

East Missouri Action Agency, Inc., Head Start
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:

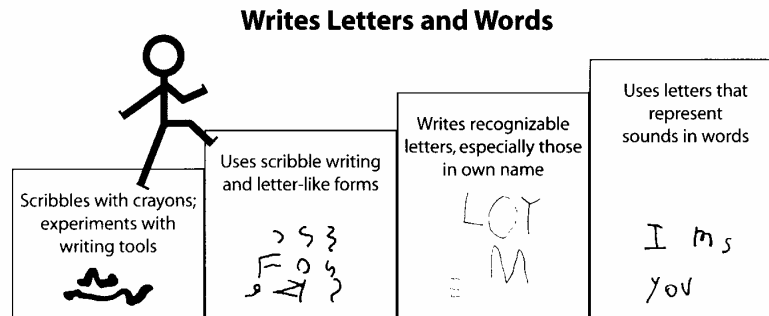
*Social/emotional *Physical *Cognitive *Language

Show volunteer the goals and objectives sheet in the classroom.

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:



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

Show volunteer one of the portfolios.

Part 2: Interest Areas

*Blocks *Dramatic Play *Toys and Games *Discovery *Art *Cooking
*Library *Computer *Sand and 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.

Show volunteer 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.

Show volunteer the Weekly Plan.

Part 4: The Family's Role

We ask what parents what they have seen their child do. 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. They can do two things that make a tremendous difference in their child's school success.

- 1) Talk to their child as they go about their 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 a parent's job more fun and interesting—and sometimes easier.
- 2) Find someone to read regularly to a 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.