



Presidio School
Pre-Kindergarten Curriculum:
Core Knowledge
&
Teaching Strategies Gold
Creative Curriculum



Why Blend Knowledge Attainment & The Development of Thinking Skills?

The idea that schools have to choose between knowledge and thinking skills is a false choice. Children need both. "The richer the knowledge base, the more smoothly and effectively cognitive processes — the very ones that teachers target — operate," notes University of Virginia cognitive scientist Daniel T. Willingham. "So, the more knowledge students accumulate the smarter they become." An education grounded in shared knowledge of history, science, art and music is the great equalizer. Through Core Knowledge Presidio students receive a coherent, cumulative, and content-specific core curriculum. Additionally, in order for children to be successful academically and in life, students must also learn to be creative, confident thinkers. That means offering them opportunities for hands-on exploration and discovery that help build lifelong critical thinking skills and foster confidence. These precepts are the foundation of Presidio School's other adopted curricula – *The Creative Curriculum Gold[®] for Preschool*. Together they provide the content and tools needed to encourage and support every type of learner and address all the important areas of learning.

The Creative Curriculum,® & GOLDplus™ by Teaching Strategies

The Creative Curriculum® System is based on the latest research about how young children develop and learn.

The Creative Curriculum approach is aligned with the intent of Arizona College and Career Readiness Standards by moving beyond the typical thematic approach of instructional practices to the **study approach**. The **study approach** is a method of integrating content learning through children's in-depth investigation of a meaningful topic. Children raise questions about the topic and find answers to their questions. Study topics that are relevant to young children's everyday lives are explored through firsthand experience over an extended period of time through a variety of learning strategies that involve multiple content areas and skills. Studies focus on child inquiry, multifaceted content knowledge, building deeper understandings, and fostering the disposition to love learning. Studies are a coherent, "spiraled" approach in which children build understandings on the basis of previous learning. Lessons are connected to what children are expected to learn in grades K–12 and always celebrate the process learning.

The **study approach** focuses on science and social studies topics while promoting skills in language and literacy, math, technology, and the arts; enables children to apply their acquired skills in meaningful, real-life contexts; equips children to solve problems and find answers to their questions; creatively engages and challenges *all* children; encourages higher-level thinking, development of intellectual interests and positive approaches to learning; and supports the development of social-emotional skills such as resolving conflict, sharing responsibilities, and working collaboratively. The Creative Curriculum utilizes in-depth project-based investigations that allow children to actively explore and find answers to questions in nine key areas of development and learning: social emotional, physical, language, cognitive, literacy, mathematics, science and technology, social studies and the arts.

Social Emotional: Embedded strategies for building a classroom community and developing positive relationships with and among children are integral to the instructional program.

Physical: The program features a wide variety of physical activities designed to guide children to move their bodies purposefully and includes outdoor experiences as well as new and interesting ways for children to develop strength, balance, coordination, and motor skills.

Language: Daily opportunities are provided to intentionally engage in meaningful conversations with children about their experiences and ideas. Engaging experiences encourage children to communicate about learning.

Cognitive: The daily studies support children's cognitive development through observation, discovery, exploration, and representation. Through studies, children connect experiences and use important process skills. For example, activities involving sorting and classifying encourage children to think logically. As part of each area studied children are provided opportunities for dramatic play and the chance to represent their learning by creating charts, graphs, drawings, and models.

Literacy: Teachers engage children in literacy activities that focus on phonological awareness, comprehension, print awareness, and alphabet knowledge. The writing skills lessons provide a variety of activities that help children understand print concepts and encourage them to write for a variety of purposes.

Mathematics: The curriculum incorporates mathematics learning into everyday experiences and throughout the classroom. Mathematics and mathematics activities assist children to learn about numbers and operations, measurement, geometry, patterns, and data analysis.

Science and Technology: Children apply skills in literacy, mathematics, the arts, and technology as they explore concepts in science and social studies. The curriculum incorporates technology into everyday learning experiences through the use of eBooks, iPads, SMART Boards, and Apple computers. In addition to classroom iPad learning centers, the Presidio School Dreamcatcher Library and Literacy Center hosts an Apple Macintosh bank of computers where children will be able to explore the many uses of technology.

Social Studies: Through book discussions, site visits, classroom visitors, and dramatic play, children examine how people live and work. Exploration focuses on families, communities, and cultural diversity.

The Arts: Art, music, and drama activities are integrated into daily classroom experiences. The curriculum will align with Core Knowledge humanities standards in addition to Creative Curriculum lessons.

Teaching Strategies GOLD
The Creative Curriculum Partnership With Sesame Street



Sesame Preschool Pack™

Sesame Preschool Pack™ is a suite of *Sesame Street* digital resources that offers a new approach to engaging children, supporting teachers, and involving families. Working seamlessly on tablets, mobile platforms, and computers, the Sesame Preschool Pack™ brings *Sesame Street*'s research-based educational media into the classroom. By directly linking digital content to curricular objectives for development and learning, Sesame Preschool Pack™ strengthens teachers' interactions with children, connects school learning to home, and enhances children's learning and development.

Sesame Preschool Pack Components:

- **Sesame Family™** -- Sesame Family™ engages families and connects school and home through a “virtual backpack” of carefully chosen digital supports and learning resources—accessible anytime, anywhere.

Research shows when parents are involved in education, children learn better. That's why Sesame Family is designed to connect what children learn in class to their homes, offering a virtual backpack of carefully chosen family resources to extend learning into families' everyday moments and enrich learning experiences inside and outside the home. This family-friendly mobile site offers:

- Media: carefully selected Sesame videos and interactive games, complete with conversation starters to spark discussion about a topic and spotlight skills
- Hands-on learning: easy to follow playful activities – from movement to drawings to songs – to help help families share and celebrate learning
- Tips and ideas: support to help families promote school readiness during every day moments and routines.

- **Sesame Classroom™** -- Sesame Classroom™ gives teachers the opportunity to use media in the classroom in a developmentally appropriate way. It offers research-based, carefully chosen clips that use laughter, friendship, and storytelling to capture children's attention and are integrated into teaching sequences to reinforce essential objectives for development and learning.

When children are engaged they're more likely to learn. Sesame demonstrates difficult concepts in ways that are easy to grasp – and totally irresistible to young children. Through this engaging media Sesame offers:

- brief videos – from live action to animation – that links directly to classroom activity and are seamlessly integrated into daily learning experiences and aligned to curricular objectives;
- built-in opportunities to capture and retain children's attention and increase engagement in planned curricular activities; and
- in-the-moment teacher support that includes wrap-around content to guide learning before and after viewing, helping ensure that key concepts and vocabulary are supported and reinforce.