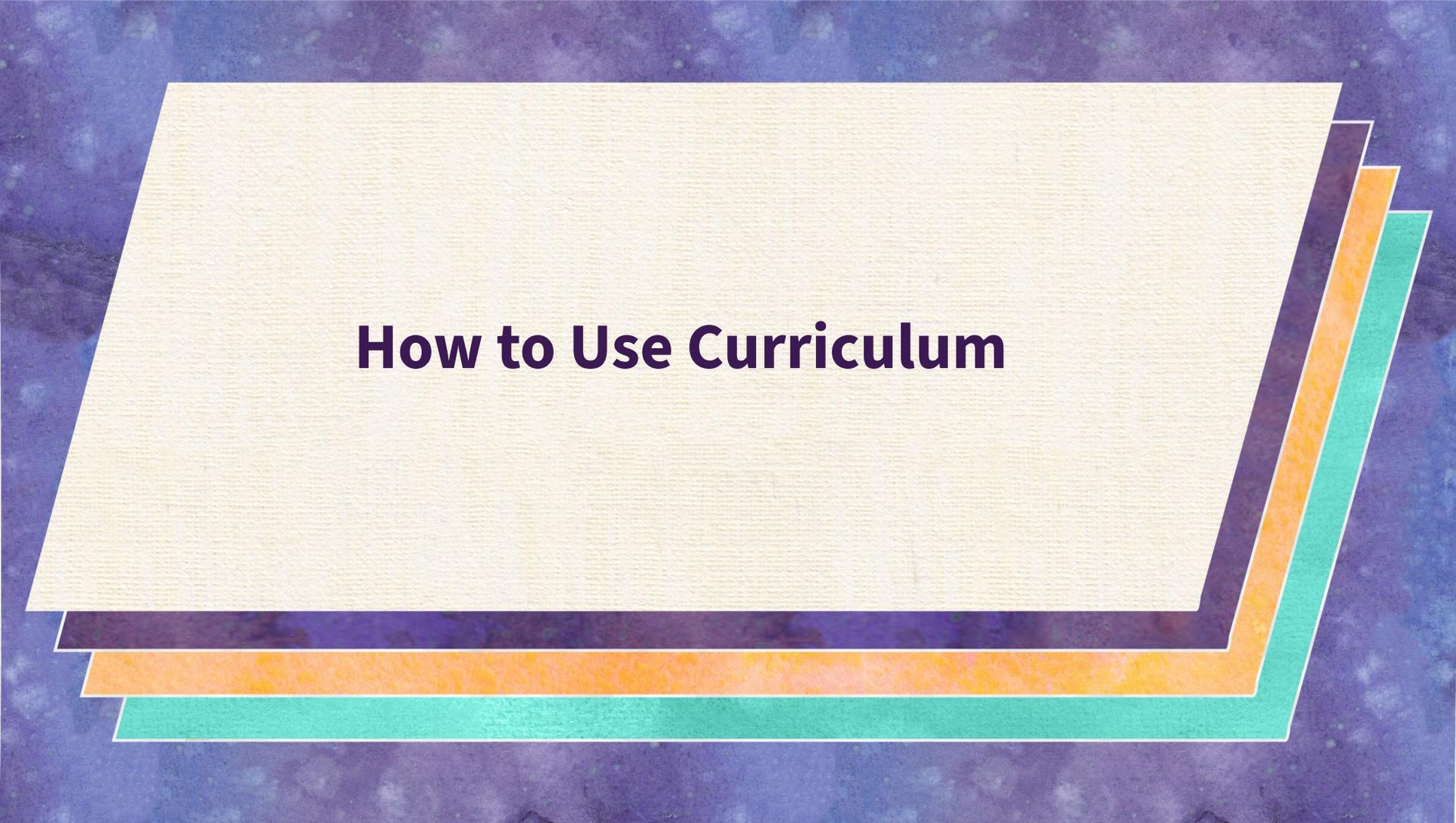
# What Is Curriculum?

## The Curriculum Process



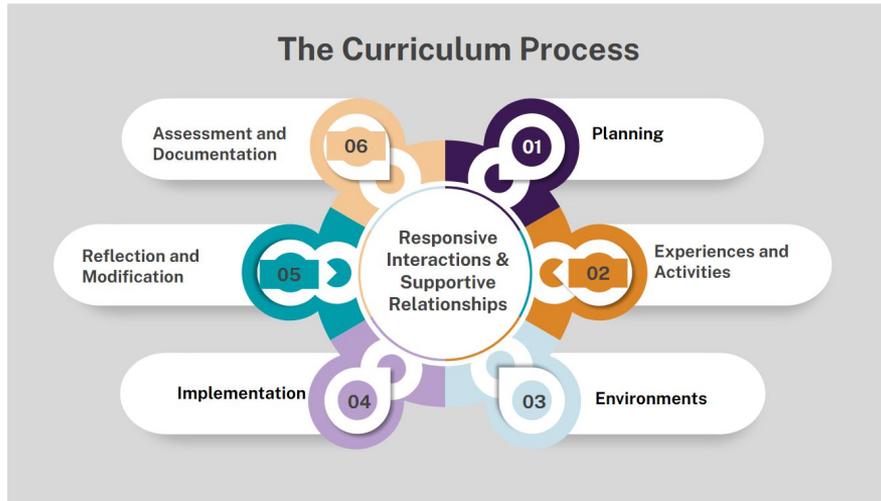
Curriculum is a tool to support the teacher by addressing learning domains, and defining developmental goals.

- Planned high-quality learning experiences or activities can extend infant/toddler learning and skill level
  - These activities should be based on the child's interests, abilities, and individual schedule



# How to Use Curriculum

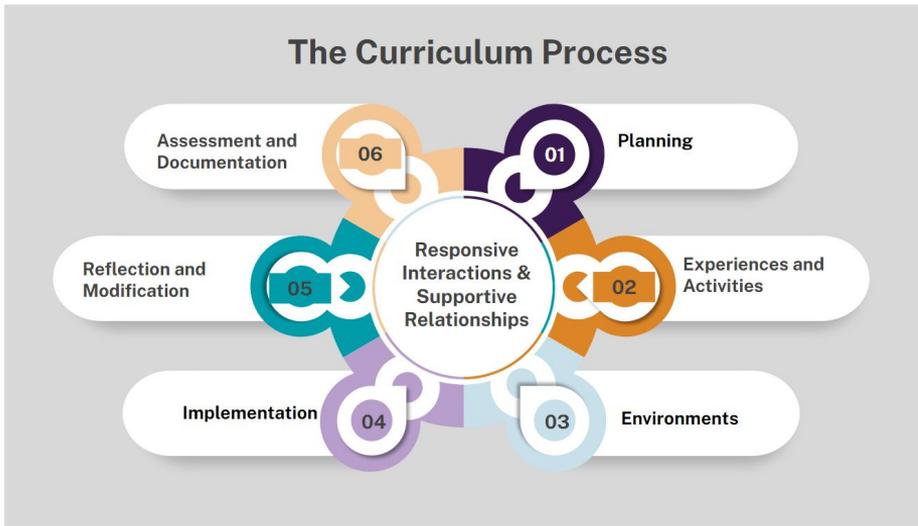
# How to Use Curriculum



Curriculum promotes responsive exchanges and supportive relationships through

- Organized activities can target desired learning and skill development outcomes
- Children's responses to learning content or skill development can direct individualized support and improve teacher-child exchanges

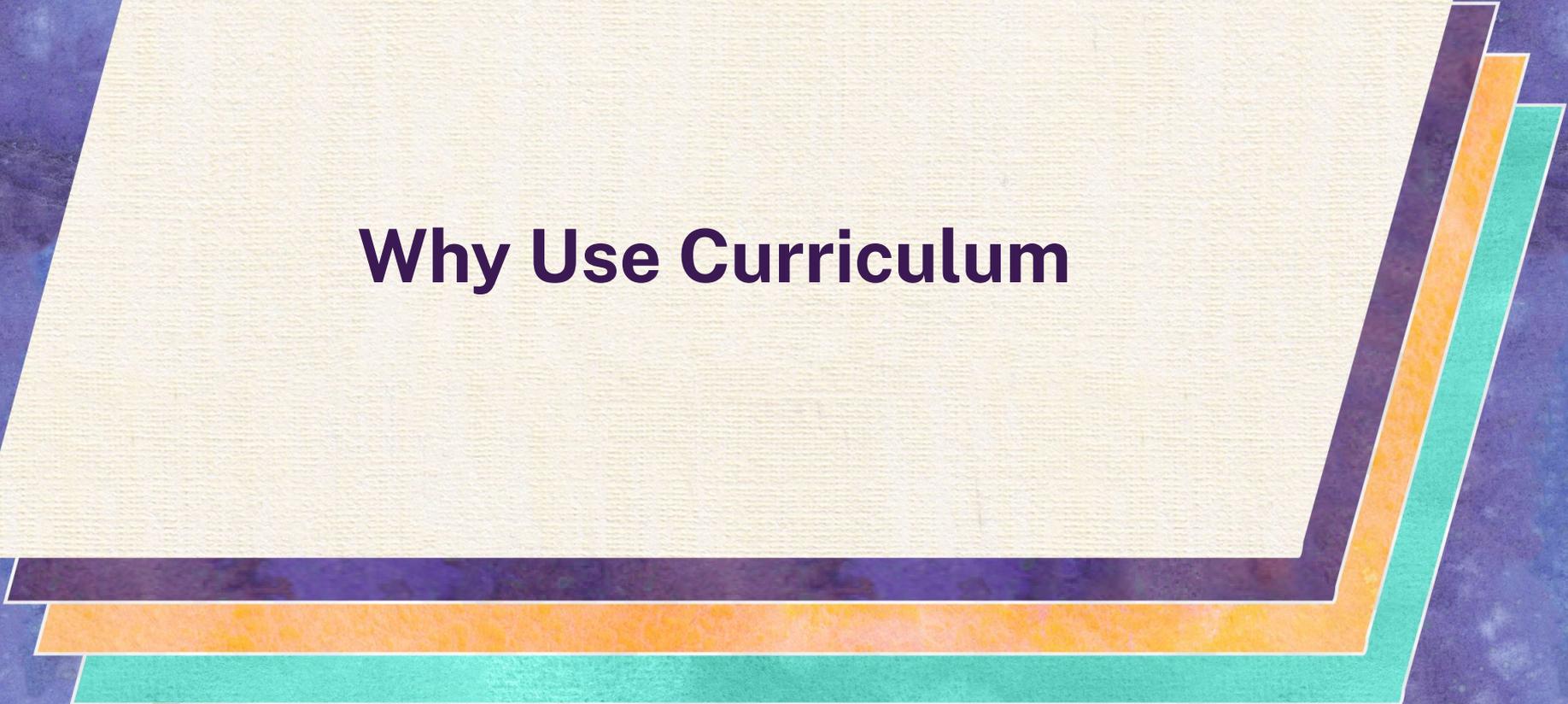
# How to Use Curriculum



Curriculum can be used to assess and plan additional support based on children's progress

- Curriculum content embedded in learning activities provides
  - Learning outcomes and skill development
  - Opportunities to individualize the redelivery of content based on student needs

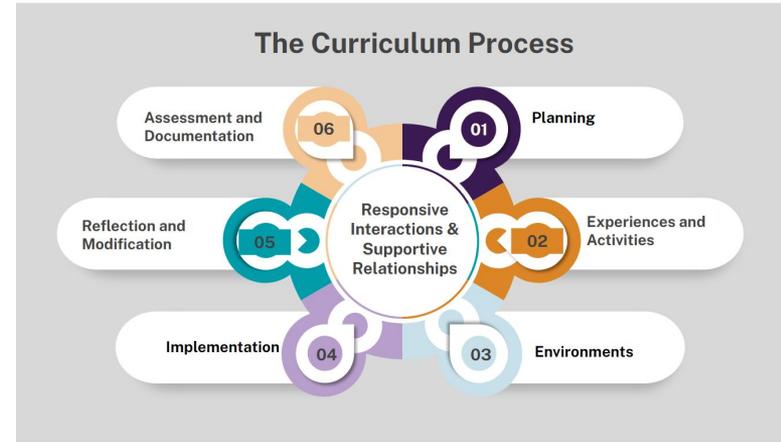
# Why Use Curriculum



# Why Use Curriculum

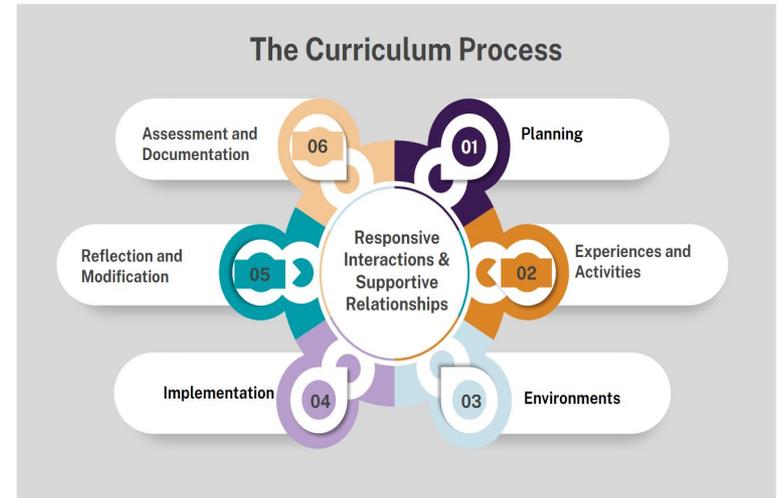
Curriculum is a resource guide to provide teachers with appropriate content and activities

- Supports a strength-based approach to learning
  - Reflect on your teaching practices
  - List your strengths and areas that need improvement
  - Address areas of needs with your strengths



# Why Use Curriculum

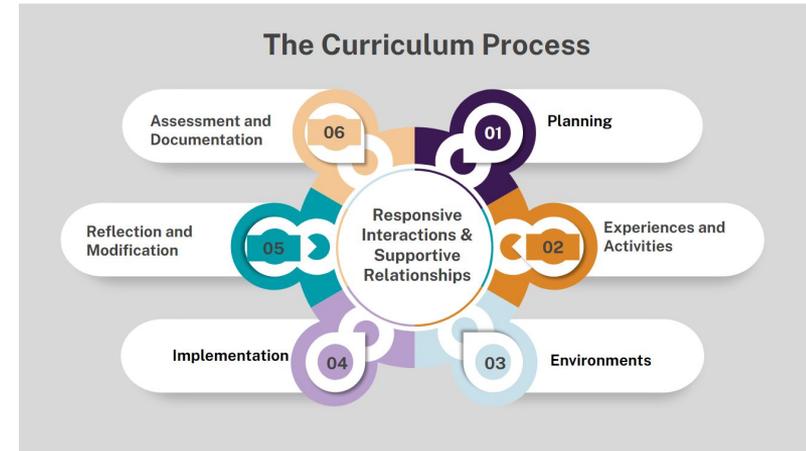
- Encouraging a play-based approach
  - Educators engage in play with children while introducing new concepts and modeling language
- Providing continuous learning opportunities for engaged learning
  - Encourage classroom collaborative activities
  - Seize a teachable moment



# Why Use Curriculum

Supports teachers' understanding of child development within supportive relationships

- Provides a guide for identifying goals that related to children's interests and promotes child development
- Provides resources for activities that facilitate learning experiences and builds off of prior learning
- Supports daily high-quality experiences for children



## **Activity 2: A Toddler Lesson Plan**

# Activity 2: A Toddler Lesson Plan

## Create A Path

Young children use the information obtained through their senses to develop knowledge in their brains. The more opportunities that mobile infants and toddlers have to participate in sensory activities (e.g., seeing, hearing, touching, smelling, and tasting) allows development and understanding of their environment.

### Learning Objectives:

- Uses the senses to investigate the environment
- Crawls into, over, and around objects

Design an activity that will support this learning objective.

# Question & Answer

# Question & Answer

- When you think about curriculum, what component(s) can be incorporated into daily routines that can improve quality outcomes for children?
- How can responsive interactions and supportive relationships be used by teachers to increase the quality of curriculum implementation ?
- What are some key actions that can help you (the teacher) improve curriculum use in the classroom?

# Summary

- Curriculum should be considered blended content and teaching style
- Curriculum can organize experiences to improve children's learning and skill development
- Curriculum can support the teacher to reach struggling children with skill development and improve teacher-child exchanges
- Curriculum encourages a play-based approach
- Curriculum provides continuous learning opportunities that can build to improve engaged learning for children

# Contact Information

**Tonya Normand, M.Ed.**

Child Care Resource & Referral Manager  
Louisiana State Department of Education  
1201 North 3rd Street  
Baton Rouge, LA  
[Tonya.Normand@la.gov](mailto:Tonya.Normand@la.gov)

# References

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