

## **Adventures in Learning Introduction**

**Adventures in Learning**, a comprehensive curriculum for children from three through five, has been developed and revised through contracts 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.

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.

Three early childhood educators, Dot Brown, Beverly C. Wright and Trude Puckett, spent more than a year developing the **Adventures in Learning** curriculum. Five programs served as pilot sites when the curriculum was being developed. At that time, Beverly C. Wright was an adjunct instructor at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and Trude Puckett was an early childhood instructor at Pulaski Tech College. Both are currently retired. Dot Brown was President of Early Childhood Services, Inc. and remains in that position.

Since **Adventures in Learning** was designated an Arkansas approved curriculum in 2006, it has undergone two revisions. In 2013 **Adventures in Learning** was updated to include new/and or revised Arkansas 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 Ozark's Education Division, supervised the project.

The second revisions began in 2016 through a sub-contract with the University of the Ozarks in Clarksville with Dot Brown and Beverly C. Wright once again making the revisions. Shelli Henehan, Ed.D., Associate Professor/Coordinator of Assessment, UAFS School of Education/College of STEM, supervises the project. The current revisions reflect the *Arkansas Child Development and Early Learning Standards: Birth through 60 Months* adopted by the Arkansas Early Childhood Commission in April 2016. Dot Brown, Beverly C. Wright and Shelli Henehan served on the committee that developed the standards.

During the two revision stages, curriculum materials have been sent to early childhood consultants for review and comment. In addition, feedback has

been received from early care and education programs using the curriculum. Feedback received from these sources has been considered as revisions were being made to the curriculum materials.

In order to remain focused on best practice, the original developers of **Adventures in Learning** frequently referred to three publications, *Developmentally Appropriate Practice in Early Childhood Programs, Third Edition* (2008), *Learning to Read and Write* (2000) and *The Creative Curriculum for Preschool, Fourth Edition* (2002). These three publications have a firm research base. During the second revision, a more recent publication, *Developmentally Appropriate Practice: Focus on Preschoolers* (2013) has been a valuable resource.

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