



A Commitment to Excellence

The ELM curriculum is grounded in research:

- Developed in collaboration with early childhood experts at Purdue University
- Refined by extensive pilot testing in Defense Department child development centers
- Aligned with accreditation standards from the National Association for the Education of Young Children



A Strong Start for Military-Connected Children

The Early Learning Matters curriculum is one more way the Defense Department and the Office of Child and Youth Programs are serving our military. This new curriculum being introduced in child development centers:

- Includes 50 weeks of plans and activities
- Promotes skills linked to school readiness, well-being and success
- Combines staff-guided and child-initiated learning experiences



Early Learning Matters

MILITARY ONESOURCE

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A new curriculum from the Defense Department, developed for military-connected children.

Helping Our Military-Connected Children Thrive

The Early Learning Matters curriculum, or ELM, was developed for use in Defense Department child development centers. It's designed to give our military children a strong foundation in school and life.

The curriculum offers developmentally appropriate activities for different age groups and individual children. ELM's standard curriculum gives military families a consistent and effective early childhood education program. Here's a sample of what children will learn:



Infants-Toddlers

Birth-12 months, 12-24 months, 24-36 months



Cognitive

- Exploring objects with different senses
- Understanding similarities and differences



Communication/Language

- Communicating back and forth
- Exploring pictures, sounds and printed words in books



Physical/Health

- Supporting movements like crawling, sitting and standing
- Improving coordination and motor skills



Self-Regulation

- Self-calming after periods of activity
- Paying attention to an object or person
- Practicing focusing and problem solving



Social-Emotional

- Practicing verbal and nonverbal interactions
- Becoming aware of specific feelings like happy and sad



Learn more about ELM at your installation's child development center or at www.virtuallabschool.org/elm-curriculum.

Preschoolers

3-5 years old



Creative Expression

- Using different tools to create art
- Creating dance through movement



Language/Literacy

- Learning each letter's name, sound and written form
- Understanding information from a book



Mathematics

- Counting and creating groups
- Distinguishing between basic shapes



Physical/Health

- Practicing different movements like gallops, twists and jumps
- Learning about healthy foods



Science

- Understanding the needs of living things
- Exploring animal habitats



Self-Regulation

- Practicing skills like waiting patiently
- Following requests by looking and listening



Social-Emotional

- Considering safety and fairness
- Understanding emotions and feelings
- Learning ways to get along with others



Social Studies

- Exploring how people are the same and different
- Sharing things from different cultures

Rich in Resources

The ELM curriculum includes a range of materials:

- Activity plans for different age groups
- Observation and assessment plans for individualized learning
- Parenting tips for families to extend learning at home
- Materials like picture cards, letter cards and number cards

