



The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool Getting Started Guide

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Exploring Your Resources

Check that you received all of the boxes for the complete curriculum set.

- If you purchased the 6th 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* you should have received [two additional boxes](#), for a total of five.

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 one hour webinar: Getting Started with *The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool*.

Login to **MyTeachingStrategies®**.

You may have a *MyTeachingStrategies®* login if your program uses *GOLD®*, has a subscription to *The Creative Curriculum®*, *Digital Resources*, and/or has purchased online professional development credits. 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 may be valuable to revisit at a later time.

Volume 1: The Foundation presents the information needed to set up your classrooms. 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 at each interest area.

Volume 3: Literacy prepares teachers with 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 helps 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

The starting point for implementation is your learning environment.

- Start with your physical environment.**
 - Refer to the [Setting Up a Preschool Classroom for 20 Preschoolers](#) document
 - Review pages 53-68 of *Volume 1: The Foundation*.

- 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.

- Review the weekly plans included in *The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool Teaching Guide: Beginning the Year*.**
 - Use the At-a-Glance page to collect all daily resources needed for the week, such as the *Intentional Teaching Cards™*, *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 and scheduling any needed items or visits.

- Review the daily plans included in *The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool Teaching Guide: Beginning the Year* for the corresponding week.**
 - Pay close attention to the blue callout boxes that 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 additional times of day included in your daily schedule outside of the recommended ones from 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 section “Using Teaching Guides to Plan and Implement a Study” on pages 127-130 in *Volume 1: The Foundation*.

Determine which *Teaching Guide* you’ll be using next.

If your administrator has already determined in what order you should implement the *Teaching Guides*, follow the guidance he or she provides.

- 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 weekly and daily plans for the *Teaching Guide* you’ll be using next.

Review the available *Letters to Families* located on the [Classroom and Family Resources Online Portal](#).

- Send home the study-based *Letter to Families* prior to beginning 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.

Sign up to receive our implementation support emails.

As part of our ongoing commitment to supporting implementation to fidelity, we send regular communications around upcoming webinars and research on best practices to users.

View [archived webinars](#) focused on research and best practices.

Getting Started With Your Digital Resource Subscription

If your program has a [digital resource subscription](#) and your administrators have allocated the subscription licenses, complete the steps below to get started!

- ❑ **Log in to [MyTeachingStrategies®](#).**
 - Follow the instructions in your welcome email and set your password.

- ❑ **[Set up your classroom.](#)**

This allows you to then create a child record for each child in your care.

 - Check with your administrator to see if this step is your responsibility.

- ❑ **[Create child records.](#)**

Creating a child record establishes a dedicated portfolio for each child in your classroom.

 - Check with your administrator to see if this step is your responsibility.

- ❑ **Explore the [Teach](#) area.**

This provides planning functionality to help you link your assessment data with instruction.

 - Set your [Weekly Template](#) before you begin creating weekly plans.
 - [Customize your monthly calendar](#) to account for holidays and planned closures.

- ❑ **Begin [creating your weekly plans.](#)**
 - [Add studies](#) directly into your monthly and weekly plans.
 - Check with your administrator if you do not see the Add a Study option on your monthly calendar.

- ❑ **Submit and share your weekly plans.**

Your administrator may provide additional guidelines and expectations for submitting plans for review and for sharing weekly plans with families.

 - [Submit your plans to administrators](#) for approval, if required.
 - [Share weekly plans with families](#) following your administrator's guidance.