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*](https://www.teachingstrategies.com) 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*](https://www.teachingstrategies.com) 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.