

Introduction to Adventures for Toddlers

Adventures for Toddlers, a comprehensive curriculum for children from eighteen through thirty-six months, has been developed and revised through contracts 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 through 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 teachers. All patterns for books to be made are available as attachments. The curriculum is flexible, allowing teachers to choose from the 30 toddler topics and to decide how long to explore a topic with children. Many of the experiences in each topic are designated for either younger toddlers (YT) or older toddlers (OT) or for both.

Three early childhood educators, Dot Brown, Beverly C. Wright and Trude Puckett, spent almost two years developing the **Adventures for Toddlers** curriculum. During that time, six early care and education programs served as pilot sites for the project. Curriculum materials were also sent to reviewers for comment. The curriculum was first placed on the Division website in 2008, and later added to the Better Beginnings website.

During the development of **Adventures for Toddlers**, 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.

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

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, Third Edition* (2008), and *The Creative Curriculum for Infants, Toddlers & Twos, Second Edition* (2006). Both of these publications have a strong research base. During the revisions, *Developmentally Appropriate Practice: Focus on Infants and Toddlers* (2013) has been a valuable resource.

While the development and revisions 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!