

Virtual Lab School



An Integrated Approach to Building Quality Care and Education Programs

Research is clear: time spent in high-quality care settings has a positive influence on children's outcomes, and well-trained teachers are key to creating quality experiences. Developed in response to the U.S. Department of Defense's childcare professional development needs, the Virtual Lab School (VLS) provides research-based content and tools that support serving children and their families.

Integrated Essential Elements



Delivers comprehensive content supported by relevant video



Scaffolds learning for new and advanced professionals



Integrates research on child development, effective teaching practices, and principles of adult learning



Provides practical tools and resources supporting program excellence



Features a system-wide approach for those working with children from birth to twelve



Emphasizes developmentally appropriate, inclusive, & family focused approaches

Content For Professionals Customized by Role

VLS courses are comprehensive and aligned across functional roles. Using the Learn, Explore, Apply, Demonstrate (LEAD) framework within each lesson, we help professionals develop competencies that support children's optimal development.

Our Foundational Courses align with the Child Development Associate (CDA) competencies and NAEYC, NAFCC, and CYD-AYD standards. Focused Topics Courses offer advanced or specialized training featuring in-depth content and additional resources.

I Center-based

Direct Care

- *Infant & Toddler*
- *Preschool*
- *School-Age*

Coaching & Administration

- *Training & Curriculum Specialist*
- *Management*

II Family/Home-based

- *Family Child Care*

15 Foundational Courses

- *Safe Environments*
- *Healthy Environments*
- *Learning Environments*
- *Physical Development*
- *Cognitive Development*
- *Positive Guidance*
- *Family Engagement*
- *Program Management*
- *Professionalism*
- *Communication and Language Development*
- *Creative Expression*
- *Self and Cultural Understanding*
- *Social Emotional Development*
- *Child Abuse Prevention*
- *Child Abuse Identification and Reporting*

+ Focused Topics Courses

- *Social Emotional Learning for Teachers*
- *Supporting Language Diversity*
- *Essentials in Child Care Food Service*
- *Creating Gender Safe Spaces*