

Introduction to Adventures for Toddlers

Adventures for Toddlers, a curriculum for children from eighteen to thirty-six months, was developed through a contract with the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education. Programs using the Adventures for Toddlers curriculum can easily transition into the Adventures in Learning curriculum for children from three to five.

The curriculum features 30 toddler topics in eight focus areas. Each toddler topic is introduced with children's books. Some of the books are familiar ones that can be purchased while others can be made by the caregivers. All patterns for books to be made are available on the Division website.

Experiences within the toddler topics are based on the Arkansas Framework for Infant and Toddler Care Developmental Strands and address each of the Benchmarks. Appropriate resources available from the Division were included in the development of Adventures for Toddlers.

Adventures for Toddlers is a flexible curriculum that allows caregivers to choose from 30 toddler topics and to decide when and how long to explore the topics with the children. For each of the 30 toddler topics there are two weekly plan sheets; one for Younger Toddlers and one for Older Toddlers. These weekly plan sheets are intended as a guide for caregivers and can be adapted for individual groups of toddlers.

During development of Adventures for Toddlers, six early care and education programs served as pilot sites for the project. Curriculum materials were also sent to reviewers for comment. Feedback received from these two sources was considered as revisions were made to the curriculum materials.

Three early childhood educators, Dot Brown, Beverly C. Wright and Trude Puckett, spent almost two years developing the Adventures for Toddlers curriculum. While the careers of the three developers have taken different paths, they share similar education backgrounds and work experiences. The list that follows applies to all three developers and highlights the similarities.

- Masters of Education degrees with an early childhood emphasis
- Instructors of early childhood courses
- Monitors, evaluators, supervisors and mentors in early care and education classrooms
- Registered trainers in the TAPP Registry
- Developers of Adventures in Learning curriculum for children from three to five

Currently, Dot Brown, President of Early Childhood Services, Inc. focuses on the development of training materials. Beverly C. Wright is an adjunct instructor at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and Trude Puckett is an early childhood instructor at Pulaski Technical College. All three remain committed to making available to

caregivers the support and the resources they need to provide quality care and education for toddlers.

In order to remain focused on best practice, the developers of Adventures for Toddlers frequently referred to two publications: *Developmentally Appropriate Practice in Early Childhood Programs*, Revised Edition, and *The Creative Curriculum for Infants, Toddlers & Twos*, Second Edition. Both of these publications have a strong research base.

While the development of Adventures for Toddlers has been a challenge, it has also been fun. Now you are invited to explore and enjoy Adventures for Toddlers with your toddlers!