

## Overview of The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool

The Creative Curriculum is a developmentally appropriate, comprehensive, research based curriculum that promotes positive outcomes for pre-S and pre-K children. It emphasizes exploration and discovery as a way of learning, enabling children to develop confidence, creativity and lifelong critical thinking skills.

The Creative Curriculum features studies which are exciting, engaging firsthand explorations of topics that are relevant to children's everyday experiences. The study approach is a method of integrating content learning through children's in-depth investigations of a meaningful topic. Children raise questions about the topic, and through exploration and discovery they find answers to their questions. The hands-on experimental nature of studies taps into children's natural curiosity, resulting in a learning environment that is both fun and intentional.

### Advantages of Studies:

- Allow children to explore science and social studies topics while developing skills in language and literacy, math, technology, and the arts
- Let children apply their acquired skills in meaningful, real-life contexts
- Encourage higher-order thinking, development of intellectual interests, and positive approaches to learning
- Give children the necessary skills to solve problems and find answers to their questions in a creative way
- Support the development of social-emotional skills, such as resolving conflict, sharing responsibilities, and working collaboratively
- Encourage family involvement

### Objectives for Development & Learning

The 38 research-based objectives are the heart of the curriculum and define the path teachers take with children in their classroom. They inform every aspect of teaching, include predictors of school success, and are aligned with state early learning guidelines and the Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework. The objectives cover 10 areas of development and learning, including broad developmental areas, content areas, and English language acquisition.

## **SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL**

1. Regulates own emotions and behaviors:
  - a. Manages feelings
  - b. Follows limits and expectations
  - c. Takes care of own needs appropriately
2. Establishes and sustains positive relationships:
  - a. Forms relationships with adults
  - b. Responds to emotional cues
  - c. Interacts with peers
  - d. Makes friends
3. Participates cooperatively and constructively in group situations:
  - a. Balances needs and rights of self and others
  - b. Solves social problems

## **PHYSICAL**

4. Demonstrates traveling skills
5. Demonstrates balancing skills
6. Demonstrates gross-motor manipulative skills
7. Demonstrates fine-motor strength and coordination:
  - a. Uses fingers and hands
  - b. Uses writing and drawing tools

## **LANGUAGE**

8. Listens to and understands increasingly complex language:
  - a. Comprehends language
  - b. Follows directions
9. Uses language to express thoughts and needs:
  - a. Uses an expanding expressive vocabulary
  - b. Speaks clearly
  - c. Uses conventional grammar
  - d. Tells about another time or place
10. Uses appropriate conversational and other communication skills:

a. Engages in conversations

b. Uses social rules of language

## **COGNITIVE**

**11. Demonstrates positive approaches to learning:**

a. Attends and engages

b. Persists

c. Solves problems

d. Shows curiosity and motivation

e. Shows flexibility and inventiveness in thinking

**12. Remembers and connects experiences:**

a. Recognizes and recalls

b. Makes connections

**13. Uses classification skills**

**14. Uses symbols and images to represent something not present:**

a. Thinks symbolically

b. Engages in sociodramatic play

## **LITERACY**

**15. Demonstrates phonological awareness:**

a. Notices and discriminates rhyme

b. Notices and discriminates alliteration

c. Notices and discriminates smaller and smaller units of sound

**16. Demonstrates knowledge of the alphabet:**

a. Identifies and names letters

b. Uses letter-sound knowledge

**17. Demonstrates knowledge of print and its uses:**

a. Uses and appreciates books

b. Uses print concepts

**18. Comprehends and responds to books and other texts:**

a. Interacts during read-alouds and book conversations

b. Uses emergent reading skills

c. Retells stories

**19. Demonstrates emergent writing skills:**

a. Writes name

b. Writes to convey meaning

## **MATHEMATICS**

- 20. Uses number concepts and operations
  - a. Counts
  - b. Quantifies
  - c. Connects numerals with their quantities
- 21. Explores and describes spatial relationships and shapes:
  - a. Understands spatial relationships
  - b. Understands shapes
- 22. Compares and measures
- 23. Demonstrates knowledge of patterns

## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

- 24. Uses scientific inquiry skills
- 25. Demonstrates knowledge of the characteristics of living things
- 26. Demonstrates knowledge of the physical properties of objects and materials
- 27. Demonstrates knowledge of Earth's environment
- 28. Uses tools and other technology to perform tasks

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

- 29. Demonstrates knowledge about self
- 30. Shows basic understanding of people and how they live
- 31. Explores change related to familiar people or places
- 32. Demonstrates simple geographic knowledge

## **THE ARTS**

33. Explores the visual arts
34. Explores musical concepts and expression
35. Explores dance and movement concepts
36. Explores drama through actions and language

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE ACQUISITION:**

37. Demonstrates progress in listening to and understanding English
38. Demonstrates progress in speaking English

Adapted from:

[https://teachingstrategies.com/content/pageDocs/Creative\\_Curriculum\\_Touring\\_Guide.pdf](https://teachingstrategies.com/content/pageDocs/Creative_Curriculum_Touring_Guide.pdf)

Aligned with Common Core Standards:

<http://teachingstrategies.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/IL-CC-Alignment-PS-2014.pdf>