

The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool, Sixth Edition

Getting Started Guide

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 dedicated to providing you with the support needed to ensure a successful implementation of *The Creative Curriculum*® for Preschool, Sixth Edition.

Offering guidance for exploring your resources, beginning the year, implementing studies, and continuing your year, this guide will support you in the first steps of beginning implementation.



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Subscription to *The Creative
Curriculum*® Cloud

Exploring Your Resources

- **Check that you received all of the boxes for the complete curriculum set.**
 - If you purchased the *Sixth Edition of The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool* you should have received [three boxes](#).
 - If you purchased the *Deluxe Edition of The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool, Sixth Edition*, you should have received [two additional boxes](#), for a total of five.
 - If you purchased the *Guided Edition of The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool*, refer to *The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool, Guided Edition Getting Started Guide*.

- **Locate the card in Box 1 that provides the [Classroom and Family Resources Online Portal](#) login information.**
 - Keep this card in an easy-to-remember location, as it provides you with the password to access resources available as PDF and word document files.
 - Bookmark this link for future reference.
 - View the free 1-hour webinar: *Getting Started with The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool*.

- **Locate the visual foldout in Box 1 that illustrates each component included in your curriculum.**
 - Keep this foldout in an easy-to-remember location, as the checklist on the back of the foldout is a great tool to use for an inventory check at the end of the year.

- **Log in to *MyTeachingStrategies*®.**

You may have a *MyTeachingStrategies*® login if your program uses *The Creative Curriculum® Cloud*; has a subscription to *GOLD*®; and/or has a subscription to Teaching Strategies online professional development. If you do not have a *MyTeachingStrategies*® login, you may skip this step.

 - Navigate to [My Courses in the Develop area](#) and complete the free 2-hour product tutorial, *Getting to Know The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool*, to build your foundational knowledge of the *Teaching Strategies*® approach to curriculum.
 - Navigate to [My Courses in the Develop area](#) and complete the free 10-hour course *Objectives for Development and Learning*. This course provides a detailed look at the 38 research-based objectives for development and learning.

- **Locate the six foundation volumes and the *Guide to The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool* in Box 1.**
 - Review the *Guide to The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool* to refresh your knowledge on the components of the curriculum.
 - Review the table of contents in each foundation volume, making note of interesting sections that you might like to revisit at a later time.

Volume 1: *The Foundation* presents the information needed to set up your classroom. It summarizes the research foundation for the curriculum and addresses the five key aspects of a high-quality curriculum.

Volume 2: *Interest Areas* provides guidance for all 10 interest areas, including strategies for guiding children's development and learning and suggested materials to enhance children's experiences in each interest area.

Volume 3: *Literacy* offers teachers knowledge and tools that help them inspire children to read, write, and learn. It includes practice strategies for intentionally teaching critical language and literacy skills.

Volume 4: *Mathematics* helps teachers fully understand the mathematical concepts and skills developmentally appropriate for preschool and offers purposeful strategies for including mathematics learning throughout the day.

Volume 5: *Science and Technology, Social Studies & the Arts* help teachers make these essential content areas part of children's everyday learning and experiences.

Volume 6: *Objectives for Development & Learning* describes the 38 objectives and suggests developmentally appropriate strategies to encourage development and learning in all areas.

Beginning the Year

Implementation begins with your learning environment.

- **Start with your physical environment.**
 - Review pages 53-68 of *Volume 1: The Foundation*.
 - Find additional helpful information in the [Setting Up a Preschool Classroom for 20 Preschool Children](#) document.

- **Establish your daily schedule.**
 - Review pages 69-84 of *Volume 1: The Foundation*.

- **Locate *The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool Teaching Guide: Beginning the Year*.**
 - Review the items included in the “Getting Started” section.
 - Complete the [Preparing for the First Days of School checklist](#) found on page three.
 - If your program has purchased [The First Six Weeks: Building Your Preschool Classroom Community Teaching Guide Set](#), you will find the checklist in the included *Getting Started* guide.

- **Review the At-a-Glance pages included in *The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool Teaching Guide: Beginning the Year* or *The First Six Weeks: Building Your Classroom Community Teaching Guide*.**
 - Use these pages to collect all daily resources needed for the week, such as the *Intentional Teaching Experiences*, *Mighty Minutes®*, children’s books, and *Book Discussion Cards™* that are referenced. These items can be stored in the blue resource organizer, found in Box 1, for easy access during the week.
 - Be sure to pay close attention to the guidance for outdoor experiences, Wow! experiences, and family partnerships provided on the At-a-Glance page and begin planning for any additional needed items or visits.

- **Review the daily plans included in *The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool Teaching Guide: Beginning the Year* or *The First Six Weeks: Building Your Classroom Community Teaching Guide* for the corresponding week.**
 - Pay close attention to the blue callout boxes; they will provide additional strategies to ensure the day’s activities are effective and successful.
 - Note any additional materials or activities that you may need to collect, prepare, or schedule in advance.
 - Plan for any times of day you have chosen to include in your daily schedule outside of the recommended times in the *Teaching Guide*, such as an additional read-aloud time or additional small-group time.

Implementing Studies

- **Deepen your understanding of the project-based study approach.**
 - Read the “Using *Teaching Guides* to Plan and Implement a Study” section on pages 127-130 in *Volume 1: The Foundation*.
- **Determine which *Teaching Guide* you’ll use next.**
 - Reflect on your children’s interests, your local community events, and the time of year to determine which *Teaching Guide* may be the most relevant to your class.
 - Review the At-a-Glance charts and the daily plans for the *Teaching Guide* you’ll use next.
- **Review the available *Letters to Families* in the [Classroom and Family Resources Online Portal](#).**
 - Send home the study-based *Letter to Families* before you start each study to introduce the topic and invite participation.
 - Utilize the *Letters to Families* about interest areas to introduce, explain, and highlight each interest area in your classroom.
 - Develop a plan for sharing these letters in an intentional, meaningful way.

Ongoing Support

- **Continue to refer to the foundation volumes for additional strategies, research, and best practice information.**

The volumes are intended to serve as your on-demand curriculum coach.
- **View [archived webinars](#) focused on research and best practices.**
- **Grow your library of classroom resources:**
 - [Add More Mighty Minutes® to your collection.](#)
 - Add variety to your study topics with [additional Teaching Guides.](#)
 - Add [additional nonfiction books](#) to your library.
 - Add [dry-erase posters](#) to showcase children’s progress in a study.

Getting Started with Your Subscription to *The Creative Curriculum*® Cloud

If your program has a subscription to [The Creative Curriculum® Cloud](#) and your administrators have allocated the subscription licenses, follow the steps below or [review this getting started guide](#) to begin exploring your transformative digital tools and resources:

- Log in to [MyTeachingStrategies](#)®.**
 - If you are new to [MyTeachingStrategies](#)®, you will also receive an email that contains your username and temporary password. Follow the instructions in that email to log in and set a permanent password to [MyTeachingStrategies](#)®.
 - If your license start date has not yet occurred, you will not be able to log in until that start date.
 - If you haven't received this email, check your spam or junk folders.

- [Add sites](#) for each of your physical locations (schools and centers).**
 - If you are an organization-level administrator, you will need to first [add programs](#) to [MyTeachingStrategies](#)® for each of your school districts.

- Add user accounts for each of your [teachers](#) and [administrators](#).**
 - For security purposes, be sure to use a unique email address for each new user.

- [Add classes](#) and [assign teachers](#) to them.**
 - Users with teacher access can also add classes, but cannot assign other teachers to classes.

- [Add child records individually](#) or [use the optional import feature to add multiple child records at once](#).**
 - Users with teacher access can also manually add child records, but cannot import.

- [Allocate The Creative Curriculum® Cloud licenses](#) to each class.**
 - Teachers will not have access to curriculum resources without completing this step.