Kentucky has implemented new regulations, effective July 1, 2008. These revised regulations impact the requirements for early care and education settings regarding lesson plans. The regulations for Type I and Type II providers found in 922 KAR 2:120 Section 2: Child Care Services (4), states that a “child care center shall provide a daily planned program of activities,” and goes on to include more specific information about what is expected within the planned program of activities. Although the requirements within this regulation can also refer to a daily schedule, the Interpretive Guidelines for this specific regulation state, “A center’s daily lesson plan should include developmentally appropriate activities for the age of the child.” This means that it is expected that there will be lesson plans developed by providers designed to facilitate activities within the daily routine.

**What is a lesson plan?** A lesson plan is a document designed to be a framework for any caregiver or teacher of young children. It doesn’t have to be difficult; in fact, it can be very simple! The framework allows the adult to organize thoughts and think creatively about the kinds of things they want to do with children each day.

Lesson plans will look different from program to program and sometimes even classroom to classroom. Infant and toddler lesson plans should look different than preschool lesson plans, and preschool lesson plans should look different than school age plans. Lesson plans will also look differently based on the type of program you are in or the curriculum that a program follows.

**What should be on a lesson plan?** Lesson plans don’t have to be complicated, but they should have some basic components: name of an activity, a time of day for the activity, and materials necessary to complete the activity. Lesson plans can become more complex and include other components as necessary or as required by the program.

A lesson plan is not the daily schedule – it should have more detail than a daily schedule. (*September’s CHILD CARE PROFESSIONAL* included an article on the revised regulations and the requirements for the Daily Schedule). Your preschool or school age daily schedule may include headings like “story time.” But a lesson plan would tell what specific book you are going to read, props to help it come alive, and activities you plan to do to engage children during the story and as follow-up. Do you see the difference in planning what book to read and the associated activities and just picking one off the shelf randomly? For example, it may look like the Preschool sample below.

**STORY TIME:**

**Read:**


**Props:**

Flannel Board and flannel backed pictures of each animal in the book.

**Engagement:**

Encourage children to all chant “What do you see?” as a group when I point to them.

**Follow-up:**

Let children know the book will be added to the book center and add colorful tissue paper to the art center to facilitate them creating art using the Eric Carle style.

Although, an infant and/or toddler classroom daily schedule would not have group times like story time designated, a lesson plan would be written so that the
adult would have activities planned to integrate into the daily play routine. Again, the lesson plan for this age group would include specific instructions for these play activities. What follows is an example of an infant/toddler lesson plan.

**PLAYTIME:**

**Activity:**
Fun with Balls

**Materials:**
Variety of balls (different sizes), ball with rattle inside, a basket

**Directions:**
With children on the floor, offer them balls. For non-mobile children who may be on their backs, shake the rattle ball on different sides to encourage the child to turn head from side to side. For mobile infants, place the balls out of reach to encourage them to roll or crawl to get it. For older infants/toddlers, offer the balls for play and have them throw/roll the ball. They could throw toward the basket, etc.

**Follow up:**
Share the activity with the families so they can do it at home, too.

What else do I need to know about lesson plans? Don’t forget to post the lesson plans! In addition to the daily schedule being posted in each classroom, it is expected that lesson plans for that age group will also be posted. Find an accessible place in the classroom so that teachers, supervisors, and families can see the plans as desired.

An important note to remember when developing lesson plans is that lesson plans are also valuable as a communication tool. Lesson plans can be used by substitutes in the classroom in the event of the absence of the primary caregiver. This will allow the substitute to have more direction in his or her day which in turn offers the children a sense of consistency and stability.

Lesson plans are also used as a communication tool between the program staff and families. They are a great way to encourage family involvement within the program! Lesson plans can show families what kinds of things their child will be doing each and every day and can help them understand that even though it appears that all the children do all day is play, they are learning through their play!

Who can help us understand how to meet this new regulation? Staff members from the Child Care Resource & Referral at WKU are available to programs to provide assistance not only in developing lesson plans, but also available in providing additional assistance with understanding the new regulations as well as developmentally appropriate practices within early care and education. Feel free to contact us at ccrr.expert@wku.edu or by phone at 1-800-621-5908.

**NOTE:** Certified Family Child Care Homes will see references to daily planned program of activities in the following regulation sections:

- 922 KAR 2:110 Section 10 General Requirements (10)(b)
- 922 KAR 2:110 Section 17 Certified Home (7)(b)