

## Age Appropriate Curriculum and Content

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### Afterschool Curriculum Choice: Technology, Literacy, Math, Science

This collection of curricular materials, coordinated by the SEDL National Center for Quality Afterschool, is designed to help practitioners make informed choices about resources to enrich their programs. This online library contains a variety of resources, from activity guides to software packages, supporting compelling learning experiences in informal settings. You can search the technology collection by grade, subject, title, etc.

**Where to find it:** <http://www.sedl.org/afterschool/resources/curriculum.html>

**Online Resource:** [www.thinkfinity.org/afterschool](http://www.thinkfinity.org/afterschool)

Thinkfinity, created by the Verizon foundation, offers program ideas, activities and project based modules for afterschool providers and families.

**Online Resource:** <http://4h.uwex.edu/afterschool/curriculum/activities.cfm>

4-H provides a variety of afterschool lesson plans on their website.

### Structuring Out-Of-School Time to Improve Academic Achievement (2009)

Out-of-school time programs are expanding from a focus on providing a safe space for children after school, to providing an academically-driven program that will benefit students' achievement. The Institute of Education Sciences (IES) offers evidence-based recommendations determined by a panel of OST experts and researchers on how to incorporate academics into OST programs. Recommendations include:

1. Align the OST program academically with the school day.
2. Maximize student participation and attendance.
3. Adapt instruction to individual and small group needs.
4. Provide engaging learning experiences. (e.g. practical examples, hands-on learning, team projects)
5. Assess program performance and use the results to improve the quality of the program.

**Where to find the article:** OSTRC Document Library, "Activities, Content, and Curriculum"

### Featured Information:

"Early Learning Standards" (Infant-2<sup>nd</sup> grade) & School Age Standards

### Summary:

The Pennsylvania Early Childhood Education Standards are research-based standards that identify key learning areas of development for children. The standards guide practitioners to intentionally integrate developmental knowledge with the attitudes, skills, and concepts children need to make progress in all learning areas.

Additional resources include posters, curriculum guides, lesson plan templates, and parent resources.

The Pennsylvania Department of Education website shares information about school-age standards.

### Where to find the full article:

Early Learning Standards:  
[http://www.pakeys.org/pages/get.aspx?page=career\\_standards](http://www.pakeys.org/pages/get.aspx?page=career_standards)  
or, go to: [www.pakeys.org](http://www.pakeys.org)  
Under Career Development

School-Age Standards:  
<http://www.pdesas.org/Standard/StandardsDownloads>