



# Early Learning Matters:

## A Curriculum to Help Military Children Start Strong

Developed for the Department of Defense to help our military children thrive

### What Is the Early Learning Matters Curriculum and What Does It Offer?

The Early Learning Matters curriculum, or ELM, was developed for use in Department of Defense child development centers. It gives our military children a strong foundation by promoting skills linked to school readiness, well-being and life success.

### Support for the Whole Child:

The ELM curriculum offers developmentally appropriate activities for different age groups and individual children:

- **Infants-Toddlers:**  
Communication/Language, Cognitive Development, Self-Regulation, Social-Emotional Development and Physical Development/Health
- **Preschoolers:**  
Language/Literacy, Mathematics, Self-Regulation, Social-Emotional Development, Social Studies, Creative Expression, Science and Physical Development/Health

### Multifaceted Approach, Rich Resources

The ELM curriculum includes staff-guided and child-initiated learning experiences supported with a range of materials:

- 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

### A Commitment to Excellence

The Early Learning Matters curriculum is grounded in research:

- Developed with early childhood experts at Purdue University.
- Refined by pilot testing in Department of Defense child development centers.
- Aligned with National Association for the Education of Young Children Early Learning Program Accreditation Standards.



Learn more about the Early Learning Matters curriculum at [www.virtuallabschool.org/elm-curriculum](http://www.virtuallabschool.org/elm-curriculum). Connect to more information and support for your military family at [www.MilitaryOneSource.mil](http://www.MilitaryOneSource.mil).