

THE BASICS OF CREATIVE CURRICULUM

Part 1: Creative Curriculum Continuum and Portfolios

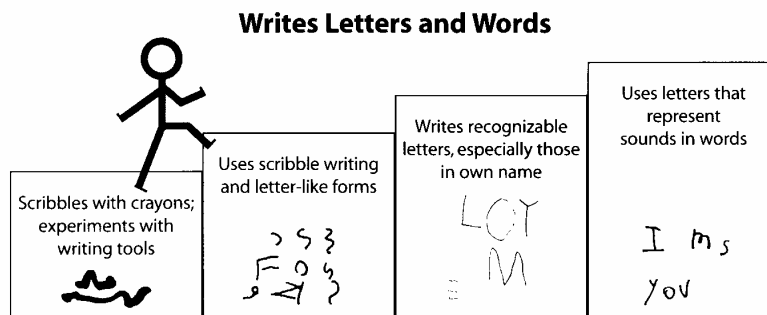
The most important goals of *Creative Curriculum* are for children to get along well with others and become enthusiastic learners. Specific goals are identified in four areas of development:

*Language *Cognitive *Social/Emotional *Physical

Within these four areas are 50 objectives.

For instance, one is: **“Writes letters and words.”**

How do we know children are progressing? We know the steps preschool children typically go through in learning a skill. For example:



Show parent the goals and objectives sheet in the portfolio.

We use observations and work samples to demonstrate how a child is progressing through the year. These are placed in the child's portfolio.

Go over child's portfolio sections.

Part 2: Interest Areas

*Blocks *Dramatic Play *Toys and Games *Discovery *Art *Cooking
*Library *Computer *Sand/Water *Music & Movement *Outdoors

We add materials to interest areas to help children move to the next step. For example, by carefully observing each day, we find out what children know about letters and words. We may discover that many children are scribble writing. That tells us what experiences we can provide to build on what they know and help them move to the next step. We may:

- Toys and Games: Put out more alphabet puzzles and games.
- Dramatic play: Place writing materials so children can make grocery lists, take phone messages, make doctor's appointments, etc.
- Computer: Have children sign-in to use the computer.

Tie Child Staffing activities in with what is placed in interest areas.

Part 3: Weekly Planning

We base our weekly planning on what the children are excited about learning. Through these topics and studies we know that children will be interested in acquiring skills that enable them to progress along the continuum.

Discuss how decisions about what goes in the Weekly Plan relate to the child's activities.

Part 4: The Family's Role—Key to *Creative Curriculum's* Success

We want to know what you have seen your child do. You do this, in part, with the homework sheets, as well as telling us how you have seen your child grow. Together, we gain a more complete picture of a child's progress. Then we can plan together how to support each child's growth.

We know parents are their child's first and most important teacher. You can do two things that make a tremendous difference in your child's school success.

- 1) Talk to your child as you go about your normal, everyday household chores. Sometimes, after a long day this may seem difficult. However, this kind of positive attention has a powerful effect on children and makes your parenting job more fun and interesting—and sometimes easier.
- 2) Find someone to read regularly to your child. In this way, children learn to enjoy books, as well as learn that words go from left to right, are separated by spaces, and are made up of letters of the alphabet.