

## Introduction to Creative Adventures with Literature

**Welcome to Creative Adventures with Literature (CAL)**, a collection of curriculum guides that integrate literature and the creative arts. The guides are intended as a supplement to the various curricula that teachers of children from three to five are using in their classrooms.

As children are involved in **Creative Adventures with Literature** experiences, they will be introduced to the works of well-known artists and to the various techniques used by illustrators of some of the children's books that are included. Their visual and performing arts experiences will support them in their achievement of the benchmarks in the developmental strand, Creative/Aesthetic Learning.

Each curriculum guide begins with a children's book, then extends to related experiences in the creative arts which encompass both the visual and the performing arts. In the visual arts, children will experience painting, drawing, sculpting and the use of other media. The performing arts will involve children in music, creative movement and dance, dramatic play and creative drama, and puppetry.

The creative arts are a meaningful part of the early childhood curriculum and should be integrated into children's daily learning experiences. The arts are important for their own sake. In addition, they can enhance children's development of skills and knowledge in literacy, language, mathematics, science, social studies, physical education and more.

During the development of Creative Adventures with Literature, curriculum guides were sent to reviewers for comment. Feedback received from the reviewers was considered as revisions were made to the guides.

Two early childhood educators, Dot Brown and Beverly C. Wright, spent a year developing the curriculum guides. While the careers of the two developers have taken different paths, they share similar education backgrounds and work experiences. The list that follows applies to both 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 preschool classrooms
- Evaluators of curriculum for children from three to five
- Developers of curriculum for children from birth to five
- Registered trainers in the Arkansas Early Childhood Professional Development Registry
- Certified Pre-K ELLA trainers

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. Both remain committed to making available to caregivers and teachers the support they need to provide quality care and education for children from three to five.

The development of training materials that focus on the Creative/Aesthetic Developmental Learning Strand and Benchmarks has long been a dream of the developers. With this project, **Creative Adventures with Literature**, that dream has become a reality. Now you are invited to share the dream as you integrate the curriculum guides into your daily plans.