# Shining Stars and Wise Owls: Pre-Kindergarten “Always Try Your Best”

*Target audience: four years of age. Learning objectives focus on preparation for Kindergarten.*

All of the resources in The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool are rooted in the 38 research-based objectives. Most objectives include progressions that show the typical sequence of milestones that children will reach along the path to mastery. Although the path is predictable, the teachers recognize that young children’s development is uneven, that it changes rapidly, and that development and learning are interrelated and overlapping.

Social/Emotional Development

The children will be able to:

1. Begins to control strong emotions in an appropriate manner most of the time
2. Begins to apply basic rules in new but similar situations
3. Takes responsibility for own well-being
4. Engages with trusted adults as resources and to share mutual interests
5. Identifies basic emotional reactions of others and their causes accurately
6. Initiates, joins in, and sustains positive interactions with a small group of two to three children
7. Establishes a special friendship with one other child, but the friendship might only last a short while
8. Initiates the sharing of materials in the classroom and outdoors
9. Begins to resolve social problems through basic negotiation and compromise

Physical Development:

The children will be able to:

1. Coordinates increasingly complex movements in play and games
2. Sustains balance during complex movement experiences
3. Manipulates balls or similar objects with a full range of motion
4. Uses small, precise finger and hand movements
5. Begins using three-point finger grip and efficient hand placement when writing and drawing

*Language and Communication Skills*

The children will be able to:

1. Begins to respond appropriately to complex statements, questions, vocabulary, and stories, asking questions when needed; offer opposites for frequently occurring verbs and adjectives; understands the difference between similar action verbs
2. Follows detailed, instructional, multistep directions
3. Begins to incorporate new, less familiar, or technical words in everyday conversations; correctly uses new meanings for familiar words
4. Begins to pronounce multisyllabic or unusual words correctly; speaks audibly
5. Begins to use long, complex sentences and follows most grammatical rules; uses common verbs and nouns
6. Tells elaborate stories that refer to other times and places
7. Begins to engage in complex, lengthy conversations of five or more exchanges
8. Begins to use acceptable language and basic social rules during communication with others

Cognitive Development

The children will be able to:

1. Begins to sustain attention to tasks or projects over time; can return to activities after interruptions
2. Plans and pursues a variety of appropriately challenging tasks
3. Begins to think problems through, considering several possibilities and analyzing results
4. Begins to use a variety of resources to find answers to questions; participates in grade-appropriate research projects
5. Begins to think through possible long-term solutions and takes on more abstract challenges
6. Begins to use a few deliberate strategies to remember information
7. Begins to generate a rule, strategy, or idea from one learning experience and applies it in a new context
8. Groups objects by one characteristic; then regroups them using a different characteristic and indicates the reason
9. Plans and then uses drawings, constructions, movements, and dramatizations to represent ideas
10. Interacts with two or more children during pretend play, assigning and/or assuming roles and discussing actions; sustains play scenario for up to 10 minutes

*Literacy*

The children will be able to:

1. Decides whether two words rhyme
2. Matches beginning sounds of some words
3. Begins to verbally blend and separate onset and rime in one-syllable words
4. Shows understanding that a specific sequence of letters represents a spoken word
5. Begins to identify and name 11-20 upper- and 11- 20 lowercase letters when presented in random order
6. Begins to produce at least one correct sound for each letter in the alphabet
7. Begins to use various types of books for their intended purposes
8. Shows awareness of various features of print: letters, words, spaces, upper- and lowercase letters, some punctuation
9. Identifies story-related problems, events, and resolutions during conversations with an adult
10. Pretends to read, reciting language that closely matches the text on each page and using reading like intonation
11. Retells a familiar story and recounts an informational text in proper sequence, including major events and characters, as appropriate
12. Begins to write accurate first name
13. Uses drawing, dictation, and early invented spelling to convey a message

*Mathematics*

The children will be able to:

1. Verbally counts to 20; counts 10-20 objects accurately; knows the last number, states how many in all; tells what number (1-10) comes next in order by counting
2. Makes sets of 6-10 objects and then describe the parts; identify which part has more, less, or the same; counts all or counts on to find out how many
3. Identifies numerals to 10 by name and connects each to counted objects
4. Begins to show addition and subtraction word problems of whole numbers within 10 using a variety of strategies; makes number pairs within 10
5. Begins to use and make simple sketches, models, or pictorial maps to locate objects
6. Describes basic two and three- dimensional shapes by using own words; recognizes basic shapes when they are presented in a new orientation
7. Begins to use measurement words and some standard measurement tools accurately
8. Relates time to daily routines and schedule
9. Begins to create and read simple graphs; use simple comparison and ordinal terms to describe findings
10. Begins to recognize, create, and explain more complex repeating and simple growing patterns

Art/Music

The children will be able to:

1. Apply free expression in art.
2. Engage in different types of art expression.
3. Follow song with musical instrument and follow simple beats.
4. Dance to different types of music and follow some dance patterns.
5. Engage in dramatic play by being able to follow simple directions.

Christian Education

The children will be able to*:*

1. Follow their teacher’s prayers.
2. Follow devotions and participate in Christian stories.
3. Enjoy Christian songs.
4. Show empathy to others.
5. Demonstrate ability to say own prayer.