



# Preparing for Implementation

## *The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool*

As an early childhood educator, your first commitment is to children—helping them succeed in school and in life. At Teaching Strategies, our first commitment is to you. We are glad you have selected us to be your partner and have chosen to implement *The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool*.

Offering strategies such as identifying measures of success, building a professional development plan, and planning for logistics to get started, this document is intended to provide you with the guidance and ongoing support you need to ensure your implementation of *The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool* is as successful as possible.



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## Identifying Measures of Success

Defining what success looks like in your program is critical to developing a meaningful implementation plan. Having measures of success will help you identify a focus for implementation, allow for continuous reflection on progress, and provide guidance for the support you receive from your partners at Teaching Strategies.

### **What does a successful implementation of *The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool* look like for your program in year one?**

*e.g., Increased focus on child-initiated experiences • Observing children engaged in hands-on project-based investigations • Teachers utilizing Daily Resources with fidelity • Family engagement and involvement in studies*

### **How will you measure success in year one?**

*e.g., Ratings from our environmental CLASS assessment • Level of fidelity of implementation • Child outcomes and growth in all areas of development and learning*

**What potential roadblocks do you feel you may encounter in year one?**

*e.g., Resistance to change in approach • Emerging understanding of project-based learning approach • Emerging understanding of resources and materials • Competing priorities*

**What does success in implementation look like for your program in year two?**

*e.g., Increased confidence in supporting dual-language learners • Continued growth and progress towards implementation to fidelity • Consistently leveraging assessment data to inform instruction*

## Building a Professional Development Plan

[According to the National Staff Development Council](#), training programs providing 30–100 hours of professional development over 6–12 months saw the largest positive impact on child achievement. Prioritization of professional development is critical to overall success of implementation and to the creation of positive child outcomes. To ensure the highest possible level of success and positive child outcomes, we recommend a minimum of 5 days of in-person professional development for teachers throughout the first year of implementation, as well as the use of coaching visits and online professional development.

### **What are your goals for professional development?**

*e.g., Developing teachers' confidence in understanding and implementing The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool • Promoting positive teacher-child relationships and interactions • Increasing mathematics and literacy opportunities embedded in each day • Strengthening the connection between curriculum and assessment*

### **How many professional development days are built into your program calendar?**

### **How many of those days can be used to ensure fidelity of implementation?**

**What resources are dedicated to supporting implementation and continuous education?**

**What are your teachers' current strengths?**

**What are current areas of potential growth?**

After reflecting on the professional development questions above, partner with your [account executive](#) and use [The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool: Professional Development Plan for Year One](#) to build a comprehensive and meaningful plan for your program.

## Planning for Logistics

There are a few logistical items to consider and plan for prior to implementation.

### **When will the curriculum kits be delivered?**

The training will be most successful if all curriculum materials are available to participants during their initial professional development sessions.

### **Was one curriculum kit per classroom purchased?**

We recommend that you use one full curriculum per class. This allows for ease of use, flexibility, and fidelity of implementation when using *The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool*.

### **How will curriculum resources be distributed to teachers?**

The curriculum boxes should be delivered with adequate time for teachers to review the materials prior to implementation. *The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool: Getting Started Guide* will provide guidance for teachers on unpacking the kits and preparing for implementation.

### **Will you complete an end-of-year inventory check?**

We recommend revisiting the box lists to ensure the curriculum kits are complete at the end of the year. Additionally, in Box 1 of *The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool*, you will find a checklist on the back of the visual foldout that can assist with an end-of-year inventory check. Completing an end-of-year inventory check allows substantial time to order replacements or new curriculum kits prior to the next program year. Additionally, discuss with teachers whether any [additional Daily Resources](#) or [additional Teaching Guides](#) would be beneficial for the next program year.

### **Will your program be benefitting from a subscription to *The Creative Curriculum®*, Digital Resources?**

If you need more information on *The Creative Curriculum®*, Digital Resources, please reach out to your [account executive](#) or click [here](#) to learn more. If you have already purchased a subscription to the digital curriculum resources, you will need to [allocate the subscription](#) to each classroom prior to implementation.

### **Do you have the necessary general supplies for each classroom?**

Refer to the [Setting Up a Classroom for 20 Preschool Children document](#) for the materials, supplies, and equipment that each classroom should have for implementation. Additional guidance for the specific type and number of materials, supplies, and equipment that should be available to children throughout the year is provided in the foundation volumes and in *Coaching to Fidelity: The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool*.

### **Have you acquired all needed materials?**

Review the compiled [materials list](#) for implementing *Intentional Teaching Cards™* and investigations from all studies in *The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool, Sixth Edition*, and the [materials list](#) for implementing *Intentional Teaching Cards™* and investigations from all studies in the [Expanded Daily Resources](#), if purchased. While *The Creative Curriculum®* was designed to leverage materials typically present in preschool classrooms and real-life artifacts from the local community and children’s homes, you can also [purchase preassembled curriculum kits](#) that are especially designed with educational materials to support a successful implementation of *The Creative Curriculum®*, if you find yourself wanting to refresh the classroom materials you have.

## Getting Started

Once your program has received the curriculum, please refer to *The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool: Getting Started Guide*. Direct all teachers and staff to download the guide from this [link](#), so they can read the focused guidance before they begin using *The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool*. The *Getting Started Guide* will walk teachers through exploring resources, beginning the year, implementing studies, and utilizing digital curriculum resources.

## Fidelity FAQs

As you begin implementation, you may hear the questions below from your teachers or even have some of the same questions yourself. In addition to the guidance and resources listed, remember that you will find resources to support your implementation within [The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool: Getting Started Guide](#). For in-depth guidance on supporting teachers' practice, please refer to [Coaching to Fidelity: The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool](#).

### **How will my program be supported throughout the first year of implementation?**

As part of our commitment to you, we are dedicated to providing timely and meaningful support to ensure a successful implementation of *The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool*. [The Model Implementation Plan for The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool](#) provides an overview of the professional development, best practices, and support resources that will support you and your program in successful implementation. Be sure to [sign up for The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool](#) monthly support newsletter to receive best practices, tips, and helpful strategies for a successful continued implementation. You can also visit the [Teaching Strategies blog](#) for more best practice information directly from voices in the field.

### **In which order should the *Teaching Guides* be implemented?**

We recommend starting with the *Beginning the Year Teaching Guide* or [The First Six Weeks: Building Your Classroom Community Teaching Guide Set](#), as they were designed with a focus on building a classroom community in the first six weeks of school and creating an environment where children can confidently and creatively engage in long-term project-based investigations. The order of the remaining *Teaching Guides*, which feature various studies, is at the discretion of each program. We recommend teachers/administrators take into account the local community, time of year, and children's interest to help them choose study topics to introduce and implement. There are [six additional studies available for purchase as stand-alone Teaching Guides](#) if your program would like more choice and variety of topics. [The Getting Ready for Kindergarten Teaching Guide](#) offers daily plans to help prepare children for the transition to kindergarten and is a great option to end your school year.

### **How do I present this new curriculum to our families?**

To help introduce *The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool* to your families, you can use the [family letter template](#) provided to introduce the curriculum and engage families in the exciting learning and discovery that will be taking place in your program.



Additionally, each study provides *Letters to Families* that introduce the investigation questions and offer guidance for how families can participate in meaningful ways. Within *The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool, Volume 2: Interest Areas* you will also find *Letters to Families* that can be used to introduce each interest area and explain their impact on children’s development and learning. You can access all family letters in Word or PDF format from the [Classroom and Family Resources Online Portal](#). The password is located on the card found in Box 1 of the curriculum kit.

You may also choose to purchase copies of [A Family’s Guide to Preschool](#) to distribute. The guide answers many of the questions families may have about what their child is doing and learning during the preschool day and explains your curriculum, showing families how to partner with you so that together you can help their children gain the necessary knowledge, skills, and abilities to succeed in life and school.

### **What should I expect to see in a classroom implementing *The Creative Curriculum®* to fidelity?**

When considering classrooms implementing *The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool* to fidelity, it’s important to keep in mind that even if teachers are implementing the same study, each classroom will look and sound different depending on the children’s interest and current knowledge level. Upon walking into any classroom, you should be able to tell from the children’s work posted around the room which study is currently being implemented. Children will be engaged in meaningful activities in the interest areas, with all interest areas available and inviting. Teachers will be facilitating and extending children’s learning and engaging in interest areas while utilizing the *Daily Resources*. For more support in monitoring and coaching teachers’ implementation, please refer to [Coaching to Fidelity: The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool](#).

### **How closely do we need to follow the guidance within the *Teaching Guides*?**

Implementing to fidelity means teachers are following the daily guidance provided in each *Teaching Guide*. Teachers may rearrange the provided guidance to meet their daily schedules and plan for additional times of day, but teachers should not remove or skip any provided guidance. The daily guidance should be followed consistently by implementing each day’s plan in the sequential daily order. This is important because the experiences included in every study are deliberately chosen to make sure that all objectives and dimensions for development and learning are observed and nurtured. Each experience and investigation is also designed to build upon the previous one. However, it’s also important to remember that the curriculum was intentionally designed to encourage teachers to individualize and customize experiences to respond to children’s emerging interests and discoveries and to allow teachers to use special experiences, stories, songs, and celebrations that reflect their local classroom community. We encourage this flexibility to run parallel to the implementation of the guidance provided in each *Teaching Guide*.

### **How do I support new teachers who may join my program mid-year?**

If you have new teachers join your program mid-year, we recommend purchasing online professional development credits to allow them to complete online, self-paced Implementing *The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool* courses. You can contact your [account executive](#) to purchase online professional development credits. In addition, provide all new teachers with [The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool: Getting Started Guide](#), and offer guidance for relevant sections and items to complete.

## Continued Support

### Receive Ongoing Communications

As part of our ongoing commitment to supporting fidelity of implementation, we send regular communications around upcoming webinars and other best practice tips. To ensure you receive all of the latest updates, please [subscribe and be sure to update your email preferences](#). Stay connected to best practices by visiting and subscribing to the [Teaching Strategies blog](#).

### Reflect on Implementation

At the conclusion of your first year of implementation, spend time with all administrators and teachers engaging in a self-reflection process about year one of implementation to help inform decisions for year two implementation support.

### Build a Professional Development Plan for Year Two

As you reflect on the first year of implementation and your program's *Coaching to Fidelity* results, identify the five biggest areas of opportunity you've observed to help determine the goals for your professional development plan for year two. Partner with your [account executive](#) to begin scheduling dates and identifying appropriate session topics that align with your program's identified needs and goals.

- If you have new teachers joining your program, identify how best to support them in learning and implementing *The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool*. [The First Six Weeks: Building Your Classroom Community Teaching Guide Set](#) is a recommended resource to assist new teachers as they begin their implementation of *The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool*.

If you only have a few new teachers joining your program, we recommended purchasing credits for each teacher to complete the 10-hour online courses designed to support implementation of *The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool*.

- 10-hour professional development course: *The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool: Daily Resources*
- 10-hour professional development course: *The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool: Foundation*
- If you have a large population of new teachers joining, or had low fidelity of implementation, it may be beneficial for your program to have another 2-day in-person training focused on implementing *The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool* and/or add [The First Six Weeks: Building Your Classroom Community Teaching Guide Set](#) to your classroom resources.

## Contact Us

As your partner, we are always happy and willing to help. Visit our [support page](#) to access additional support resources and to contact us with questions. To access all implementation support documents, visit [this link](#).