The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool
Overview Document

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Submitted to:
Florida Department of Education
Office of Early Learning
325 West Gaines Street, Suite 514
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0400

Disclaimer: Information on this page is provided by the publisher and is based on the publisher’s submission for the VPK Curriculum Approval Process. Other versions of the curriculum may exist, but the submission (packaged curriculum materials AND professional development) outlined here is the only version approved for use by VPK providers on probation who choose the curriculum option on the improvement plan.
The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool Overview Document

Contact/Ordering Information

Orders can be placed with Teaching Strategies via mail, phone, or fax

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<th>Mail</th>
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<td>Teaching Strategies, LLC</td>
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The Creative Curriculum VPK Package Price: $2,149.00 + S&H

Pricing is effective through the life of the VPK adoption

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

The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool VPK Package

Publication Date: 2010

Authors: Diane Trister Dodge; Cate Heroman; Kai-lee Berke; Toni Bickart; Carol Aghayan; Laura Colker, EdD; Juanita Copley; Diane Burts, Ed.D; Candy Jones, Patton Tabors, Ed.D; Judith Dighe

The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool is based on five fundamental principles:

- positive interactions and relationships with adults provide a critical foundation for successful learning;
- social-emotional competence is a significant factor in school success;
- constructive, purposeful play supports essential learning;
- the physical environment affects the type and quality of learning interactions and teacher-family partnerships promote development and learning

The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool, is a comprehensive collection of knowledge-building resources and daily practice resources that explains the “what”, “why” and “how” of teaching. “What” and “why” are explained in the five foundational volumes that provide educators with a strong knowledge base and a fundamental understanding of best practices in the field. “How” is provided by way of step-by-step guidance found in the daily practice resources. The Teaching Guides and additional instructional tools provide ideas and detailed plans for making every day meaningful and engaging for all children in the program. Special support helps individualize for English and dual-language learners.

The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool:

- is based on 38 objectives for development and learning, which are fully aligned with the Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards for Four-Year-Olds as well as the Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework.
- offers daily opportunities to individualize instruction, helping teachers meet the needs of every type of learner.
- addresses all the important areas of learning, from social-emotional and math to technology and the arts, and incorporates them throughout every part of every day.
- offers daily, built-in opportunities for observation, helping teachers and administrators clearly see the strong relationship between curriculum and assessment.
- offers complete support for working with English and dual-language learners, including detailed guidance that helps to build teachers’ knowledge about best practices.

The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool Components

The Creative Curriculum for Preschool: The Foundation provides the theory and research foundation of the curriculum and helps teachers set up their classrooms. They contain everything teachers need to know in order to build and implement a high-quality preschool program.
Florida Department of Education
2013 Curriculum Approval Process for Providers on Probation

**Volume 1: The Foundation** presents the theory and research and behind the curriculum and helps translates teachers into practice.

**Volume 2: Interest Areas** discusses the 10 classroom interest areas and the outdoors, suggesting appropriate materials and presenting teachers with ways to promote children’s development.

**Volume 3: Literacy** gives teachers the latest research-based strategies for supporting early literacy learning, helping them to teach intentionally and incorporate language and literacy learning into everyday classroom experiences.

**Volume 4: Mathematics** explains the components and process skills of mathematics and provides teachers with practical strategies for promoting mathematics learning.

**Volume 5: Objectives for Development & Learning** discusses the 38 objectives for development and learning, providing teachers with user-friendly, color-coded teaching sequences to illustrate widely held expectations for children and strategies to help them progress.

The Creative Curriculum for Preschool: Daily Resources
The Creative Curriculum for Preschool Daily Practice Resources provide step-by-step guidance in the form of Teaching Guides, Intentional Teaching Cards™, and additional daily teaching tools. These resources offer a wealth of ideas and detailed plans for filling every day with meaningful and engaging experiences for all of the children in your program.

- **Teaching Guides** provide daily support for the entire school year, offering comprehensive, detailed plans that each span several weeks and guide teachers through the day.

- **Intentional Teaching Cards** provide playful and engaging activities with directions to help teachers individualize each activity to meet the unique needs of every learner.

- **Mighty Minutes™** help teachers turn every minute of the day into learning opportunities, intentionally promoting language, literacy, math, science, social studies, and physical skills during “in-between” times.

The Teaching Strategies Children’s Book Collection features beloved classic tales, contemporary works by award-winning authors and illustrators, and original nonfiction titles for use during high-quality read-alouds.

- **Book Discussion Cards™** explain how to read and talk about selected books in the Teaching Strategies Children’s Book Collection, helping teachers make the most of repeated, interactive read-alouds with children.

The Teaching Strategies Children’s eBook Collection (DVD) features English and Spanish titles in the Children’s Book Collection that have been adapted for the eLearning environment.

- **The Resource Organizer** is a specially designed binder in which resources for the day can be assembled, keeping them close at hand.

- **The Getting Started DVD** offers a brief introduction and overview of each component to help every educator begin implementation.

- **The Guide to The Creative Curriculum System for Preschool** explains how everything works together to help teachers build high-quality programs for children.

- **The Classroom and Family Resources CD-ROM** offers built-in opportunities to involve families, containing Letters to Families, Weekly Plans, and LearningGames® in both English and Spanish.

*Teaching Strategies GOLD® ONLINE Assessment System*

- **Publication Date:** 2010
- **ISBN:** Not applicable for an online product

*Teaching Strategies GOLD®* is based on 38 research-based objectives that include predictors of school success and cover all domains of development and learning. The objectives are aligned to the Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards for
Four-Year-Olds (2011) and the Common Core State Standards for Kindergarten. GOLD is a criterion referenced, valid, and reliable tool that provides a broad picture of development and learning with explanations about what is being measured and why. Progressions of learning assist teachers in understanding the sequence of development to best support individual children. The assessment system is designed to support instruction—it helps teachers identify strengths and needs to make more informed instructional decisions and to better scaffold children’s learning. With its web-based platform, Teaching Strategies GOLD® offers maximum benefits as an assessment system. Currently, over 25,000 children in the state of Florida are being assessed using Teaching Strategies GOLD®.

With Teaching Strategies GOLD online, teachers can:

- use a variety of online tools to gather and organize meaningful data quickly, including online portfolios where children’s work can be stored
- understand how their observations relate to important objectives for development and learning and use that understanding to scaffold each child’s learning
- determine if a child is making progress and compare the child’s knowledge, skills, and behaviors to those of most children of his or her age or class/group
- recognize children who might benefit from special help, screening, or further evaluation
- generate comprehensive reports that can be customized easily and shared with family members and other stakeholders

Access for up to 25 children is provided FREE of charge as part of this curriculum package. To learn more about Teaching Strategies GOLD, please visit www.teachingstrategies.com.

REQUIRED Professional Development
Teaching Strategies offers online professional development opportunities for teachers through a self-paced, interactive online training experience. These modules may be used by teachers to begin to familiarize themselves with the curriculum and refresh their knowledge base.

Teaching Strategies offers the following online introductory training to all teachers participating:

The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool Online Training Modules: This interactive online training demonstrates how the components of The Creative Curriculum® System for Preschool work together to build individualized, project-based investigations in the classroom. Teachers practice gathering materials, planning for implementation, and preparing for the beginning of the year. This resource is always available to teachers.

Teaching Strategies GOLD® Online Training Modules: This online course introduces teachers to the components, structure, and functionality of Teaching Strategies GOLD®. Through video clips, individual reflections, activities, and quizzes, teachers explore the progressions of development and learning for children from birth through kindergarten. They then practice using the four-step assessment cycle, including evaluating a child’s portfolio and developing a communication plan. By the end of the course, teachers have the basic skills they need to implement Teaching Strategies GOLD™ online.

Upon completion of the introductory training, teachers will have the opportunity to attend a webinar series. These webinars will also be recorded for later access for ongoing professional development support.

Training 1 - Topic: Introduction to The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool
Curriculum® Webinar 1 (45 minutes)
By the end of the session, teachers will be able to:
- Define the five components that form the framework of The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool
- Explain how the five volumes are interrelated
- Identify objectives for development and learning that relate to a positive classroom community

Curriculum® Webinar 2 (1 hour)
By the end of the session, teachers will be able to:
- Define effective, engaging curriculum for young children
- Identify the parts of the progressions for development and learning
- Apply the Curriculum components (The Daily Practice Resources) to the classroom

Training 2 – Topic: The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool: Language and Literacy
Curriculum® Webinar 3 (1 hour)
By the end of the session, teachers will be able to:

- Describe the relationship between language development and literacy development
- Explain the components of literacy as they relate to preschool children
- Identify The Creative Curriculum® objectives for language and literacy and explain how they relate to the components of literacy
- Determine developmentally appropriate expectations for children’s language and literacy development and learning
- Describe the teacher’s role in promoting language and literacy development and identify effective teaching strategies


By the end of the session, teachers will be able to:

- Explain five components of mathematics learning and the process skills of mathematics.
- Understand number and operations, geometry and spatial sense, and problem solving.
- Plan developmentally appropriate activities that support children’s mathematics learning.

Training 4 - Topic: Using Teaching Strategies GOLD Online: A 1-Day Lab for Teachers GOLD® Webinars 5-6 (45 minutes each)

By the end of the session, teachers will be able to:

- Explain the progressions of development and learning
- Interpret the color bands as codes for particular age groups or class/grade levels of children

GOLD® Webinars 7-8 (45 minutes each)

By the end of the session, teachers will be able to:

- Explain when and how to use the On-the-Spot Observation Recording Tool and Assessment Opportunity Cards™
- Explain the four steps of the assessment cycle

GOLD® Webinars 9-10 (45 minutes each)

By the end of the session, teachers will be able to:

- Discuss observation notes, portfolios, and the analysis of documentation
- Evaluate child portfolios online and enter checkpoint data

Implementation

Since VPK providers are able to choose a curriculum for a summer program consisting of 300 hours or a school year program consisting of 540 hours, Teaching Strategies is able to tailor the offerings above based on program implementation. The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool studies can be implemented in any order. Teaching Strategies does, however recommend starting with “Beginning of the Year”. Summer programs can implement “Beginning of the Year” and any other study of the programs choice. Training recommendations based on program implementation are as follows:

**Summer School**
- Overview of The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool Online Training Modules
- Teaching Strategies GOLD® Online Training Modules
- Introduction to The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool Curriculum® Webinar 1, part I (45 minutes)
- Introduction to The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool Curriculum® Webinar 2, part II (45 minutes)

**School Year Program**

School Year programs are encouraged to participate in all online training modules and webinars as outlined above.

Upon purchase of the Creative Curriculum® for Preschool VPK package, Teaching Strategies will assign a dedicated Implementation Associate to each program. The Implementation Associate will be responsible for establishing a Teaching Strategies GOLD assessment account and a professional development calendar of training. Once the assessment account and training calendar have been established, programs will be able to assess child growth and development, record child documentation, run reports, participate in live webinars and have access to recorded versions of those webinars to serve as training refreshers and ongoing support for implementation.