



## ***The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool***

Diane Trister Dodge, Laura J. Colker, and Cate Heroman

*The Creative Curriculum* balances teacher-planned and child-initiated learning, emphasizing responsiveness to children's strengths, interests, needs, and learning styles. Nationally known for being forward-thinking, comprehensive, and rigorously researched, it helps teachers plan and implement content-rich, developmentally appropriate programs that support active learning and promote children's progress in all developmental areas.

*The Creative Curriculum* translates child development theory and research into best practice, clearly defining the teacher's vital role in connecting content, teaching, and learning for preschool children. It discusses the five components of teaching preschool children effectively:

- how children develop and learn
- the learning environment
- what children learn
- caring and teaching
- partnering with families

Whatever their levels of experience, teachers can find the support they need to offer appropriate learning experiences for all the children in their classrooms, including dual-language learners, children with disabilities, and advanced learners.

### *Literacy: The Creative Curriculum® Approach*

Cate Heroman and Candy Jones

*Literacy: The Creative Curriculum® Approach* reviews the latest research about early literacy learning and shows teachers how to create environments and offer experiences that inspire children to read and write. It explains seven components of literacy in detail: literacy as a source of enjoyment, vocabulary and language, phonological awareness, knowledge of print, letters and words, comprehension, and books and other texts.

*Literacy: The Creative Curriculum® Approach* discusses six essential aspects of teaching literacy in the preschool classroom:

- talking, singing and playing with language
- reading aloud
- storytelling
- story retelling

- writing
- meaningful play
- conducting long-term studies

Guidance is given for meeting the strengths and needs of children who are dual-language learners and children with disabilities. *Literacy: The Creative Curriculum® Approach* also offers directions for 38 literacy activities, a “Literacy Implementation Checklist,” and useful observation forms.

*Mathematics: The Creative Curriculum® Approach*  
Juanita Copley, Candy Jones, and Judith Dighe

Preschool teachers can build upon children’s interests to promote mathematics learning. *Mathematics: the Creative Curriculum® Approach* helps teachers fully understand the mathematical concepts and skills they will be teaching and shows them how purposefully to incorporate mathematics learning into daily classroom routines. This book extends *The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool* by offering detailed information about

- the research related to early mathematics learning
- the components and process skills of mathematics
- planning the mathematics program
- supporting dual-language learners and children with disabilities
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It also offers a “Mathematics Implementation Checklist” and useful observations forms.

*The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool in Action! bilingual DVD and User's Guide*

This DVD examines *The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool* thoroughly and shows how teachers use *The Creative Curriculum* to guide their thinking and decision making about teaching and learning. Eight 10- to 20-minute segments delve into the learning environment, a day in the life of *The Creative Curriculum* preschool classroom, intentional teaching, planning for literacy, planning for mathematics, integrating learning through studies, using a closely linked assessment system, and building partnerships with families. Filmed in a variety of Head Start and child care settings, each segment is ideal for use in workshops and study groups.

*A Parent's Guide to Preschool*  
Diane Trister Dodge and Joanna Phinney

*A Parent’s Guide to Preschool* answers many of the questions families have about what their children do and learn during the preschool day. This guide helps families learn more about their children’s school experiences and understand how to partner with teachers to help their children acquire the skills, attitudes, and habits to succeed in school and throughout life. In clear terms, this beautifully illustrated booklet explains

- how preschool children learn
- the purposes of the preschool curriculum
- why social–emotional skills are so important

- what children learn in preschool and how they learn it
- how educators assess children’s learning
- what children learn at home

*Reading Right From the Start for Birth to Age Five*

Toni Bickart and Diane Trister Dodge

This easy-to-read, richly illustrated booklet shows families how to help their children (birth–age 5) gain valuable language and literacy skills at home through everyday routines and experiences. Families learn how talking, singing, and reading with children help them build their vocabularies, learn about conversations, and discover the meaning of print. The booklet also recommends books for babies, toddlers, and preschoolers.

*Math Right From the Start*

*What Parents Can Do in the First Five Years*

Jan Greenberg and Toni Bickart

Most families of children under age 5 do not realize that they can help their children build mathematical knowledge simply by doing everyday activities. *Math Right From the Start* shows parents how to promote important math skills through such activities as bathing, feeding, and household chores. This easy-to-read booklet suggests activities for enhancing children’s learning about numbers, geometry, measurement, patterns and change, and collecting and organizing information. Best of all, the activities help children make important connections between their home and school experiences. The booklet also recommends books for babies, toddlers, and preschoolers.

*Teaching Strategies GOLD™* Assessment System

Authentic, ongoing assessment is the key to planning appropriate learning experiences and helping children succeed in school and life. *Teaching Strategies GOLD*, our new, seamless system for assessing children from birth through kindergarten, centers on 38 objectives that are predictors of school success and aligned to state early learning standards. The objectives are organized into 10 areas of development and learning, including broad developmental areas, content areas, and English-language acquisition. Explanations and detailed examples are included for every objective, so teachers can focus their observations and understand how to use assessment information to plan for each child and the group.

To help teachers support English-language learners in their classrooms, *Teaching Strategies GOLD* includes two objectives related specifically to English-language acquisition. The system is also inclusive of children with disabilities. Teachers can be confident that they are prepared to meet the strengths and needs of each child, regardless of his or her developmental levels.

Based on extensive feedback from teachers and shown by recent field tests to be valid and reliable, *Teaching Strategies GOLD* has user-friendly features, like color coding, that promote increased accuracy and help teachers manage the complexity of child development. Helpful strategies related to each objective enable teachers to adjust support for all children easily. *Teaching Strategies GOLD* guides teachers through the yearly assessment cycle, each and every step of the way.

The *Teaching Strategies GOLD* assessment system has four components:

- *Objectives for Development & Learning: Birth Through Kindergarten*
- *Child Assessment Portfolio*
- *Assessment Opportunity Cards*
- *On-the-Spot Observation Recording Tool*

#### *Objectives for Development and Learning: Birth Through Kindergarten*

*Objectives for Development and Learning: Birth Through Kindergarten* is the reference book that teachers use to gain the knowledge they need to make informed decisions throughout the assessment cycle. It presents 38 research-based objectives for development and learning that are predictive of a child's success in school and aligned to state early learning standards. Explanations, detailed examples, and developmental progressions help teachers determine what children currently know and can do and what steps children are ready to take next.

*Objectives for Development & Learning* provides much more than just a description of each objective. It explains the assessment of young children in terms of *what, why, and how*. Comprehensive summaries of important research findings related to each objective help teachers understand *what* objectives are important and *why*. *Objectives for Development & Learning* explains *how* to observe and document what children know and can do, *how* to analyze facts and respond to children, *how* to use the system tools, *how* to summarize and communicate their findings, and *how* to plan. The practical strategies presented for each objective also show teachers *how* to help children progress.

#### *Child Assessment Portfolio*

As they use the *Child Assessment Portfolio*, teachers analyze, interpret, and evaluate the information they collected. At specific checkpoints during the year, teachers record their assessment decisions, enabling them to see the entire year's progress easily by looking in one convenient location. Color-coded developmental progressions in the *Child Assessment Portfolio* guide teachers as they make their assessment decisions. Each page is cross-referenced with *Objectives for Development & Learning*, giving teachers a wealth of detailed information for interpreting their observations and making accurate decisions.

#### *Assessment Opportunity Cards*

*Assessment Opportunity Cards*, an optional resource, explain 10 short, playful, curriculum-embedded classroom experiences during which teachers can focus their observations on particular objectives for literacy and numeracy. Supporting additional opportunities for teachers to observe children's strengths, these *Assessment Opportunity Cards* help teachers round out the information they need to make accurate assessment decisions.

#### *On-The-Spot Observation Recording Tool*

An optional checklist, the *On-the-Spot Observation Recording Tool*, helps teachers capture information about selected objectives quickly and accurately. For use with children one-on-one

or in a group, the *On-the-Spot Observation Recording Tool* eliminates the need for teachers to create their own checklists and gives them more time to interact with children.

*Moving Beyond the Developmental Continuum: Teaching Strategies GOLD™*

*Moving Beyond the Developmental Continuum: Teaching Strategies GOLD™* shows how to connect content, teaching, and learning in literacy, math, science, social studies, the arts, and technology, and it presents the objectives for development and learning in each of those areas. It then shows how children’s experiences in the interest areas and the outdoors are related to particular objectives for development and learning and to literacy and mathematics learning in general. Teachers are guided to respond to each child on the basis of direct observation and reflection.

FLORIDA VOLUNTARY PRE-K Research Base

Until the 20<sup>th</sup> century, little scientific attention was given to studying how children grow and develop. In the last 100 years, however, a wealth of research has been devoted to better understanding children’s social–emotional, physical, language, and cognitive development. *The Creative Curriculum for Preschool* helps teachers implement developmentally appropriate practice by translating research into specific teaching strategies that promote positive child outcomes.

*The Creative Curriculum for Preschool* draws on theory and research to inform and shape the *Curriculum* and the guidance offered to teachers. By understanding the theory and research behind how children’s knowledge, skills, and behaviors progress over time, teachers are better able to support children’s development and learning.

The *Creative Curriculum* philosophy is based on five fundamental beliefs that are strongly supported by theoretical and empirical research:

- Constructive, purposeful play is the best vehicle for meaningful learning
- The development of social competence is a key focus of the preschool years
- Relationships are the foundation for learning
- Curriculum and assessment must be linked
- Families are essential partners in children’s learning

*The Creative Curriculum* draws on the latest empirical, peer-reviewed research on language and literacy, cognitive, physical, social–emotional, and brain development for preschool children.

*The Creative Curriculum for Preschool*, 4th Edition and *Literacy: The Creative Curriculum Approach* draw on research from over 100 scientific studies, including the work of Grover Whitehurst (1998), Susan Neuman (1990, 1991, 1998), and Joseph Torgesen (1998), as well as research syntheses by the National Early Literacy Panel (2004) and the National Reading Panel (2000). The curriculum translates findings from these studies into specific instructional strategies to improve literacy and language outcomes for children.

In a study conducted by the U.S. Department of Defense Education Activity and monitored by Quality Assist, Inc., preschool children in 10 randomly selected Sure Start classrooms were assessed for a variety of language and pre-literacy skills. A pre-test was administered in the fall

of 1999 and a post-test in the spring of 2000. All of the classrooms in the study group implemented *The Creative Curriculum for Preschool*. At the end of the study period, participating children achieved statistically significant gains in the five measures applied to them, comprising language and literacy skills, early math skills, as well as social competence.

## **Professional Development Plan**

Teaching Strategies strongly believes that professional development of early childhood professionals is the key factor in improving the quality of child care, child development and learning. We offer numerous opportunities for teachers and administrators alike to participate in professional development: 4 day and 2 day training sessions, webinars, technical assistance, national conferences, DVDs etc.

Teaching Strategies will be offering as a part of Florida VPK plan, ongoing professional development in the form of a series of 1 hour long webinars that will cover several topics that will help early childhood professionals sharpen their skills.

Webinar topics include:

### **1. The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool**

Gives overview of the curriculum and introduces the organizational structure of the materials

### **2. The Creative Curriculum® Learning Environment**

The three parts of the learning environment will be discussed: physical environment, the classroom structure and the classroom community

### **3. A Day in the Life of The Creative Curriculum® Classroom**

This webinar will show how teachers can address children's learning throughout the day and base instruction on their observation of children's diverse learning strengths and needs

### **4. Intentional Teaching in The Creative Curriculum® Classroom**

We will address the four parts of intentional teaching:

- a. Learning is purposeful when it is based on content standards.
- b. Learning is meaningful when it is responsive to how young children learn..
- c. Teachers use a variety of settings: large groups, small groups, interest areas, and routines and transitions.
- d. Teachers use particular teaching strategies based on individual children's strengths and needs.

### **5. Planning for Literacy in The Creative Curriculum® Classroom**

This webinar will focus on showing how to create literacy-rich environment, integrate literacy throughout the day, plan literacy experience, assess children’s literacy learning and involve families.

**6. Planning for Mathematics in The Creative Curriculum® Classroom**

This webinar will show how the teachers can apply this knowledge to support children’s mathematical learning.

**7. Integrating Learning Through Studies in The Creative Curriculum®**

This topic will focus on in depth exploration of science and social studies and how to implement them in the classroom environment

**8. Using The Creative Curriculum® Assessment System**

This webinar will discuss the importance of using the assessment system correctly in order to fully implement the Creative Curriculum® and it will show how the teachers assess children’s learning on daily basis and at periodic checkpoints during the year. It will also focus on how the teachers should communicate what they learn to the families.

**9. Family Partnership in The Creative Curriculum®**

This webinar will focus on how the teachers can get to know the families and nurture ongoing relationships so that all children can develop and learn

To complement the included professional development Teaching Strategies will also offer supplemental course to provide additional professional development for Early Childhood Educators. The session will be offered at the local Early Learning Coalition offices and will focus on Intentional Teaching.

This 3 hour session will help teachers to understand the interrelated components of intentional teaching and how the impact that they have on children’s engagement in learning and behavior. At the culmination of the session, teachers will create personal plans outlining how they will use the intentional teaching strategies they learned in their own classroom.

**Pricing**

Toolkit ISBN: 978-1-60617-424-1

Toolkit Pricing: \$2,399.95

- The Creative Curriculum® *for* Preschool, Fourth Edition
- Mathematics: The Creative Curriculum® Approach
- Literacy: The Creative Curriculum® Approach
- The Creative Curriculum® *for* Preschool *in Action!* DVD
- Teaching Strategies GOLD™ assessment system
- Moving Beyond Developmental Continuum Teaching Strategies, GOLD™

- Introducing the Objectives for Development and Learning
- A Parent's Guide to Preschool
- Reading Right from the Start (2 copies)  
What Parents Can Do in the First Five Years
- Math Right from the Start (2 copies)  
What Parents Can Do in the First Five Years
- Florida Voluntary Pre-K Professional Development

**Price listed is for informational purposes only. Publisher retains the right to adjust price at any time.**

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