



## **Cornerstone Center for Early Learning Programmatic Summary**

*This document specifies Cornerstone's philosophy, standards, curricula, enhancement programs, partnerships, and support to ensure success for each child.*

### **MISSION**

Cornerstone Center for Early Learning nurtures confident, young minds while supporting all families

### **VISION**

Envisions a world where all children and families thrive

### **VALUES**

Nurtures, thrives, respects, trusts and achieves

### **Missouri Accreditation**

Provides quality standards for programs serving children from birth to school age within the state of Missouri.

<http://www.moaccreditation.org/>

### **State Licensing for Child Care Centers**

#### **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education**

Works to assure the health, safety, growth, and development of Missouri's children through a regulatory process to prevent injury, risk, or harm to dependent children in out-of-home child care settings.

<https://dese.mo.gov/media/pdf/5-csr-25-500042-licensing-process>

### **Developmental Milestones (Domains)**

Skills such as taking a first step, smiling for the first time, and waving "bye, bye" are called developmental milestones. Cornerstone helps children reach milestones in how they play, learn, speak, act and move.

<https://www.cornerstonecenterstl.org/programs/>

### **The United Way of Greater St. Louis Safety Net Partner**

Cornerstone is part of a strong safety net of nonprofits here to meet the vast needs of our community so our neighbors always have a place to turn for help.

<https://helpingpeople.org/>



## **Naturalistic Creative Curriculum**

**Creative Curriculum** – Includes developmentally appropriate goals and objectives for children within four main categories of interest: social/emotion, physical, cognitive and language  
<https://teachingstrategies.com/product/the-creative-curriculum-for-preschool/>

**Loose Parts** – Recycled, repurposed and/or naturalistic materials that can be moved, carried, combined, redesigned, lined up, and taken apart and put back together in multiple ways (STEM)  
<https://www.miriambeloglovsky.com/wondering-what-to-do-with-loose-parts/>

**Certified Outdoor Classroom** - Dynamic, nature-based play and learning spaces (STEM)  
<https://certified.natureexplore.org/>

## **Weekly Learning Programs**

**STL Pre-K Cooperative** – To ensure that 85-90% of our children are kindergarten ready  
<https://www.stlprekcooperative.org/>

**Ready Readers** – Trained volunteers read aloud to young children, sparking imaginations and building early literacy skills in preparation for kindergarten  
<https://www.readyreaders.org/>

**STOMP the World** – Provides dance/movement/music  
<https://www.stomptheworld.org/staff-and-board-members.php>

## **Health and Developmental Screenings**

Lead/Anemia Testing: **Healthy Kids Express/Children’s Hospital**  
<https://www.stlouischildrens.org/health-resources/advocacy-outreach/healthy-kids-express>

Vision Screening: **Delta Gamma**  
<http://dgckids.org/>

**Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ)**: A screening tool that can be used to screen infants and young children for delays during the crucial first five years of life  
<https://agesandstages.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Dev-Screening-Toolkit-2018.pdf>

**Pre-Kindergarten Observation Form (PKOF)**: A screening tool utilized for 3-5 year olds to view “whole child” view of readiness across 20 essential readiness skills in 5 areas. It is validated against standardized measures of child development.  
<https://united4children.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/PKOF-Overview-2021-1.pdf>



## **On-site Specialists**

**Sensory Solutions** – Supporting children’s delays with occupational and speech/language therapy  
<https://sensorysolutions.org/>

**Bud to Bloom Play Therapy**- Bringing joy and connection to children with trauma, big behaviors and attachment wounds through play therapy in St. Louis.  
<https://www.budtobloomplaytherapy.com/>

**United 4 Children** – Social/emotional support  
<https://united4children.org/>

**First Steps** – Whole child support for children 0-3 years  
<https://www.mofirststeps.com/>

**In-house coaching for staff** - Coaching from Cornerstone’s in-house specialist is a positive approach to change. They create an awareness of what is possible by focusing on where you are and where you want to be. It is about creating clarity around the issue that keeps you stuck. Coaching is action-oriented and requires reflection.  
<https://youtu.be/KukQfLvgCk8?feature=shared>

## **Additional On-site Programs**

**CPR/First Aid/AED** – Cornerstone staff are certified in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation, an emergency lifesaving procedure performed when the heart stops beating. Immediate CPR can double or triple chances of survival after cardiac arrest.  
<https://www.redcross.org/take-a-class>

**Trauma Informed Care** – Trauma Informed Care involves using trauma knowledge to guide how treatment and services are delivered and how a trauma lens can be applied to promote organizational change. All staff are trauma informed trained.  
<https://dmh.mo.gov/trauma-informed-care>

**Safe Touch** – The goal of the Child Abuse Prevention Program (CAPP) is to provide age-appropriate information on the concepts of personal safety, boundaries, and bodily autonomy.  
<https://www.jfedstl.org/about-us/>

**UWGSL DEI Blue Ocean Brain** – A micro learning platform utilized by Cornerstone staff focused on driving positive change and encouraging authentic conversations across a myriad of topics including DEI  
<https://blueoceanbrain.com/>



## **Nutrition**

**United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)** – This funding in conjunction with supplemental grants allow Cornerstone Center to exceed required government nutrition guidelines and better overall health for the children.

<https://www.nal.usda.gov/human-nutrition-and-food-safety/dietary-guidance>

**Panera Day-End Dough-Nation Program** – To help alleviate food insecurity, Cornerstone distributes donated Panera bread, bagels, and baked goods available for all Cornerstone families on a weekly basis.

<https://www.panerabread.com/en-us/food-values/community.html>

**Missouri Friendly Breastfeeding Workplace Accommodations\*** – Employers must provide work schedule and work pattern flexibility to accommodate reasonable break times for breastfeeding employees to express breast milk or breastfeed as needed, for one year or longer after the child's birth.

<https://health.mo.gov/living/families/wic/breastfeeding/worksiteinitiatives/#:~:text=The%20Missouri%20Breastfeeding%20Friendly%20Worksite,businesses%20that%20support%20their%20breastfeeding>

## **Family Support & Engagement Programs**

**ParentPowered** – Easy-to-use tools for engaged parenting to improve the lives of all children with simple lessons outside of Cornerstone; personalized and trauma informed.

<https://parentpowered.com/>

**St. Louis Area Diaper Bank** –Partners with Cornerstone to help get families the resources they need. Cornerstone is a recipient to two free packs of diapers per month per child awarded to income-qualified families.

<https://stldiaperbank.org/get-diapers/>

**Siteman Books in Hand Initiative** – A Siteman Family Charitable Fund program which provides a new age-appropriate book each month for our students' home libraries

<https://www.cornerstonecenterstl.org/2018/05/17/siteman-family-foundation-books-in-hand-initiative/>

**Birthday Buddies** – Through the kindness of volunteers, the Birthday Buddies Program ensures that children from families of all economic backgrounds are celebrated by providing a party on the third Friday of every month celebrating each preschool child who has a birthday within that month.

<https://www.cornerstonecenterstl.org/volunteer/>

**Cornerstone Closet** – A free on-campus store of in-demand goods to help Cornerstone families in need

<https://www.cornerstonecenterstl.org/how-to-help-nonprofit-early-childhood-education/cornerstones-closet/>



**City Greens Market-** City Greens Market exists to provide access to fresh, quality, and affordable produce to all of our neighbors, to promote healthy living in the community, and to provide a welcoming and comfortable space for our members to interact.

<https://www.stlcitygreens.org/>

**Family Engagement Events** – Cornerstone offers a variety of supportive events for families such as Family Fun Day, Parent Workshops, Winter Pop-Up Shop, Holiday Adoption, and more.

*\*Programs with an asterisk will be implemented by the end of 2023.*