



McLean County Unit District 5 Early Learning Program

Dear Families,

This year, our program will use *The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool*, a comprehensive, research-based curriculum, which features exploration and discovery as a way of learning, enabling children to develop confidence, creativity, and lifelong critical-thinking skills. We've chosen this curriculum because it focuses on the skills and knowledge that are most important for helping your child to be successful in school. Throughout the year, *The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool* will help us plan learning experiences that are just right for your child, so that he or she can make progress at his or her own pace.

So, how does *The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool* support your child's learning? It's based on 38 objectives for development and learning that focus on all the areas that are most important for school success: social-emotional, cognitive, math, literacy, physical, language, social studies, science and technology, and the arts. These objectives are built into every activity that happens in the classroom, which means that all day long, the teacher is helping your child build skills and knowledge in these important areas.

In *The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool*, learning happens through studies. Studies, which span several weeks, are in-depth, project-based investigations of topics that are part of your child's everyday life. They feature topics like trees, buildings, clothes, and balls. In a study, children raise questions about the topic and find answers by exploring, experimenting, and investigating in a hands-on way—through activities that take place in the classroom and outdoors. Through studies, your child will learn important math, literacy, science, and other skills.

The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool also has support, built into every experience, for children who are English-language learners and children who have special needs. This helps to ensure that every child can participate in classroom activities and can be successful. There are also many opportunities for families to become involved in what's happening in the classroom. Your child's teacher will let you know about the different ways you can be part of these learning experiences. We hope that you'll participate whenever possible and help to build the important connection between home and school.

We look forward to sharing more information with you as the year continues. We're sure that with the help of *The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool*, this is going to be a great year!

Sincerely,
Kris Pennington
Early Learning Coordinator