

## **Introduction to Informational Books in the Preschool Classroom**

**Informational Books in the Preschool Classroom**, a supplemental curriculum for children from three through five, has been developed through a contract with the Arkansas Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education with a sub-contract with the University of the Ozarks in Clarksville. Dot Brown and Beverly C. Wright with Early Childhood Services, Inc. are the developers of the guides. Shelli Henehan, Ed.D., Associate Professor/Coordinator of Assessment, UAFS School of Education/College of STEM, supervises the project. The guides reflect the *Arkansas Child Development and Early Learning Standards: Birth through 60 months* (AR CDELS) 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.

**Informational Books in the Preschool Classroom** is a collection of curriculum guides that integrate the Standards **Domain: Emergent Literacy** with two other **Domains: Science and Technology** and **Social Studies**. Other **Domains** are included where appropriate. Guides will be added from time to time. The guides are intended to support the curriculum that programs are currently using, including *Adventures in Learning*.

In addition to the Standards, in **ALL ABOUT ECERS-R**, categories of books that should be accessible to children include factual information and nature and science. Therefore, including informational books in a preschool classroom supports programs in achieving Better Beginnings designation.

To introduce the curriculum guides to teachers, the developers have included a section titled **Before You Begin**. This section includes valuable information about why it is important that informational books be included in the preschool classroom, criteria for selecting books, and strategies for using the books with children.

The curriculum guides that focus on using informational books in the preschool classrooms will provide teachers with the tools they need to help children transition into the literacy world of kindergarten and the primary grades and the science and technology and social studies worlds of all of their future educational experiences.