

The Creative Curriculum[®] for Texas is a comprehensive set of research-based resources that helps teachers establish effective, developmentally appropriate preschool programs for children with diverse family backgrounds, life experiences, languages, and skill levels. With a whole-child approach to development and learning, *The Creative Curriculum*[®] supports children’s development of the knowledge, skills, and abilities that are most critical to school success. Certified by the Texas State Review Panel as being fully aligned to the *Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines*, the curriculum’s 38 objectives cover all areas that research has shown to be critical for supporting whole-child development and children’s success: social–emotional, physical, language, cognitive, literacy, mathematics, science and technology, social studies, and the arts.

The Creative Curriculum[®] for Texas focuses on meeting the needs of individual children, while honoring and respecting the role that teachers play in making learning engaging, inspiring, and meaningful for every child. Learning takes place through hands-on, “minds-on” project-based investigations, or studies, which have been shown by research to be the most developmentally appropriate way for young children to learn. Every component of the content-rich curriculum has been intentionally designed to fit together to create a seamless day of teaching.

The Creative Curriculum[®] is based on a thorough review of research literature, extensive classroom experience of the authors and consultants, and decades of feedback from early childhood teachers and administrators. All objectives for development and learning and all recommended instructional strategies are evidence-based. All content is reviewed by experts, and independent evaluation of all resources provides evidence of effectiveness. University researchers have established the validity of the objectives for development and learning, and growth norms that align with the developmental progressions.

Research findings are summarized throughout the curriculum, and those findings are translated into practical, intentional teaching strategies. These summaries help teachers and caregivers understand which knowledge and skills are important for children to acquire for kindergarten, the sequential steps that children take as they develop and learn, and why particular intentional strategies are effective.

The Creative Curriculum[®] for Texas provides both *The Foundation* and *Daily Resources* to create a cohesive curriculum that supports teachers every step of the way throughout the year. *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* offer daily plans to help teachers provide individualized instruction for every child and organize and manage every moment of their day, all year long.

The 38 measurable, developmentally appropriate learning objectives are the heart of the curriculum and define the path teachers take with children in their classroom. They inform every aspect of teaching, include predictors of school success. The objectives are aligned to the *Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines* and the *Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework*. They cover 10 areas of development and learning—social–emotional, physical, language, cognitive, literacy, math, science and technology, social studies, and the arts, as well as English-language acquisition – including broad developmental areas, content areas, and

English-language acquisition. All objectives include predictors of school success and are based on school readiness standards. Throughout the early childhood learning experience, children are being prepared in all the ways that matter for later success in school.

Color-coded charts graphically represent progressions of widely held expectations of learning and development for most children at particular ages and classes/grades. The same colors are used for the teaching sequences shown on the *Intentional Teaching Experiences*, making it easier for teachers to use assessment information to individualize instruction.

The Creative Curriculum® for Texas builds children's confidence, creativity, and critical thinking skills through hands-on, project-based investigations. Nationally known for its forward-thinking, rigorously researched approach and trusted for decades by early childhood educators, it is the most widely used early education curriculum in the country today. It is proven to increase kindergarten readiness by focusing on academic rigor, critical thinking, and social-emotional skills. With research-based content and resources, it provides the tools needed to encourage and support every type of learner and address all areas of development and learning.

The year is organized by *Teaching Guides*. By providing detailed daily plans, they show teachers how to introduce content in a cohesive, sequential manner. The first *Teaching Guide, The First Six Weeks: Building Your Classroom Community*, addresses the first six weeks of school, which are devoted to building a strong classroom community, developing meaningful relationships with children and their families, helping children learn how to contribute as members of a group, and introducing skills for conducting investigations.

The other *Teaching Guides* feature studies, which are in-depth investigations conducted over time of topics that are relevant to children's everyday lives—water, wheels, boxes, music making, simple machines, and gardening. Each study has a series of questions for investigation. Studies are an effective way to make learning meaningful as children

- actively explore to find answers to questions about the topic;
- investigate topics firsthand and manipulate real, study-related materials;
- have opportunities to develop process skills and positive approaches to learning, including those involving curiosity, motivation, problem-solving, attention, representation, engagement, persistence, flexible and inventive thinking, and communication;
- integrate learning across domains; and
- apply skills in literacy, mathematics, the arts, and technology as they explore concepts in science and social studies.

When planning for *Teaching Guides* on *The Creative Curriculum® Cloud*, teachers are able to add a *Teaching Guide* to their dynamic planning calendar. This pre-fills their weekly plans with the At-a-Glance charts from that guide, saving teachers time inputting this information to their digital plans.

The Creative Curriculum® for Texas brings a content-rich, developmentally appropriate curriculum that delivers academic rigor alongside social-emotional learning, cognitive development, and meaningful interactions in the preschool classroom regardless of configuration – traditional classroom, distance learning, or hybrid approach. With robust embedded coaching and support and comprehensive, detailed daily guidance, teachers are able to fill every moment of the day with meaningful, intentional learning that supports the whole child.

The Creative Curriculum® 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. These fundamental principles guide practice and help early childhood educators understand the reasons for intentionally setting up and operating preschool programs in particular ways.

As children work through multi-week studies, they have many opportunities to build on what they learn and see their own progress as they experiment, research, and document their findings. The end of each study includes time for reflection and celebration, offering children the chance to look back at what they learned. When children then share the results of their investigations with others, they are able to see their own growth and knowledge development. Using tools such as displays, journals, photo documentation, and shared writing experiences, children see their overall understanding progress over time.