



The First Six Weeks of Preschool

SYLLABUS

Course Information

Title: The First Six Weeks of Preschool

Duration: 5 hours (self-paced)

Continuing Education Units: 0.5 CEU

Course Description

General Description: This course is intended for teachers and leaders of preschool programs. The purpose of the course is to help teachers as they prepare for the first six weeks of the school year. It provides research-based guidance for establishing the environment and supporting the relationships that will help create a solid foundation for an entire year of learning and development.

Learners completing this course will receive a training certificate of achievement.

Learning Objectives: Learners taking this course will discover how they can use a range of teaching strategies—including asking and answering open-ended questions—to scaffold development and learning for individual children; how they can intentionally plan for meaningful learning experiences with large groups, small groups, and individual children; how they can create a physical environment that effectively invites engagement; and how they can make the most of each learning day, from the wise use of transition times to ensuring that the messages they send each day to children and their families are positive, welcoming, and supportive.

Course Structure: This online course is available through the Develop area of *MyTeachingStrategies*®. The course is divided into four modules, each of which addresses an important aspect of preschool.

- 1) Ideas
- 2) People
- 3) Places
- 4) Times

Each module contains 5–8 learning experiences that present information in a variety of formats, including tutorials (slideshows, interactives, and articles), excerpts from *The Creative Curriculum*® foundational volumes, and application exercises that require learners to reflect on their own practice and apply their new knowledge. The course also includes a 4-part podcast series that offers a variety of hints, tips, and insights into making the most of the first six weeks of school, including preparing the indoor and outdoor learning spaces, crafting a daily schedule, and the all-important process of building positive relationships with children and

families. The course is self-guided and self-paced; learners can view the modules and activities and listen to the podcasts in any order, and they may pause and return to them at any time.

The course includes a pre- and post-course survey to measure learners' knowledge at the beginning of the course and at the end of the course, as well as a downloadable study guide. Within the tutorials, knowledge check quizzes help reinforce learning.

Teaching Strategies, LLC, is accredited by the International Association for Continuing Education and Training (IACET). Teaching Strategies complies with the ANSI/IACET Standard, which is recognized internationally as a standard of excellence in instructional practices. As a result of this accreditation, Teaching Strategies is accredited to issue the IACET CEU.

Learners who successfully complete each of the 28 tutorials in this 5-hour (300-minute) course, including answering all knowledge check questions correctly, completing all interactives, and completing the extended response applications, will earn 0.5 Continuing Education Units (CEUs).

Course Requirements

Teaching Experience: This course is designed for preschool teachers and leaders at all levels of experience, from those who are just starting their practice to seasoned educators seeking to refine their knowledge and skills.

Program/Classroom Application: The course includes a number of practical exercises that require learners to consider their own practice, reflect on their own philosophies and beliefs, and make plans for setting up their classrooms, crafting schedules, observing development and learning, and making the most of the time they have with children.

Course Materials: Prior knowledge of *The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool* foundational volumes (2016)—including *Objectives for Development & Learning, Birth Through Third Grade*—is helpful, but not required. Also, learners may wish to consult *The First Six Weeks: Building Your Classroom Community Teaching Guide* and its companion *Getting Started* guide (2019).

Technical Requirements: Each learner will need access to a computer or tablet with an up-to-date web browser and operating system. The *MyTeachingStrategies®* professional development platform is compatible with the following web browsers: Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, Internet Explorer, and Safari. Some activities within the course include PDF documents that learners can download. These documents require Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available for download at <https://get.adobe.com/reader/>.