

**CHAMPIONS<sup>®</sup>**

A 2014 study<sup>1</sup> conducted by the David P. Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality recognizes Champions curriculum, processes and procedures as those that are strongly aligned to high-quality best practice standards.

**WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT TO SCHOOLS & FAMILIES?**

Champions before- and after-school programs have the essential practices in place to deliver consistent instructional, improvement and implementation processes as well as provide strong curriculum and activities to support both cognitive and non-cognitive areas.

These findings are highly predictive in producing positive youth outcomes such as: better attendance, less behavior incidents, high student engagement, academic success and college or career readiness.

## HIGH QUALITY BEST PRACTICES DEMONSTRATED BY CHAMPIONS<sup>®</sup> BEFORE- AND AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

**STANDARDS CHECKLIST**

Literacy Skill Development	Champions
Program practices based on developmental and learning theory and philosophy	✓
Literacy used for personal, social and cultural purposes	✓
Fostering literacy is not the organizing purpose, but rather an important objective pursued in the course of a range of activities	✓
Prevalence of reading and writing opportunities; Staff encourage children to read and write	✓
Physical and social environments make reading and writing activity inviting	✓
Deliberate attention to language and vocabulary	✓
Children exhibit their skills and interests in a variety of ways	✓

STEM Skill Development	Champions
Program designed with specific learning goals in mind	✓
Programs are interactive	✓
Settings provide multiple ways for learners to engage with concepts, practices and phenomena	✓
Staff supports participants to interpret their learning experiences in light of relevant prior knowledge, experiences and interests	✓
Staff encourage systems thinking, creativity, optimism, collaboration, communication, use of proper vocabulary and attention to ethical considerations	✓
Staff has youth reflect on their experiences	✓



**“Champions before- and after-school programs are designed to meet individual needs, the interests of children and includes a wide range of activities based in curricula and an instructional philosophy rooted in positive youth development.”**

**David P. Weikart Center of Youth Program Quality**



The David P. Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality empowers education and human service leaders to adapt, implement, and scale best-in-class, research validated quality improvement systems to advance child and youth development

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



Champions® is a leading provider of high-quality programs for before- and after-school learning and break-time camps. Every day, Champions brings fun and learning together for more than 15,000 students at over 400 sites in 17 states.

[DiscoverChampions.com](http://DiscoverChampions.com)

Critical Thinking Skill Development	Champions
Staff encourage youth to reflect on their thinking process during problem-solving	✓
Staff ask youth to retrieve what they already know about a topic prior to studying it	✓
Staff ask youth to make connections between new knowledge and familiar topics	✓
Staff encourage youth to generate hypotheses and prove or disprove them	✓

Socio-Emotional & Self-Regulation Skill Development	Champions
Staff provide opportunities for collaboration among youth	✓
Staff encourages empathy among youth	✓
Youth take responsibility for their own learning and are given agency in their learning	✓
Staff encourage youth to reflect on their performance after a learning task	✓

Fitness Skill Development	Champions
Customizing activities to children's ability and interest	✓
Exposing youth repeatedly to a variety of physical activities	✓
Staff provide opportunities for youth to feel successful	✓
Youth have choices of what physical activities to participate in	✓
Activities promote enjoyment and do not require a great deal of mental effort	✓
Staff help youth to avoid self-criticism	✓

Positive Youth Development Settings	Champions
Positive relationships with adults	✓
Content becomes increasingly complex over time	✓
Curriculum flexible to accommodate youth interests	✓
Youth motivation and engagement high priority for staff	✓
Staff guide youth in problem-focused coping	✓
Staff model skills and behaviors and participate alongside youth	✓

Continuous Improvement Practices	Champions
Site managers are focused on improving quality in instructional settings	✓
High and clear expectations by and for staff about instructional practices	✓
Technologies of assessment and feedback on performance	✓
In-service training to build professional knowledge and skills	✓

<sup>1</sup>The study of Champions before- and after-school curriculum, policies and procedures does not constitute or imply an endorsement by the David P. Weikart Center for Youth Program of the program or the provider. Results include fully aligned evidence of quality best practices that are proven to create positive youth development settings and promote youth skill development as identified by scientific research.