The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool

Supporting the Strengths and Needs of Children in Special Education Programs

The same approaches that enable The Creative Curriculum® programs to successfully provide high-quality learning experiences for all children can also translate into success in special education classrooms.

What is The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool?

The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool is an award-winning, research-based curriculum that features exploration and discovery as a way of learning, enabling children to develop confidence, creativity, and lifelong critical thinking skills. Comprising of The Foundation, six research-based volumes that provide the knowledge base of the curriculum, and the Daily Resources, which offer step-by-step guidance in the form of Teaching Guides and additional daily teaching tools, The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool is fully aligned with the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework and early learning standards for each state.

The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool:

- is based on 38 objectives for development and learning, which are fully aligned with the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework as well as early learning standards for every state.
- presents knowledge-building volumes and daily practice resources in tandem, giving every educator the “what,” “why” and “how” of early childhood education.
- offers complete support for working with English- and dual-language learners, including detailed guidance that helps to build teachers’ knowledge about best practices.
- offers daily opportunities to individualize instruction, helping teachers meet the needs of every learner.
- contains guidance for working with all learners, including advanced learners and children with disabilities.
- addresses all important areas of development and 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.
The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool’s Unique Approach to Learning

Here’s a look at how The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool’s approaches to learning can be applied in special education programs:

Hands-on Exploration

Our Approach: Children are engaged in investigations of study topics that offer exploration with hands-on, interactive materials and resources from their everyday environments.

Application for Special Needs Programs: Every child, no matter where they are developmentally, can bring prior knowledge when exploring topics like balls, trees, and clothes. Studies are unique in offering all children opportunities to investigate and build skills across all areas of development.

Comprehensive Daily Guidance

Our Approach: Teachers are provided with comprehensive guidance for all major parts of the day, with room for flexibility to incorporate additional experiences that are important to each individual classroom community.

Application for Special Needs Programs: When teachers use the curriculum’s daily resources, they can be confident that they are covering all essential objectives, while still having room for the critical flexibility that’s required to be responsive to the additional needs that are unique in special education classrooms.

Embedded Professional Development

Our Approach: Embedded professional development provides strategies to help teachers refine and enhance their teaching practices in the moment.

Application for Special Needs Programs: Specific modifications and strategies for including all children are provided throughout daily resources to ensure that all children can participate fully and feel successful.

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**Teaching Strategies® for Preschool**

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Individualized Instruction

Our Approach: The objectives for development and learning found within The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool represent widely-held expectations for children birth through third grade, providing teachers with visibility into strengths-based progressions of development and learning for all children.

Application for Special Needs Programs: In any given experience, one child may be demonstrating skills and abilities aligned at or below widely held expectations, while another may be doing so at a higher level. Our embedded color-coded teaching sequences, which reflect strengths-based indicators of development, enable teachers to engage both children in the same small group experience as well as support their future growth.

Focus on Social–Emotional Development

Our Approach: The curriculum offers a strong focus on social–emotional development throughout the year as teachers, children, and families build a classroom community.

Application for Special Needs Programs: Sometimes in special education classrooms, children need additional support for developing interpersonal relationships with adults and peers. The curriculum has abundant resources for encouraging these relationships, as well as other social–emotional skills that are critical for success in other areas of development and learning.

Support for Responsive Planning

Our Approach: 38 objectives for development and learning are integrated throughout the resources to help teachers focus on what’s most important to children’s future school success.

Application for Special Needs Programs: Teachers can plan responsively based on the needs outlined in a child’s Individual Education Plan, with access to a rich library of resources that allow for specific focus on areas that need extra support.
The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool Components

The Foundation

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.

Daily Resources

The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool: Daily Resources provide step-by-step guidance in the form of Teaching Guides, Intentional Teaching Cards™, and additional daily teaching tools. The Daily Resources include:

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

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

• Book Discussion Cards™ that 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 Book Collection, which features beloved classic tales, contemporary works by award-winning authors and illustrators, and original nonfiction titles for use during high-quality read-alouds.

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

• The Teaching Strategies® Children’s eBook DVDs, which feature English and Spanish titles in the Children’s Book Collection that have been adapted for the eLearning environment.

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

• The Guide to The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool, which provides a thorough overview of each System component and explains how everything works together to help teachers build high-quality programs for children.

* English version shown. Also available in Spanish and as a fully bilingual curriculum.