

Arkansas HQIM Rubric vs. The Creative Curriculum® Alignment

<i>Arkansas HQIM Criteria</i>	<i>What it Means in Practice</i>	<i>How The Creative Curriculum® Delivers</i>
Standards Alignment Arkansas Child Development & Early Learning Standards (AR CDELS)	Curriculum must clearly and comprehensively align to Arkansas CDELS across domains	Fully aligned to AR CDELS with clear crosswalks across all domains - beginning August 2026, standards will be directly connected within the SmartTeach platform for seamless planning, instruction, and progress monitoring
Whole-Child Approach	Supports cognitive, social emotional, physical, and language development	Daily, integrated experiences across all domains through studies and interest areas, guided by children's interests, integrating literacy, math, science, social-emotional, and physical development across small- and whole-group and guided play experiences
Research-Based/Evidence-Based	Built on established early childhood research and best practices, including the science of reading	Based on decades of research and ongoing validation studies; widely used nationally
Intentional Teaching Practices	Teachers are guided in HOW and WHY to teach, not just what to teach	Intentional Teaching Cards®, detailed teaching guides, and embedded micro-videos provide explicit guidance on how and why to teach, supporting differentiated, purposeful instruction
Assessment Integration	Curriculum connects to meaningful assessment to inform instruction	Seamless integration with GOLD® enables real-time observation, documentation, and instructional decision-making
Differentiation & Individualization	Meets the needs of diverse learners, including varying developmental levels	Built-in scaffolds, guidance for adapting activities, and supports for children at varying developmental levels

The Creative Curriculum® aligns strongly to Arkansas HQIM expectations by combining standards alignment, intentional teaching, and whole-child development with practical tools that support teachers, families, and diverse learners every day.

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Family Engagement	Encourages meaningful partnerships with families	Weekly family letters, take-home activities, and Family Connections resources (including Spanish); digital family communication through SmartTeach; and tools that help families extend classroom learning at home
Cultural & Linguistic Responsiveness	Curriculum reflects and affirms diverse cultures and languages, including support for dual language learners and access to materials in children’s home languages	Spanish-language resources for children and families, dual-language supports embedded in daily instruction, and materials that reflect diverse identities and experiences
Teacher Usability & Support	Easy for teachers to implement with strong supports and structure	Supports teachers while honoring expertise and flexibility, step-by-step teaching guides and daily plans, built-in flexibility allows teachers to adapt as needed; includes Teacher Membership with on-demand PD, 24/7 SmartTeach access for planning, and embedded QR codes for just-in-time coaching and support
Coherence & Scope/Sequence	Logical progression of learning experiences over time	Organized into studies with a clear scope and sequence that build knowledge and skills, covering ~95% of standards per study
Play-Based, Developmentally Appropriate Practice	Learning should be active, engaging, and age-appropriate	Study-based investigations, interest area exploration, and guided play that build skills through hands-on experiences, choice, and meaningful real-world connections
Implementation Support	Curriculum should come with training and ongoing support	Dedicated account manager for personalized support, comprehensive onboarding, Teacher Membership with ongoing PD, Teacher Acceleration Program, and embedded QR codes providing just-in-time coaching and implementation guidance

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