

ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT OPTIONS

METHOD	ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
<i>Adopting a packaged curriculum</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full operational, field-tested system Unified framework providing guidelines for decision making Frees resources for other aspects of program development Evidence of effectiveness in other settings Training and technical assistance during implementation Networking with other users 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cost—ranging from hundred to thousands of dollars Generic rather than specific to the needs and culture of the client population Constraints imposed by curriculum marketer, including adaptations, reporting requirements, minimum purchase of supporting materials
<i>Modifying an existing curriculum</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Components tailored to client population and program goals Small initial investment Concrete set of materials for program start-up 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selected components may not have effectiveness of validated package Incompatibility or inconsistency between components brought in from different models No framework or guidelines for decision making and problem solving
<i>Creating your own curriculum</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sense of “ownership” and commitment to the curriculum model Materials and strategies specific to client population and program goals Opportunities for dissemination and replication enhance program credibility Marketing to generate income for implementation and expansion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Substantial investment of time and resources Delayed start-up of staff recruitment and service delivery to families Untested in terms of field work and effectiveness

Source: A. S. Epstein, M. Lerner and R. Halpern. A Guide to Developing Community-Based Family Support Programs. Ypsilanti, MI: High/Scope Press, 1995.

Early Childhood Counts: Programming Resources for Early Childhood Care and Development. CD-ROM. The Consultative Group on ECCD. Washington D.C.: World Bank, 1999.