



## and The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool

Hatch's *Journeys into Early Literacy* and *The Creative Curriculum for Preschool*, by Diane Trister Dodge, Laura J. Colker, and Cate Heroman, are developed on the same philosophical and theoretical foundations. There is agreement between the programs on how children develop and learn, the importance of the learning environment, the teacher's role in learning, and the family's role in learning. *Journeys into Early Literacy* integrates well with the framework for learning outlined in *The Creative Curriculum for Preschool*.

### How Children Develop and Learn

*Journeys into Early Literacy* and *The Creative Curriculum for Preschool* are based on current understandings about how children develop and learn. The ages and stages of young children likely to be using *Journeys* were carefully considered in the development of this language and literacy program. Both programs recognize the importance of supporting the development of the whole child. While *Journeys into Early Literacy* has a literacy and language focus, it also fosters social, emotional, cognitive, physical, and language development. Opportunities for children to develop in each of these areas are evident throughout every unit.

### What Children Learn

*Journeys into Early Literacy* and *The Creative Curriculum for Preschool* have specific checklists that outline what children should learn. While the Creative Curriculum Developmental Continuum assesses the whole child in every developmental area, the literacy progress chart provided in *Journeys into Early Literacy* breaks down language and literacy development into more discrete measurable learning steps. The literacy progress chart in *Journeys* allows teachers to plan instruction easily and to scaffold learning opportunities for young children.

### Learning Environment

Both *Journeys into Early Literacy* and *The Creative Curriculum for Preschool* are based on the premise that learning environments should support children's developmental needs. While *The Creative Curriculum for Preschool* shows teachers how to set up such an environment, *Journeys into Early Literacy* gives teachers specific activities to use in many of the interest areas that support language and literacy development. Teachers using *Journeys* will support literacy learning in interest areas such as blocks, dramatic play, art, library, music and movement, cooking, and computers.



## **Teacher's Role**

Both *Journeys into Early Literacy* and *The Creative Curriculum for Preschool* expect teachers to arrange the environment carefully to support learning, develop a schedule that allows children time to interact with materials and people in the classroom, and to guide and scaffold children's learning based on individual needs. The suggested classroom arrangement supports not only the implementation of *The Creative Curriculum* but also the implementation of *Journeys into Early Literacy*. The suggested daily schedule outlined in *The Creative Curriculum for Preschool* allows ample time for teachers to implement the *Journeys into Early Literacy* program. Specific suggestions throughout the *Journeys* program support teachers as they acknowledge children's development, scaffold their learning, provide support in the classroom, and direct teaching opportunities. Teachers are also expected to evaluate children's learning and plan appropriate experiences in both programs.

## **Family's Role**

Communicating with families is a cornerstone of early childhood programs. *Journeys into Early Literacy* provides specific ways to involve families in their children's learning experiences. *The Creative Curriculum for Preschool* offers guidelines and suggestions for supporting families. *Journeys into Early Literacy* provides specific activities for family involvement throughout the year. The Family Connection letters, written from a child's point of view, invite families to partner in the language and literacy learning. Parents become literacy coaches as they expand on learning experiences and contribute key understandings.