

The InvestiGator Club® Prekindergarten Learning System Robert-Leslie Publishing Response to Texas Resource Review

The Robert-Leslie Publishing team appreciates the thorough evaluation of the Texas Resource Review to assist Texas educators and district committees as they compare the attributes and quality indicators of the adopted Prekindergarten Learning Systems for Proclamation 2021.

Robert-Leslie Publishing is proud that The InvestiGator Club Prekindergarten Learning System received a perfect score for every Texas Resource Review Quality Indicator. We thank each dedicated member of the review team, who worked hard during these challenging times to evaluate and report their detailed and thoughtful scores and rationale.

We encourage educators and selection committees to pay close attention to and compare the detailed reports of the programs under consideration as they make district decisions. The TRR report presents valuable information regarding the TRR assessment of each indicator for every program, including:

- SBOE Review Process TPG Alignment – TIC score of 100% in English and Spanish programs
- Integration of content, skills, and effective practices
- Domains: Health and Wellness, Emergent Literacy Writing, Language and Communication, Mathematics, Emergent Literacy Reading, Science, Social Studies, Fine Arts, Technology Applications
- Educator Support: Progress Monitoring, Supports for All Learners, Implementation

The InvestiGator Club is an inquiry-based program that has as its foundation research-proven methods to spark children’s curiosity and love of learning. Little investigators explore and discover, investigate, and think critically. Children are helped to access their own prior knowledge and background to solve problems, make predictions, draw conclusions, and communicate their learning.

The guiding principles that The InvestiGator Club emphasizes throughout the curriculum include:

- Developmentally appropriate practices that consider social and emotional development
- Extensive oral language and vocabulary development every day
- Everyday Literacy
- Hands-on math every day
- Explicit curricular objectives in science, social studies, art, music, dramatic play, health and safety, physical development, and technology
- Planned learning experiences that include a mix of whole group, small group, daily routines including morning message, transitions, learning centers, outdoor play, opening circle with oral language, and closing circle with shared writing
- Learning experiences that utilize investigation, problem solving, play, and teacher-directed instruction

- Assessment and intervention for lesson planning to help every child succeed

Every lesson is based on a responsive teaching model. For example, teachers begin each week by asking children a content-related question to spark curiosity, stimulate involvement, and access prior knowledge. Questions in the Splash and Dig Investigation include, “What can you do with water?” and “What is an Ocean?” Each explicit lesson provides a 4-step lesson plan as follows: 1) Set the Stage, 2) Get Started, 3) Listen and Write, Read the Story (varies with lesson), 4) Make Connections. Each step is based on eliciting responses from students and interacting accordingly.

Each week is a balance of modeling and demonstration, offering encouragement and feedback, and creating an appropriate level of challenge for children. This is achieved through explicit examples of daily modeling in the Teacher Guides, open-ended questions and activities to elicit responses, choices following each model lesson, and suggestions for supporting children and providing challenge in each lesson.

Teachers are helped to scaffold instruction by engaging in meaningful conversations with children, gently helping them progress in skill level and independence through a series of questions, and offering models, hints, and cues to help children become secure at each level.

The InvestiGator Club integrates all learning in ten domains through seven inquiry-based Investigations, including an eight-week program readiness program and introduction, “Let’s Investigation,” and six theme-based Investigations.

The InvestiGator Club includes the following features:

- Research-based learning system with third-party efficacy studies with over 500 pre-K children, including many in Texas
- Comprehensive, scaffolded and spiraling curriculum
- Scope and Sequence of 274 skills in ten domains
- Curriculum, assessment and intervention, and professional development
- Complete English and Spanish Digital Program included
- Comprehensive digital curriculum with SSO, integrated with Clever
- 150 books and stories, including leveled readers and authentic literature in Spanish and English
- Inclusive for all children, including those with special needs, dual language learners, and three-year-olds

The Texas Digital InvestiGator Club also includes the following resources:

- STEAM and Literacy Challenge Program for emergent readers
- Just for Threes Learning System
- Adaptive Learning Guide for Special Education
- Dilly’s Tree House Family Engagement Portal
- Get Ready for Kindergarten! Summer School

- Four additional (4-week each) online Investigations with school and family versions

The InvestiGator Club develops young readers by fostering imagination and a love of books and storytelling. Through quality interactions with peers and adults, children build a strong foundation for literacy, communication, vocabulary development, writing, and verbal problem solving.

Every InvestiGator Club day begins with Opening Circle Time, when the teacher and children read a story, learn a dance or song, or explore a new concept together. Ideas for daily routines and transitions also incorporate oral language for extra practice and reinforcement.

Shared writing, language experiences, and independent writing occur every day as children creatively express their ideas and represent their learning. Investigation and math literature, multicultural tales, and Lapbooks provide rich read-aloud opportunities. Bruno's Buzz Nonfiction Readers provide science and social studies concepts and help children learn about informational text and print.

Throughout the day, children hear and use high-level vocabulary, increasing their vocabulary at a rapid rate, and incorporating new vocabulary as they engage in meaningful conversation. For example, before going home, children gather to share their work, talk about what happened during the day, and reflect on their learning.

The InvestiGator Club research-based approach to mathematics includes the following elements:

- Understanding of mathematical concepts
- Skills in carrying out mathematical procedures
- Ability to solve mathematical problems
- Capacity for logical thought
- Ability to see mathematics as worthwhile in one's life

The program uses integrated, hands-on activities every day to help children achieve the highest level of mathematical thinking and development:

- Standards-based mathematics lessons for whole groups, small groups, and individual children
- Mathematics Learning Centers
- Mathematics Literature and accompanying lessons on topics such as counting, shapes, and addition/subtraction
- Interactive Flapboard stories to teach concepts, such as part/whole, counting, greater than/less than, and patterns
- Digital Math and Sorting Board and Math Strips
- Data gathering/graphing to promote reasoning and problem solving