The Creative Curriculum: Briefly

Kids Care Academy LLC supports teachers, children, and families by implementing a curriculum that translates child development theory and research into best practice, clearly defining the teacher's vital role in connecting content, teaching, and learning for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers.

The Creative Curriculum is based on several theorists' research and developmentally appropriate practice determined by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). The curriculum balances teacher-planned and child-initiated learning, emphasizing responsiveness to children's strengths, interests, needs, and learning styles. Nationally known for being forward-thinking, comprehensive, and rigorously researched, it helps teachers plan and implement content-rich, developmentally appropriate programs that support active learning and promote children's progress in all developmental areas. (FL DOE)

Teachers of infants and young toddlers work with each child on his/her individual needs, and provide experiences and routines for each young child through the *Developmental Continuum* while observing each child. Toddler and preschool teachers work with the children in the following domains: literacy, language development, English language development, math, logical reasoning, science, social studies, problem solving, creative art & music, gross motor, and social emotional development.

Each toddler and preschool class has 11 interest learning areas or centers: blocks, dramatic play, toys & games, art, library, discovery, sand & water, music & movement, cooking, computers, and outdoors. The chart on the next page outlines the importance of each interest area and what children do when they participate.

The Creative Curriculum is much more extensive than detailed here, but we feel that this highlights the main points of the effectiveness and background of the curriculum. If you have any further questions about *The Creative Curriculum* and how it is implemented at Kids Care Academy, seek answers from the KCA owners or teachers.

Thank you!

Sherri Coffey & Paula Montalvo

Blocks	- Blocks are designed in mathematical units. - Children's building goes through distinct stages. - Children create designs and build what they see around them—roads, houses, a zoo.
Dramatic Play	- Pretend play is the way children make sense of their experiences. - Children take on roles and pretend about a situation, use props, and play with other children.
Toys & Games	- These materials teach math, develop eye-hand coordination, and promote small muscle skills. - Some are self-correcting and some are open-ended.
Art	- Children need time to explore and experiment with different art materials. - Creative art is the way children express their own ideas and feelings.
Library	- Children develop valuable literacy skills and a love for books - It is a quiet place to get away and enjoy books. - The most important letters are the ones in children's names.
Discovery	- This is an area where children can make discoveries and experiment with materials. - Teachers encourage and share a sense of wonder with children.
Sand & Water	- These are soothing materials that calm children. - There are scientific and mathematical discoveries children can make.
Music & Movement	- Children develop coordination and learn concepts through songs. - They develop listening skills and an appreciation of different kinds of music.
Cooking	- Children learn literacy and math skills following recipes. - Children can make scientific discoveries in cooking. - Preparing and eating food is very satisfying. - There are rules and procedures for safety.
Computers	- Computers are a part of everyday life. - The software selected engages children in active learning. - Children can work together on the computer.
Outdoors	- Outdoor time is important for children's health and well-being. - Children can learn about nature firsthand. - They develop their large muscle skills and coordination.