

## NMCAA Plan for Preparing Children for Kindergarten

1. The program's selected curriculum, *The Creative Curriculum*, sets the stage for learning in six developmental areas with 23 objectives. The curriculum's environmentally-based approach "clearly defines the teacher's role in connecting content, teaching, and learning with these objectives which in turn are linked directly to the validated norm and criterion-referenced assessment."
2. The program's selected assessment tool, **Teaching Strategies GOLD**, is aligned to the curriculum and to the "Head Start Child Outcomes Framework", as well as, to the state's benchmarks for school readiness. *The Teacher's Guide to using Teaching Strategies GOLD Objectives for Development and Learning* provides direction for collecting facts, analyzing and evaluating facts, planning for each child and the group, and using the on-line assessment system to report on group progress.
3. The Education Curriculum Coach establishes an "Assessment Schedule" each program year.
  - A. Three assessment periods are established: Fall, Winter and Spring
  - B. Teaching Staff/Providers conduct a "Portfolio Collection Process" which includes their observations and intentional work samples for each enrolled child. There is also the option to build an electronic portfolio.
  - C. Portfolio contents are analyzed by teaching staff/providers to determine individual skill levels 3 times during the year.
4. Assessment is monitored through an on-line assessment, **Teaching Strategies GOLD**. *The Teaching Strategies GOLD* walks teachers through the system in a user friendly way with many tool options to help teachers understand the system. Teachers also receive training from their Coordinator on how to navigate the system when they are a newly hired teacher. Coordinators receive training from the Education Curriculum Coach on how to navigate the Administrator's site. **Teaching Strategies GOLD** also provides a user friendly site for the administrators to be able to click on many resources to help them understand the different options available to them as an administrator.
5. *Parent Invites* to this electronic assessment process may be extended to family members to engage them in child assessment and skill building activities they can do at home to enhance their child's learning. Information about parenting, early childhood practice, and preschool development is also available to families through the extensive resource list and journaling capabilities of this system.
6. Teaching Staff/Providers have the option to record their observations and findings on-line.

Once Teaching Staff complete an assessment period on line, many curriculum enhancements are available to support individual child outcomes through printing off reports that can be generated by Teaching Strategies:

- The *Class Profile*
  - The *Snapshot Report*
  - *Progress and Outcomes Report*
  - *Activity Recommendations* for specific groups of children based on developmental skill levels identified through assessment. These activities complement *The Creative Curriculum for Preschool* and include numerous literacy activities for teachers and families.
  - An optional interactive *Weekly Planning Form* that can be customized by teachers/providers.
7. Program wide reports can be generated by the Education Curriculum Coach to assess where children are at each individual checkpoint period to share with Coordinators to assess next steps with children and teachers.