How Wee Engineer® Links to the NAEYC Curriculum Program Standard

NAEYC Program Standard 2: Curriculum	How Wee Engineer supports this standard
The curriculum includes goals for the content that children are learning, planned activities linked to these goals, daily schedules and routines, and materials to be used.	Wee Engineer supports children's engagement in genuine engineering practices. These practices are laid out in the overview and are clearly linked to each activity. Each activity includes a detailed lesson plan with thoughtful question prompts that encourage children to think like engineers as they engage in the specific activity. Each activity also includes a materials preparation section that walks educators through all aspects of preparing materials and setting up the classroom. Wee Engineer materials are carefully selected to encourage engineering thinking and behaviors as children explore and make discoveries.
The curriculum should address all aspects of child development.	Wee Engineer is designed as a supplemental engineering curriculum with strong connections to common preschool centers and themes. Each activity provides opportunities for rich extensions in math, literacy, science, and/or engineering. Each extension is designed to support the engineering thinking children are already doing in the activity while making connections with other areas of the preschool curriculum. Wee Engineer is designed to help children practice skills they are already developing in social, emotional, physical, cognitive, and language domains.
Children are given opportunities to learn and develop through exploration and play.	Wee Engineer activities, because of their creative, goal-oriented, and hands-on nature, support playful learning. Children's work and play are guided using a three-step Engineering Design Process: Explore, Create, and Improve.
Teachers have opportunities to work with individual children and small groups on specific skills.	Wee Engineer incorporates instructional strategies that have been shown to be effective and engaging for young learners, and fit nicely within the existing structures and routines of preschool classrooms. Full group discussions: The educator begins and ends each Wee Engineer activity with a short, engaging discussion to provide context for the engineering work and opportunities to share. Children can participate through speaking, listening, and pointing to or holding up materials. Station work: Children explore materials, create designs, and improve their work in small groups at stations. At some stations, the educator guides the engineering work, providing an appropriate level of challenge for each child. At other stations, the educator steps back to observe as children learn from the materials and from their peers.

NAEYC Program Standard 2: Curriculum	How Wee Engineer supports this standard
Materials and equipment spark children's interest and encourage them to experiment and learn.	Wee Engineer was designed to meet the needs of all learners in the preschool classroom. Each challenge provides multiple opportunities for children to engage in engineering and share what they know using a variety of developmentally appropriate methods. We purposefully selected open-ended materials that spark thinking and exploration, and each engineering challenge offers a wide variety of ways to solve the problem.
Activities are designed to help children get better at reasoning, solving problems, getting along with others, using language, and developing other skills.	Children move step-by-step through a goal-directed problem-solving process. Children engage in guided reflection to consider their options and make informed decisions about materials. After creating, children reflect on how they've solved the problem by testing, evaluating, and improving their designs. Children have multiple opportunities to discuss their ideas, explain their choices, and support their statements with evidence. Children use engineering vocabulary in a context that is grounded in a goal-directed, hands-on design challenge. Children work alongside their peers and engage in conversations about materials and problem solving.