

Creative Curriculum
Making it your own

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K2C2

Learning Objectives

- Participants will discuss the creative curriculum and how it can be an effective curriculum to use with young children.
- Participants will explore ways they can implement the program to meet the needs of the children in their care.
- Participants will create lesson plans and analyze their plans.

What is Creative Curriculum?

- How many people have used this curriculum in the past?
- How did it work?
- Please describe what a classroom looks like using Creative Curriculum.

Video – Creative Curriculum

- Video by Diane Trister Dodge, Author of Creative Curriculum for Preschoolers
- Watch video and fill out handout

Goals for our children

- We want the children in our care to:
 - Develop positive social skills
 - Develop thinking skills and become investigative
 - Be confident
 - Want to learn and love to learn

Video - Learning Environment

- Watch video of Learning Environment – participants will complete handout while watching video.

Physical Environment

- Materials should be set up and labeled properly – take photos of each area and label and post
- There should be controls so that students know how many children can be at one interest area. How can you do this?
- Include materials that meet the needs of all the learners in your classroom.

Structure

- Children should know what happens during the day – what to expect
- Schedule posted with pictures and words to help students
- Simple classroom routines that children learn and complete each day –
 - Attendance Chart

Activity – Creating Structure

- Participants will create an attendance chart and also a schedule chart that can be used in their classroom or at their center.

Creating a Classroom Community

- Create an environment where children feel safe, welcome and valued
- We want to teach the children to have positive learning behaviors, make good choices, use materials properly, and feel confident
- Respect one another

How can we create a classroom community?

- Participants will list ways they have created a classroom community or ways that they can.
- How can we create an environment where children get along and treat each other kind?
- Discuss as a group.

Teacher's Role

- Central to student's success
- What can teachers do to help:
 - Coach
 - Extend their children's learning
 - Demonstrate
 - Give information
 - Plan the environment according to individual and group needs
 - Meet the needs of all the students in your class by observing them

Intentional Teaching

- Purposeful – guided by standards
- Foster children’s knowledge and skills in literacy, math, science, social studies, arts, technology
- All while supporting overall growth and development of children
- Make learning meaningful

Activity: Unexpected Lessons:

- Participants will work in groups of 3 or 4 and review various scenarios and decide how they can make the situation into an unexpected lesson
- Groups will share their ideas

Weekly Planning

- Teachers will be filling out weekly planning forms to incorporate Creative Curriculum in chunks of time
- Themes will be given to the teachers at the beginning of the school year.
- Every interest area should incorporate the theme of the week as well as early learning standards.

Observations

- Behind each weekly planning form should also be an observation form attached to it.
- This form can be used by all teachers in the room.
- The form should document the initials of the students and whether or not they have met the standard.

Activity – Lesson Plans and Observations

- Participants will work in small groups to create a weekly lesson plan by choosing a theme and using the early learning standards. Each area of creative curriculum should have an activity that relates to the theme.
- Group discussion on their weekly lesson plans, etc.

Questions and Comments

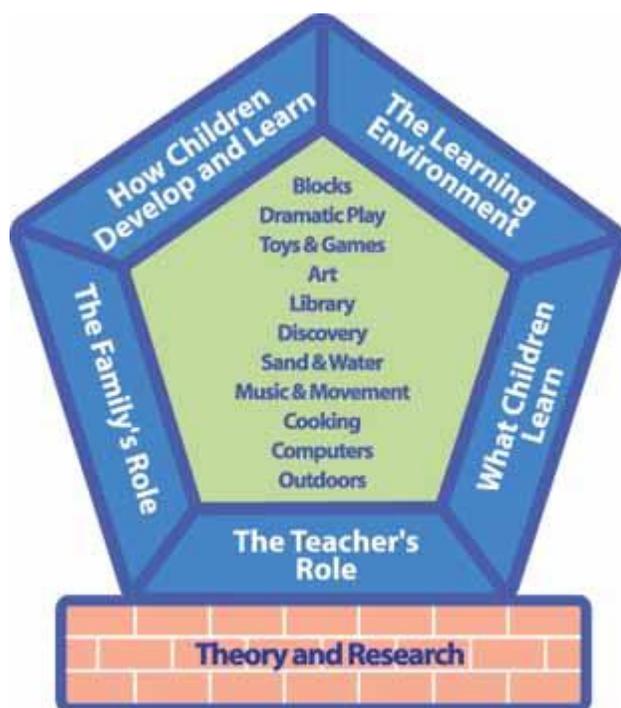
- Discussion to include any questions or comments regarding the creative curriculum.
- Educational directors and administration will be available on a daily basis to assist and support teachers as they incorporate the Creative Curriculum in their classroom.
- Coworkers should assist one another and share ideas and resources.

Creative Curriculum

The Creative Curriculum for Preschool and Pre-Kindergarten incorporates years of research and theory into an easy-to-understand approach to working with young children and families. Many years of research has been done on theories of child development and how children learn. This curriculum understands how children learn best and what they need to grow in all areas of development – social, emotional, physical, and cognitive. The curriculum also understands the importance of the family's role in the child's development.

Today's Child promotes an integrated and effective developmental approach to learning. The Creative Curriculum is an effective way to focus on the child's whole development. The children will be exposed to learning through several interest areas:

- Blocks
- Dramatic Play
- Toys and Games
- Art
- Library
- Discovery
- Sand and Water
- Music and Movement
- Cooking
- Computers



What is Creative Curriculum Activity

Please answer the questions below and return with completed packet:

What is the goal of the Creative Curriculum?

List below skills/attitudes we want to help develop in the children that we teach.

What are some things that should be included as part of the learning environment?

What is the teacher's role?

Creating a Learning Environment Activity

Please fill out chart below:

Interest Areas	Example of materials present and how children can learn in this area	Materials that you can rotate in and out of this area to expand on learning opportunities
Dramatic Play		
Art		
Library		
Blocks		
Toys and Games		
Discovery		
Sand and Water		
Music and Movement		
Cooking		
Computers		
Outdoors		
Lunch		
Circle Time		

Unexpected Lessons Activity

Please review the following scenarios and come up with a way that you can make this into an unexpected lesson:

A child stomps on a caterpillar during a walk in the playground.

A child makes a hurtful racial remark during free play.

A child teases another child and says, "You don't have a daddy."

A child laughs at another child for "talking funny" because they are from another country

Handout #3
Creative Curriculum