

# The Creative Curriculum for Preschool<sup>®</sup>, Part I

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The Creative Curriculum<sup>®</sup> for Preschool  
Touring Guide

[www.teachingstrategies.com](http://www.teachingstrategies.com)

# What is the Creative Curriculum® for Preschool?

A comprehensive collection of knowledge-building and daily practice resources that explains the “what”, “why”, and “how” of teaching.

- The “What” and “Why” are explained in the 5 curriculum volumes that comprise *The Foundation*.
- The “How” is provided by way of step-by-step guidance found in the *Daily Resources*.

# How Does the Creative Curriculum® Work?

*The Foundation* is the knowledge base of the curriculum, with detailed information about the most current research and best practices in early childhood education.

The *Teaching Guides*, using **studies**, offer daily plans to help teacher provide individualized instruction for every child.

# What are Studies?

The study approach is a method of integrating content learning through children's in-depth investigations of a meaningful topic.

Children raise questions about the topic, and through exploration and discovery they find answers to their questions.

# Why Studies?

It allows for deep, firsthand exploration of topics that are of interest to children.

It encourages children to develop skills across all domains as they apply the investigative process.

# What are the Creative Curriculum<sup>®</sup> Objectives for Development and Learning?

- The 38 research-based objectives define the path teachers take with the children in their classroom.
- They inform every aspect of teaching, include predictors of school success, and are aligned with the IL Early Learning & Development Standards.

<http://teachingstrategies.com/content/pageDocs/IL-GOLD-Alignment-PS-2013.pdf>

- The objectives cover 10 areas of development and learning, including broad developmental areas, content areas and English language acquisition.

# How Are Curriculum and Assessment Linked?

- The *Objectives for Development & Learning* guide teachers as they implement the curriculum.
- The objectives define the skills, knowledge and behaviors that teachers are helping children acquire.

# Color Bands

- Teaching Strategies uses a color-coded system to show the widely-held expectations for children from birth through kindergarten.
- Color Bands graphically represent progressions of learning and development for most children at particular ages and classes/grades.



# Teaching Strategies GOLD

The Teaching Strategies GOLD<sup>®</sup> is an authentic, ongoing observational system for assessing children from birth through kindergarten.

- Per pupil annual subscription (\$21.95)
- Online, 24/7
- Based on the 38 Objectives for Development & Learning
- Uses Color Bands

To learn more, please visit [TeachingStrategies.com/GOLD](https://TeachingStrategies.com/GOLD) or e-mail inquiries to [GOLD@TeachingStrategies.com](mailto:GOLD@TeachingStrategies.com). You can also reach TS by phone at 800-637-3652, option 4.

# Curriculum Components

- *The Foundation*
- *The Daily Resources*
  - *Teaching Guides*
  - *Intentional Teaching Cards*
  - *Mighty Minutes*
  - *Book Discussion Cards*

# ***The Foundation***

- Volume 1 – The Foundation
- Volume 2 – Interest Areas
- Volume 3 – Literacy
- Volume 4 – Mathematics
- Volume 5 – Objectives for Development & Learning

# Teaching Guides

1. Explore topic
2. Investigate topic
  - Five investigations, each lasts 3-5 days
  - Each investigation has “At A Glance” plan
3. Closing celebration
4. Reflection
5. Resources

# At A Glance

- Interest Areas
- Question of the Day
- Large Group
  - Opening Routine
  - Song/Game/Movement
  - Discussion and Shared Writing
- Read-Aloud
- Small Group
- Mighty Minutes
  - Outdoor Experiences
  - Family Partnerships
  - Wow! Experiences

Vocabulary words

# Intentional Teaching Cards

These cards describe playful and engaging activities that can be implemented throughout the day, with directions to help teachers individualize each activity to meet the needs of every learner.

# Mighty Minutes

*Mighty Minutes™* are songs, chants, rhymes, games, and short activities that help turn every minute of the day into a learning opportunity.

*Mighty Minutes™* can be used anywhere, any time to intentionally teach language, literacy, math, science, social studies, or physical skills during “in-between” times— such as when teachers are preparing to go outside or gathering children for large-group time.

# Children's Book Collection

- The book collection includes beloved classic tales, contemporary works by well-known authors, and original nonfiction books created especially to complement the studies featured in the *Teaching Guides*.
- The rich collection of literature, in both English and Spanish, includes alphabet books, counting books, nonfiction books, concept books, and narrative picture books, all of which encourage children's exploration, interaction, and enjoyment.

The *Teaching Strategies*® *Children's Book Collection* contains 79 high-quality children's books, including 4 big books. There is also an eBook Collection of 30 of the books available in English and Spanish.



# Book Discussion Cards

- *Book Discussion Cards™* show teachers how to conduct multiple effective read-alouds, ensuring that children are getting the most out of these experiences.
- Intended as a quick reference for group read-alouds, *Book Discussion Cards™* offer suggestions for introducing each book, emphasizing vocabulary as the story is read, commenting on characters, and asking probing questions. The cards also have specific guidance for supporting children's social-emotional development.

# Professional Development

*Each of the resources in The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool contains embedded professional development support for teachers at all levels.*

- **Interactive Online Course**

- 6-hour *Curriculum Overview* online training course
- Interactive modules provide practice

- **Getting Started DVD**

- Provides a brief introduction and overview of each component of the curriculum.



# Connecting With Families

- Classroom and Family Resources CD (English & Spanish)
  - Letters to Families – introduces families to studies and learning in interest areas
  - Weekly Plans – prefilled weekly planning forms, can be adapted
  - Learning Games - 20 ready to print activities to send home
- eBook DVD

# **The Creative Curriculum® Supports English Language Development**

Detailed guidance throughout the resources helps teachers to individualize instruction to meet the needs of all children— regardless of their home language.

# Conclusion

Questions ?

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