



## Summary of Current Googols of Learning Programs and Initiatives

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*Generally speaking, Googols of Learning values continuous quality improvement. You will find over the years, that we implement new programs and initiatives and once they are integrated into our values, policies, and procedures, they will sunset and we'll find another initiative that allows us to continue challenging ourselves, changing and improving the services we offer. The following is a list of current programs and initiatives.*

### **PBS (Positive Behavioral Support)**

Positive Behavioral Support/PBS, (also called Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports/PBIS), is a behavior and guidance model or framework that helps us with children's social/emotional skills. Some of the key points to know are that it is a prevention model; it is more about teaching expectations to the children ahead of time, before they make a poor choice and the teacher has to respond. PBS is positive, not punitive. We do not put children in time-out to 'think about what they've done.' Research shows this is not nearly as effective as teaching appropriate behaviors in advance. When a child missteps, then they have a discussion with the teacher about what they could have done instead. Frequently, children simply don't know how to use words to get what they want, don't know how to calm their bodies when angry or frustrated, or simply lack basic friendship skills. Our focus is on teaching problem-solving, self-regulation, friendship, self-help, and conflict resolution skills. With these skills under their belts, they will be ready to be totally successful in kindergarten. The 3 building-wide expectations at Googols are to Be Safe, Be Respectful, and Be a Team Player. Children will be taught in an age-appropriate way what these expectations mean in their classroom, common areas, and the playground.

### **Anti-Bias Education for Young Children (ABE)**

The start of this program included professional development training for staff, in-class coaching, and the purchase of anti-bias books, toys and materials. ABE is not a particular curriculum, it is an approach, whose messages are primarily of acceptance and recognizing that, though we are all different, there are many ways in which we are all the same too. Some of the main anti-bias themes we consider are: poverty bias, ability bias, racial bias, family structure bias, and gender bias. Through teaching and building relationships the children will learn the goals of ABE. These goals are 1) Identity...strengthen the sense of self and family, 2) Diversity...teachers will promote comfortable empathetic interactions with people of diverse backgrounds, 3) Justice...children will learn to recognize unfairness (injustice) and understand it hurts, and 4) Activism...teachers will cultivate each child's ability to stand up for oneself or others. As members of the National Association for the Education of Young Children we support their Professional Code of Ethics and accept that 'all early childhood educators have a professional obligation to advance equity.' Understand that ABE is not political, about critical race theory, blaming anyone or about sexual or other adult issues. This is an age-appropriate way to teach empathy and understanding for all the people around us. This is simply a more focused extension of our Positive Behavioral Support model in which we teach about being respectful and being a team player (helping others). If you have questions, please reach out to Amy at amy@googolsoftlearning.com.

### **Strengthening Families**

The Strengthening Families program began as a way of preventing and reducing child abuse and neglect at

the state and national level. The focus is prevention by way of strengthening ALL families. As a Strengthening Families program we work to help you build your 5 protective factors. The protective factors are, Knowledge of Child Development, Parental Resilience, Concrete Supports in Times of Need, Social Connections, and Social-Emotional Competence of Children. At Googols we support you where we can in each of these areas. For example, Social-Emotional competence of children is achieved through our PBS program. Social connections and Concrete supports are accomplished through the social activities, parties, field trips, and other events where we invite all the parents and guardians to attend, get to know each other, and hopefully create a network of friends to call on in times of need. Knowledge of child development happens each time we offer a parent informational night, you attend a parent/teacher conference, or complete an ASQ (Ages & Stages Questionnaire). Parental resilience is defined as the process of managing stress and functioning well in a particular context when faced with adversity. Resilience is learned through exposure to challenging life events facilitated by supportive relationships and environments. We try to support your resilience by setting up opportunities for you to meet and make friends with other parents in the program or by sending out information like stress buster ideas.

***Family Library***-We have a family library located near security door up front. It is a 'take-on/leave-one' model. You are free to browse the magazines and books and take what you like home. We ask that in exchange you bring some books that your child has lost interest in back to exchange. Some of the books here will support your knowledge or your child's social/emotional competence, i.e. they are considered a PBS book.

***Communication, Formal Reporting, and Family Partnerships***-To further your knowledge of child development we also work hard at communicating how your child is doing here at Googols. We offer formal parent-teacher conferences every 6 months. We are happy to set up conferences at any time you would see a need. Other types of communications include daily digital reporting, now offered in all rooms, newsletters, emailed fliers, in child folders, and posted on the entryway walls and classroom doors. We want you to feel comfortable communicating to us anything you'd like to share about your child. We offer Ages & Stages Questionnaires (ASQs) usually once or twice a year, so that you have formal reporting nearly every quarter of the year. We also offer an annual ASQ-SE which focuses on social/emotional development of your child.

For more information on ASQ screening, please visit <http://agesandstages.com/about-asq/>.

### **Step It Up-Taking Steps to a Healthy Success**

Googols has made a commitment to make and encourage healthy choices for our children and families. We started first making changes to our menus. We switched from 2% to 1% milk for the preschoolers, eliminated juice, and all pre-fried foods. We introduced 'meat-less Mondays' to expose children to more legumes and reduce even more fat from the diet, and we switched to all whole grains. In addition, because we want to be respectful of religious preferences, our menus are also pork-free. We support the importance of making healthy food and drink choices, supporting breastfeeding, reducing screen time for children, and increasing active play. And, of course, we have our indoor climber so children get an opportunity for exercise every day, regardless of weather.