Adventures in Learning, a comprehensive curriculum for children from three to five, was developed through a contract with the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education. The curriculum features 40 topics of study in nine focus areas. Each topic is introduced with familiar children’s books and has a strong language and literacy emphasis. Many of the resources available from the Division were included in the development of Adventures in Learning.

While Adventures in Learning is a comprehensive curriculum, it can also be a supplement to an established curriculum. The curriculum is flexible and allows teachers to choose from 40 topics of study and to decide when to explore the topics with the children.

During development of Adventures in Learning, four early care and education programs served as pilot sites for the project. Curriculum materials were also sent to reviewers for comments. 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 more than a year developing the Adventures in Learning 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 preschool classrooms
- Evaluators of curriculum for children from three 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 and Trude Puckett is an early childhood instructor at Pulaski Technical College. All three remain committed to making available to caregivers and teachers the support and the resources they need to provide quality care and education for children from three to five.

In order to remain focused on best practice, the developers of Adventures in Learning frequently referred to three publications, Developmentally Appropriate Practice in Early Childhood Programs, Revised Edition, Learning to Read and Write and The Creative Curriculum for Preschool, Fourth Edition. These three publications have a firm research base.
In 2013 *Adventures in Learning* was updated to include new and/or revised Arkansas Early Childhood Education Benchmarks which were approved in June, 2012. Dot Brown and Beverly C. Wright made the revisions through a sub-contract with the University of the Ozarks in Clarksville. Shelli Curlin Henehan, Ed.D., Assistant Professor of Education for the University of the Ozarks' Education Division, supervised the project.

The development of Adventures in Learning and the revisions have been fun. Now you are invited to explore and enjoy *Adventures in Learning* with your children!
Adventures in Learning
References and Resources


Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education (2005-2006) *Beginnings: A Year in the Life of a Tree*. Little Rock, AR


**Resources from the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education**

The following materials are available on a CD from the Arkansas Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education or on the Arkansas Better Beginnings website. * indicates materials available on the website.

(*)Arkansas Early Childhood Education Framework Handbook with five Developmental Learning Strands and Benchmarks and Developmental Rating Scale

Arkansas Early Childhood Education Framework classroom poster with five Developmental Learning Strands and Benchmarks. Available in hard copy from the Division
(*): A Story a Month, collection of storytelling patterns and learning activities for thirty-seven favorite children’s books, plus patterns for twelve Mother Goose Rhymes and activities

(*): Books and Movement – A Magical Mix: B.A.M.M.M.! – Movement activities that begin with a children’s book and expands to include other curriculum activities and ideas

(*): Getting Children Ready for Kindergarten – A Guide for Teachers and Caregivers of Preschool Children – Based on the kindergarten readiness indicators from the Department of Education and a companion piece to the Family Calendar

(*): Getting Ready for Kindergarten – A Calendar of Family Activities that presents the kindergarten readiness indicators from the Arkansas Department of Education in “family friendly” language (available in English and Spanish)

(*): Picture This: A Framework for Quality Care and Education for Children from Three to Five - A booklet in which children are portrayed in the five developmental learning strands found in the Arkansas Early Childhood Education Framework: a booklet for caregivers and families. Also available in hard copy from the Division.

(*): The Family Connection – Thirty-two sets of activities that connect preschool children to their classroom and to their families

(*): Connecting Literature and Math (CLAM) - twelve curriculum guides that focus on strategies for providing children with daily opportunities to experience mathematics through child-centered, hands-on activities as well as teacher-guided activities; guides that begin with children's books that focus on one or more of the five mathematical standards identified by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM)

(*): Creative Adventures with Literature (CAL) - a collection of curriculum guides that integrate literature and the creative arts which encompass both the visual and the performing arts

(*): Informational Books in the Preschool Classroom - a collection of curriculum guides that pair an informational book with one or more storybooks that have a related theme

Division of Child Care & Early Childhood Education
Program Support
700 Main Street
P. O. Box 1437 Slot S160
Little Rock, AR 72203
Phone: 501-682-9699 or 1-800-445-3316

http://humanservices.arkansas.gov/dccece/Pages/default.aspx
**Mother Goose Books**


**CDs**

Bean Bag Activities from Kimbo

Dr. Jean Nursery Rhymes and Good Ol’ Times by Dr. Jean

Getting to Know Myself by Hap Palmer

Kids in Action by Greg and Steve

Raffi’s Singable Songs for the Very Young by Raffi

Sea Gulls Music for Fun and Relaxation by Hap Palmer

We All Have to Live Together (3 Volumes) by Greg and Steve

You’ll Sing a Song, and I’ll Sing a Song by Ella Jenkins

**CDs can be ordered online or from school supply catalogs.**

**Journals from Professional Organizations**

*Dimensions of Early Childhood* published by Southern Early Childhood Association, Little Rock, AR.

Southern Early Childhood Association
P. O. Box 55930
Little Rock, AR 72215-5930
Phone: (501) 221-1648