

Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.
State Superintendent of Schools

TO: Members of the State Board of Education
FROM: Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.
DATE: August 28, 2018
SUBJECT: University of Maryland Presentation of Four-Year-Old Curriculum Project

PURPOSE:

The presentation will introduce the *Children Study Their World* curriculum to State Board Members.

BACKGROUND:

The Maryland State Department of Education, Division of Early Childhood awarded a grant to the Center for Early Childhood Education (CECEI), University of Maryland (UMD), to develop an evidence-based, high-quality, digital curriculum for Pre-Kindergarten children throughout the state of Maryland.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Dr. Christy Tirrell-Corbin, Executive Director of CECEI at UMD, will provide an overview of and introduction to *Children Study Their World (CSW): A Curriculum for Four-Year-Old Children*. CSW is a project-based curriculum, fully aligned with Maryland's Early Learning Standards, which actively engages children in investigating the world around them, whether in Baltimore, Western Maryland or the Eastern Shore. CSW is being piloted in 77 classrooms for the forthcoming school year and will be available throughout the state in the fall of 2019.

ACTION:

No action is required; this information is for discussion only.

Attachments

- Slide Deck for presentation

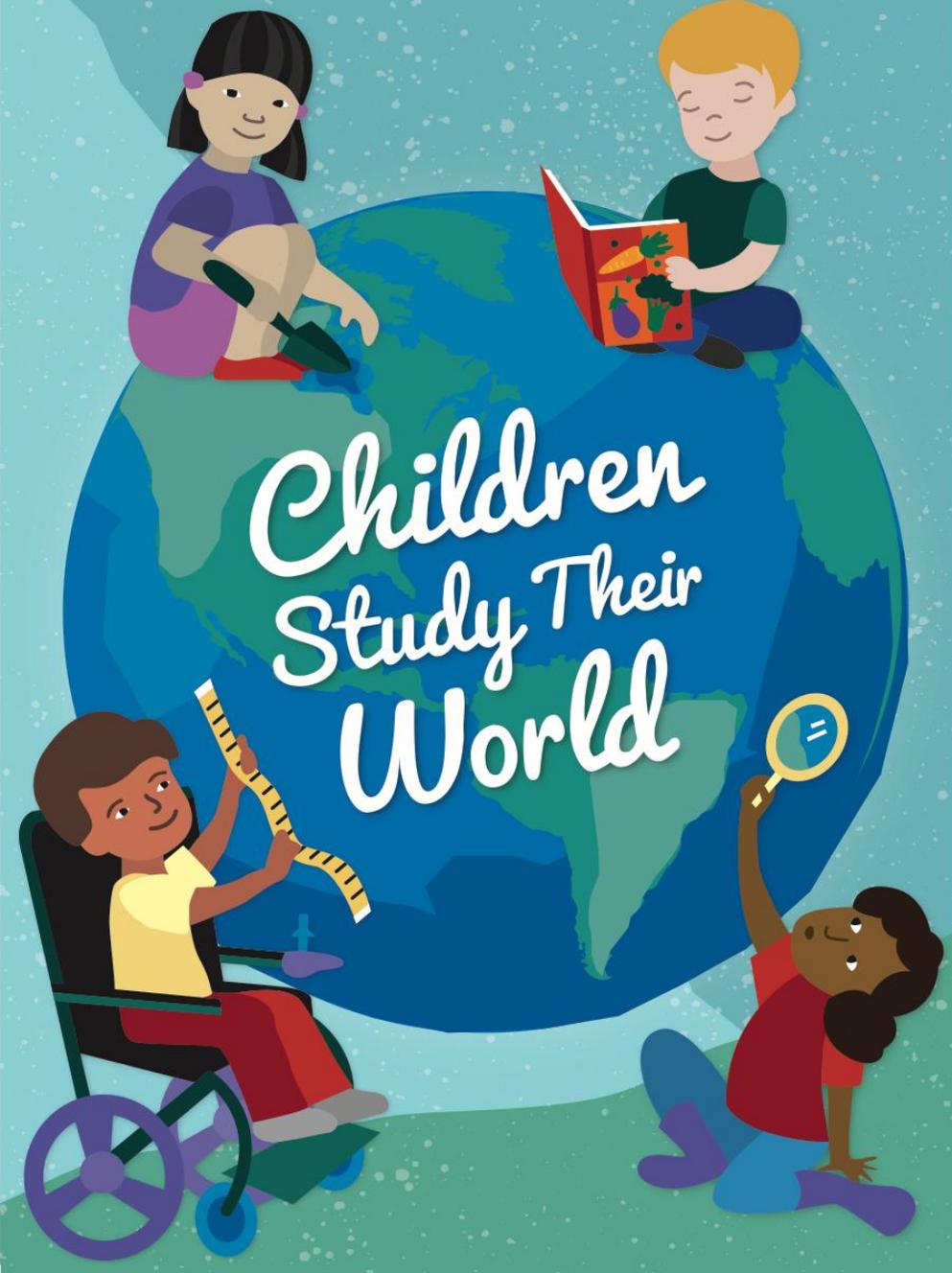


Four-Year-Old Curriculum Project

Christy Tirrell-Corbin PhD, Executive Director

Center for Early Childhood Education and Intervention

August 28, 2018



University of Maryland

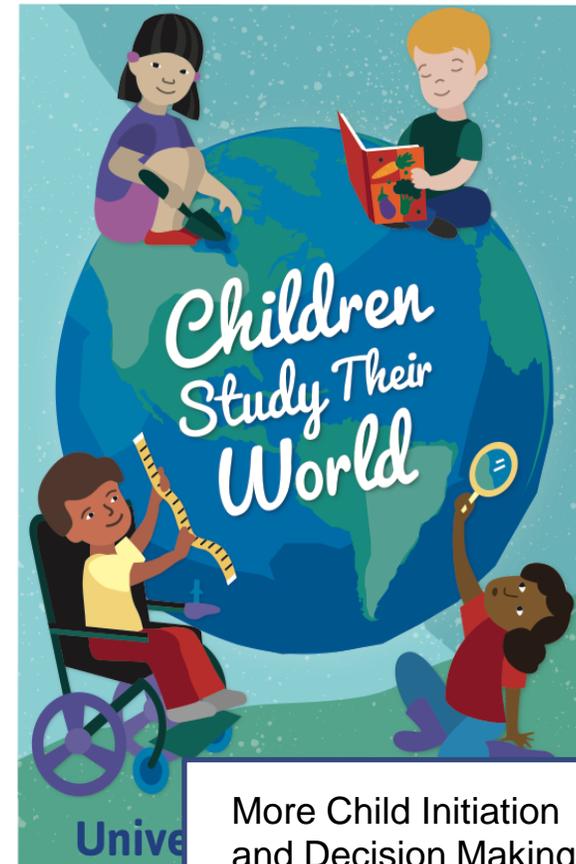


Children Study Their World

PreK 4-year-olds

- 10-month, project-based curriculum
 - Includes 6-week summer unit
- Linked to MD Early Learning Standards
- Engages children with experts and real-life experiences
- Incorporates evidence-based practices
 - To build teacher capacity
 - To support successful implementation
- Integrated with content-rich learning opportunities

In depth investigation; may be child- or teacher-initiated, research focused on finding answers to student questions, direction follows children's interest



More Child Initiation and Decision Making

More Child Initiation and Decision Making



Less Child Initiation and Decision Making



Single Concept

Integrated Concepts

Units

Thematic Teaching

Teacher-Directed Inquiry

Projects

Preschool Curriculum Units and Projects

Projects for 4s	Duration
<i>Busy Bodies: How My Body Works</i>	4 weeks
<i>Our Community: Learning, Helping, and Making a Difference</i>	5 weeks
<i>Showtime: Storytelling and Performing</i>	5 weeks
<i>All Aboard: Buses, Boats, Planes, and Trains</i>	5 weeks
<i>Babies: Caring for Little Ones</i>	5 weeks
<i>We Are Builders: Planning and Building Together</i>	6 weeks
<i>Spiders: Exploring the World of Spiders</i>	6 weeks
<i>Farm to Table: Growing and Eating Vegetables</i>	6 weeks

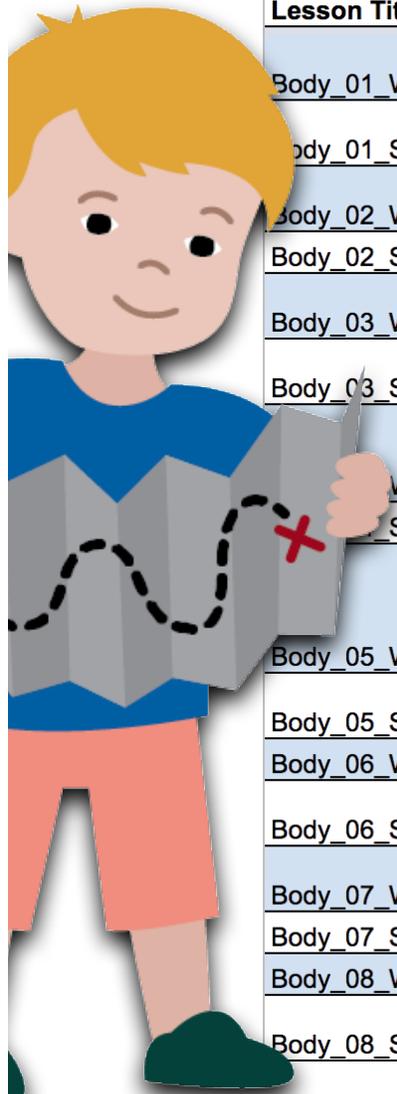
Weekly Plan – Investigations and Big Questions

Project	Goal:				
	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Week 1 Focus					
Week 2 Focus					
Week 3 Focus					
Week 4 Focus					

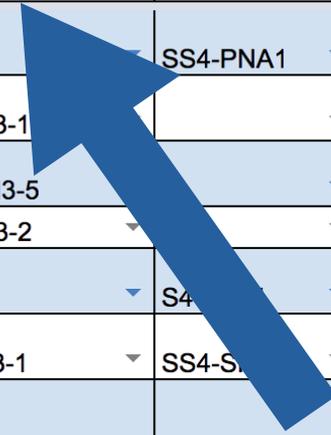


Children Study Their World
and
**Maryland's Early Learning
Standards (and Assessment)**

“My Body” Project: SKBs & Early Learning Standards



Lesson Title	Project	Lesson type	Child's role	ELA SKB 1:	ELA SKB 2:	Early Learning Standard 1:
Body_01_WGI	My Body	WGI	Writes	PE3-1		SS4-PNA1
Body_01_SGI	My Body	SGI		MD3-1	PE3-1	
Body_02_WGI	My Body	WGI	Follows directions	PE3-1	MM3-5	
Body_02_SGI	My Body	SGI	Counts and groups	NS3-3	NS3-2	
Body_03_WGI	My Body	WGI	Finds	SI3-1		S4-SPA1
Body_03_SGI	My Body	SGI	Moves	PE3-1	VA3-1	SS4-SPF1
Body_04_WGI	My Body	WGI	Finds	EF3-3	SI3-1	S4-SPA1
Body_04_SGI	My Body	SGI	Journal writing	VA4-2	WR4-2	S4-SPC1
Body_05_WGI	My Body	WGI	Explores	SI3-1		
Body_05_SGI	My Body	SGI	Identifies	VA3-1		
Body_06_WGI	My Body	WGI	Asks	SI4-1		S4-SPA1
Body_06_SGI	My Body	SGI	Describes	EF4-6	WR4-2	
Body_07_WGI	My Body	WGI	Examines and describes	SI3-1	SI3-1	S3-SP2
Body_07_SGI	My Body	SGI	Investigates	SL4-1	SI3-1	
Body_08_WGI	My Body	WGI	Investigates	SI4-1	LG3-6	
Body_08_SGI	My Body	SGI	Moves	EF4-6	PE3-1	SS4-SPF1



READ ALOUD

Day Five

How can we make the shape of our body?

READ ALOUD

READ ALOUD 1

ELA FOCUS STANDARD

RD: Story/Text Comprehension:
Respond to questions about text

Level 1: Responds to simple prediction questions based on the title and cover, and to recall questions (who, what, where) about texts read aloud.

MATERIALS

"The Busy Body Book" by Lizzie Rockwell

Word cards: **body**, **move**

PRINT KNOWLEDGE

Author and illustrator

COMPREHENSION STRATEGY

Set a purpose for reading



Children Study Their World

Pre-Pilot



Children Study Their World

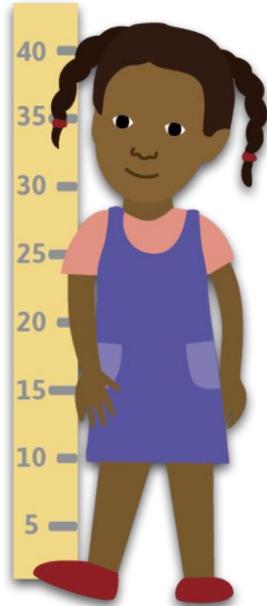
Busy Bodies: How My Body Works

Curriculum Pre-Pilot: Busy Bodies

February - March 2018



- **Goal:** Full implementation of a CSW project to determine appropriateness and usability, as well as to receive teacher/administrator feedback on the design.
- **Site:** CentroNía, Takoma Park, MD
 - Three PreK Expansion classrooms
 - All teachers have Early Learning Assessment training
 - High English Learner population
 - High population of students receiving free/reduced lunch



What did the Children Learn?

Interviews 11 days after project completion

CSW

Statewide

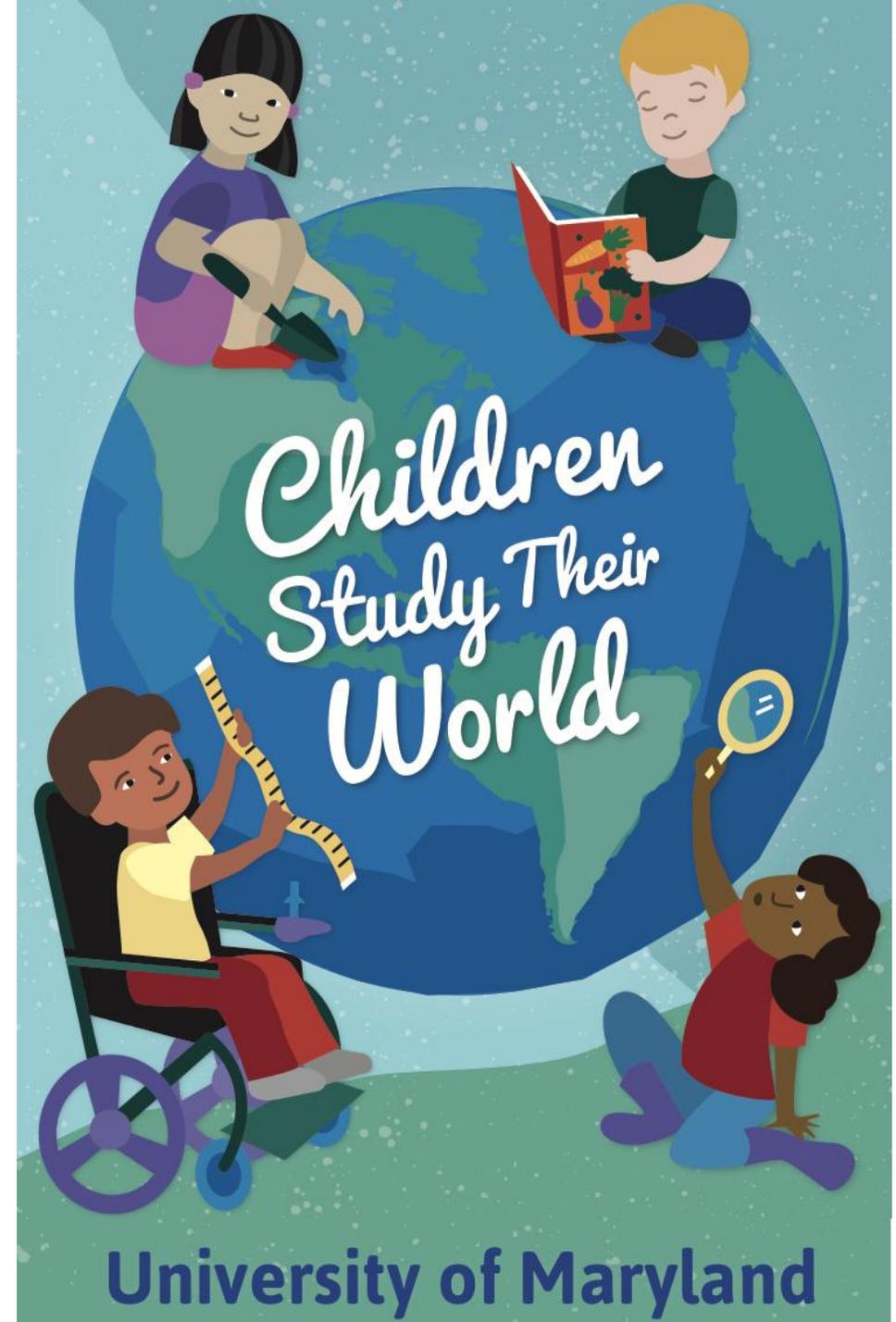
Implementation



Implementation of CSW

- **Piloting—2018-2019 (77 classrooms)**
 - PreK Expansion Funded classrooms (N=73)
 - Family Child Care homes (N=2)
 - Child Care Center classrooms (N=2)
- **State-wide availability**
 - 2019-2020 school year
 - CSW curriculum available (free of charge) to all licensed child care centers and public PreK teachers in MD.
 - Associated costs:
 - A tablet
 - Children's books
 - Mathematics materials

CSW
Professional Development
Curriculum



CSW Professional Development (July-December 2018)

I. Train the Trainer Sessions

II. Resources and Technical Assistance to Support Fidelity of Implementation

I. PDC Sustainability

All webinars, PowerPoint presentations and videos created under this grant will be available for repeated use in subsequent years to licensed early childhood programs across the state.

Feedback From Trainers and Coaches

This curriculum is awesome! What excites me is there is so much to share with the teachers. I am really excited about the widgets! There is so much information for all teachers. If they need help with special needs children family engagement all the information is there for them.

- Resources are abundant with easy access using an iPad
- Lessons are aligned with the early learning standards
- Fits nicely with using the ELA as an assessment for the lessons

Reasons why teachers should implement CSW.

Great resources and ideas.

Understandable framework and format.

CSW project based approach works great for trained teachers and for children in care.

Curriculum helps promote developmentally appropriate classroom environment/activities

Aligned with ELA to help with intentional observations and formative assessment

Provides many specific examples and resources

Feedback From Trainers and Coaches

*Aligned with MD standards and assessment

*User friendly and support innovation in teaching resources

*Researched and valid to ensure DAP is being implemented

- Teachers using the ELA will benefit greatly from the way formative assessment is embedded throughout CSW (truer understanding of how to do formative assessment)

- Developmentally appropriate!

- Many layers of resources so that teachers of different experience levels can get the types of supports and information they need

CSW Companion Parenting App



Companion Parenting App (Fall 2019)

Donor Funded

I. CSW linkages

- **The app will contain background information** about each CSW project (e.g., Busy Bodies, Showtime, etc.).
- Parents will receive **three notifications per week** that provide them **three concrete ways parents can help extend learning** to the home and community environment.

II. Family Resource Feature

- **Guidance for activities** that are independent of children's class projects (regarding subject matter).
- **A directory/guide for community and informational resources.** Community resources will include agencies that assist families of children with disabilities. Informational resources will include guidance regarding developmental milestones and positive parenting techniques, and for other facets of family life and parenting.

Remaining CECEI Curricula

Three-year-old curriculum will be called *Children Explore their World* (development commences January 1, 2019)

Toddler curriculum

Infant curriculum



Children Study Their World



Sample iBook

Showtime: Storytelling and Performing

Questions??