



### A Commitment to Excellence

The ELM curriculum is grounded in research:

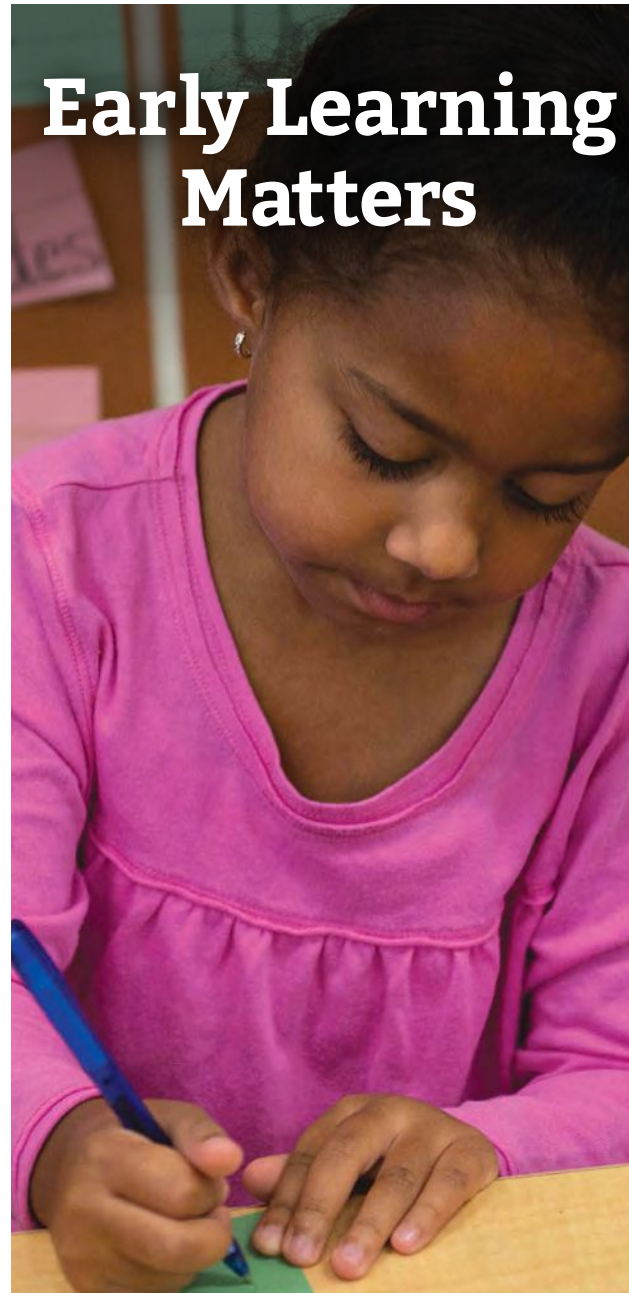
- Developed in collaboration with early childhood experts at Purdue University
- Refined by extensive pilot testing in Department of Defense child development centers
- Aligned with accreditation standards from the National Association for the Education of Young Children



### A Strong Start for Military Kids

The Early Learning Matters curriculum is one more way the Department of Defense and the Office of Children, Youth and Families are serving our military. This new curriculum being introduced in child development centers:

- Includes 50 weeks of plans and activities
- Promotes skills linked to school readiness, well-being and success
- Combines staff-guided and child-initiated learning experiences



# Early Learning Matters

## MILITARY ONESOURCE

Military OneSource is your 24/7 connection to information and support. Find help paying for child care, support during deployment, parenting tips and more. Connect to us anytime to connect to your family's best MilLife.

[www.MilitaryOneSource.mil](http://www.MilitaryOneSource.mil) | 800-342-9647



A new curriculum from the Department of Defense, developed for military children.

# Helping Our Military Children Thrive

The Early Learning Matters curriculum, or ELM, was developed for use in Department of Defense child development centers. It's designed to give our military children a strong foundation in school and life.

The curriculum offers developmentally appropriate activities for different age groups and individual children. Here's a sample of what children will learn:



## Infants-Toddlers Birth-12 months, 12-24 months, 24-36 months



### Cognitive

- Exploring objects with different senses
- Understanding similarities and differences



### Communication/Language

- Communicating back and forth
- Exploring pictures, sounds and printed words in books



### Physical/Health

- Supporting movements like crawling, sitting and standing
- Improving coordination and motor skills



### Self-Regulation

- Self-calming after periods of activity
- Paying attention to an object or person
- Practicing focusing and problem solving



### Social-Emotional

- Practicing verbal and nonverbal interactions
- Becoming aware of specific feelings like happy and sad



Learn more about ELM at your installation's child development center or at [www.virtuallabschool.org/elm-curriculum](http://www.virtuallabschool.org/elm-curriculum).

## Preschoolers 3-5 years old



### Creative Expression

- Using different tools to create art
- Creating dance through movement



### Language/Literacy

- Learning each letter's name, sound and written form
- Understanding information from a book



### Mathematics

- Counting and creating groups
- Distinguishing between basic shapes



### Physical/Health

- Practicing different movements like gallops, twists and jumps
- Learning about healthy foods



### Science

- Understanding the needs of living things
- Exploring animal habitats



### Self-Regulation

- Practicing skills like waiting patiently
- Following requests by looking and listening



### Social-Emotional

- Considering safety and fairness
- Understanding emotions and feelings
- Learning ways to get along with others



### Social Studies

- Exploring how people are the same and different
- Sharing things from different cultures

## Rich in Resources

The ELM curriculum includes a range of materials:

- Activity plans for different age groups
- 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

