

# Creative Curriculum for 3-Year-Olds

This chart shows how Luminous teachers plan experiences thoughtfully and intentionally on the basis of your child’s current levels of development and learning in the following areas: social-emotional, physical, language, cognitive, literacy, and mathematics.

Area of Development & Learning	Objective	Beginning of the Year	Middle of the Year	End of the Year
Social–Emotional	Self-regulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Begins to comfort self by seeking out special object or person</li> <li>• Begins to accept redirection from adults</li> <li>• Begins to demonstrate confidence in meeting own needs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comforts self by seeking out special object or person</li> <li>• Accepts redirection from adults</li> <li>• Begins to look at a situation differently or delay gratification</li> <li>• Begins to manage classroom rules, routines, and transitions with occasional reminders</li> <li>• Demonstrates confidence in meeting own needs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is able to look at a situation differently or delay gratification</li> <li>• Manages classroom rules, routines, and transitions with occasional reminders</li> <li>• Begins to take responsibility for own well-being</li> </ul>

Area of Development & Learning	Objective	Beginning of the Year	Middle of the Year	End of the Year
<b>Social–Emotional</b> , continued	Positive relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manages separations without distress and engages with trusted adults</li> <li>• Begins to demonstrate concern about the feelings of others</li> <li>• Begins to use successful strategies for entering groups</li> <li>• Begins to play with one or two preferred playmates</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manages separations without distress and engages with trusted adults</li> <li>• Demonstrates concern about the feelings of others</li> <li>• Begins to use successful strategies for entering a group</li> <li>• Plays with one or two preferred playmates</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Begins to engage with trusted adults as resources and to share mutual interests</li> <li>• Begins to identify basic emotional reactions of others and their causes accurately</li> <li>• Uses successful strategies for entering a group</li> <li>• Begins to establish a special friendship with one other child, but the friendship might only last a short while</li> </ul>
	Group participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Begins to take turns</li> <li>• Seeks adult help to resolve social problems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Begins to take turns</li> <li>• Begins to suggest solutions to social problems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Takes turns</li> <li>• Suggests solutions to social problems</li> </ul>
<b>Physical</b>	Traveling skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Begins to move purposefully from place to place with control</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Begins to move purposefully from place to place with control</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moves purposefully from place to place with control</li> </ul>
	Balancing skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Begins to sustain balance during simple movement experiences</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustains balance during simple movement experiences</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Begins to sustain balance during complex movement experiences</li> </ul>
	Gross-motor manipulative skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Begins to manipulate balls or similar objects with flexible body movements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Begins to manipulate balls or similar objects with flexible body movements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manipulates balls or similar objects with flexible body movements</li> </ul>
	Fine-motor skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Begins to use refined wrist and finger movements</li> <li>• Begins to grip drawing and writing tools with whole hand but may use whole-arm movements to make marks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uses refined wrist and finger movements</li> <li>• Grips drawing and writing tools with whole hand but may use whole-arm movements to make marks</li> <li>• Begins to hold drawing and writing tools by using a three-point finger grip but may hold the instrument too closely to one end</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Begins to use small, precise finger and hand movements</li> <li>• Holds drawing and writing tools by using a three-point finger grip but may hold the instrument too closely to one end</li> </ul>

Area of Development & Learning	Objective	Beginning of the Year	Middle of the Year	End of the Year
<b>Language</b>	Listening to and understanding language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Begins to respond appropriately to specific vocabulary and simple statements, questions, and stories</li> <li>• Follows simple requests not accompanied by gestures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Begins to respond appropriately to specific vocabulary and simple statements, questions, and stories</li> <li>• Follows directions of two or more steps that relate to familiar objects and experiences</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responds appropriately to specific vocabulary and simple statements, questions, and stories</li> <li>• Begins to follow detailed, instructional, multistep directions</li> </ul>
	Expressive language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Begins to describe and tell the use of many familiar items</li> <li>• Begins to be understood by most people; may mispronounce new, long, or unusual words</li> <li>• Begins to use three- to four-word sentences; may omit some words or use some words incorrectly</li> <li>• Begins to tell simple stories about objects, events, and people not present; lacks many details and a conventional beginning, middle, and end</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Begins to describe and tell the use of many familiar items</li> <li>• Begins to be understood by most people; may mispronounce new, long, or unusual words</li> <li>• Uses three- to four-word sentences; may omit some words or use some words incorrectly</li> <li>• Begins to tell stories about other times and places that have a logical order and that include major details</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describes and tells the use of many familiar items</li> <li>• Is understood by most people; may mispronounce new, long, or unusual words</li> <li>• Uses complete, four- to six-word sentences</li> <li>• Begins to incorporate new, less-familiar, or technical words in everyday conversations</li> <li>• Tells stories about other times and places that have a logical order and that include major details</li> </ul>
	Conversational and other communication skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Begins to engage in conversations of at least three exchanges</li> <li>• Uses appropriate eye contact, pauses, and simple verbal prompts when communicating</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Begins to engage in conversations of at least three exchanges</li> <li>• Begins to use acceptable language and social rules while communicating with others; may need reminders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engages in conversations of at least three exchanges</li> <li>• Uses acceptable language and social rules while communicating with others; may need reminders</li> </ul>

Area of Development & Learning	Objective	Beginning of the Year	Middle of the Year	End of the Year
<b>Cognitive</b>	Approaches to learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustains interest in working on a task, especially when adults offer suggestions, questions, and comments</li> <li>• Practices an activity many times until successful</li> <li>• Observes and imitates how other people solve problems; asks for a solution and uses it</li> <li>• Explores and investigates ways to make something happen</li> <li>• Begins to use creativity and imagination during play and routine tasks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustains interest in working on a task especially when adults offer suggestions, questions and comments</li> <li>• Begins to plan and pursue a variety of appropriately challenging tasks</li> <li>• Begins to solve problems without having to try every possibility</li> <li>• Begins to show eagerness to learn about a variety of topics and ideas</li> <li>• Uses creativity and imagination during play and routine tasks</li> <li>• Begins to change plans if a better idea is thought of or proposed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Begins to sustain work on age-appropriate, interesting tasks; can ignore most distractions and interruptions</li> <li>• Plans and pursues a variety of appropriately challenging tasks</li> <li>• Solves problems without having to try every possibility</li> <li>• Shows eagerness to learn a variety of topics and ideas</li> <li>• Changes plans if a better idea is thought of or proposed</li> </ul>
	Remembering and connecting experiences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recalls familiar people, places, objects, and actions from the past (a few months before)</li> <li>• Recalls 1–2 items removed from view</li> <li>• Remembers the sequence of personal routines and experiences with teacher support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Begins to tell about experiences in order, provides details, and evaluates the experience</li> <li>• Begins to recall 3–4 items removed from view</li> <li>• Begins to draw on everyday experiences and apply this knowledge to a similar situation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tells about experiences in order, provides details, and evaluates the experience</li> <li>• Recalls 3–4 items removed from view</li> <li>• Draws on everyday experiences and applies this knowledge to a similar situation</li> </ul>
	Classification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Begins to place objects in two or more groups based on differences in a single characteristic, e.g., color, size, or shape</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Begins to place objects in two or more groups based on differences in a single characteristic, e.g., color, size, or shape</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Places objects in two or more groups based on differences in a single characteristic, e.g., color, size, or shape</li> </ul>
	Symbolic thinking and representation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Begins to draw or construct, and then identify what it is</li> <li>• Begins to act out familiar or imaginary scenarios; may use props to stand for something else</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Begins to draw or construct, and then identify what it is</li> <li>• Begins to act out familiar or imaginary scenarios; may use props to stand for something else</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draws or constructs, and then identifies what it is</li> <li>• Acts out familiar or imaginary scenarios; may use props to stand for something else</li> </ul>

Area of Development & Learning	Objective	Beginning of the Year	Middle of the Year	End of the Year
<b>Literacy</b>	Phonological awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Begins to fill in the missing rhyming words</li> <li>• Begins to generate rhyming words spontaneously</li> <li>• Sings songs and recites rhymes and refrains with repeating initial sounds</li> <li>• Begins to notice and show awareness of separate words in sentences</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fills in the missing rhyming word</li> <li>• Generates rhyming words spontaneously</li> <li>• Sings songs and recites rhymes with repeating initial sounds</li> <li>• Notices and shows awareness of separate words in sentences</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Begins to decide whether two words rhyme</li> <li>• Begins to show awareness that some words begin the same way</li> <li>• Begins to notice and show awareness of separate syllables in words</li> </ul>
	Alphabet knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognizes and names a few letters in own name</li> <li>• Begins to identify the sounds of a few letters</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Begins to recognize as many as 10 letters, especially those in own name</li> <li>• Begins to identify the sounds of a few letters</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognizes as many as 10 letters, especially those in own name</li> <li>• Identifies the sounds of a few letters</li> </ul>
	Print concepts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Begins to orient book correctly</li> <li>• Begins to turn pages from the front of the book to the back</li> <li>• Begins to recognize familiar books by their covers</li> <li>• Shows understanding that text is meaningful and can be read</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Orients book correctly</li> <li>• Turns pages from the front of the book to the back</li> <li>• Recognizes familiar books by their covers</li> <li>• Shows understanding that text is meaningful and can be read</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Begins to know some features of a book (title, author, illustrator)</li> <li>• Begins to connect specific books to authors</li> <li>• Begins to indicate where to start reading and the direction to follow</li> </ul>
	Comprehension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contributes particular language from the book at the appropriate time</li> <li>• Pretends to read a familiar book, treating each page as a separate unit</li> <li>• Names and describes what is on each page using pictures as cues</li> <li>• Retells some events from a familiar story with close adult prompting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Begins to ask and answer questions about the text</li> <li>• Begins to refer to pictures</li> <li>• Pretends to read a familiar book, treating each page as a separate unit</li> <li>• Names and describes what is on each page using pictures as cues</li> <li>• Begins to retell familiar stories using pictures or props as prompts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asks and answers questions about the text</li> <li>• Refers to pictures</li> <li>• Begins to pretend to read, using some of the language from the text</li> <li>• Begins to describe the action across pages, using pictures to order the events; may need prompts from adult</li> <li>• Retells familiar stories, using pictures or props as prompts</li> </ul>

Area of Development & Learning	Objective	Beginning of the Year	Middle of the Year	End of the Year
Literacy, continued	Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attempts to write name, using controlled linear scribbles</li> <li>• Attempts to write to convey meaning using controlled linear scribbles</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attempts to write name using mock letters or letter-like forms</li> <li>• Attempts to write to convey meaning using mock letters or letter-like forms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attempts to write name, using letter strings</li> <li>• Attempts to write to convey meaning, using letter strings</li> </ul>
Mathematics	Number concepts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Begins to verbally count to 10</li> <li>• Begins to count up to five objects accurately, using one number name for each object</li> <li>• Begins to recognize and name the number of items in a small set (up to five) instantly</li> <li>• Begins to combine and separate up to five objects and describe the parts</li> <li>• Recognizes and names a few numerals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Verbally counts to 10</li> <li>• Counts up to five objects accurately, using one number name for each object</li> <li>• Begins to recognize and name the number of items in a small set (up to five) instantly</li> <li>• Begins to combine and separate up to five objects and describe the parts</li> <li>• Begins to identify numerals to 5 by name and connect each to counted objects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Begins to count verbally to 20</li> <li>• Begins to count 10–20 objects accurately</li> <li>• Begins to know that the last number states how many in all</li> <li>• Begins to tell what number (1–10) comes next in order by counting</li> <li>• Recognizes and names the number of items in a small set (up to five) instantly</li> <li>• Combines and separates up to five objects and describes the parts</li> <li>• Identifies numerals to 5 by name and connects each to counted objects</li> </ul>
	Spatial relationships and shapes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follows simple directions related to proximity (beside, between, next to)</li> <li>• Begins to identify a few basic shapes (circle, square, triangle)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follows simple directions related to proximity (beside, between, next to)</li> <li>• Identifies a few basic shapes (circle, square, triangle)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Begins to use and respond appropriately to positional words indicating location, direction, and distance</li> <li>• Begins to describe basic two- and three-dimensional shapes by using own words</li> <li>• Begins to recognize basic shapes when they are presented in a new orientation</li> </ul>
	Measurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Makes simple comparisons between two objects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compares and orders a small set of objects as appropriate according to size, length, weight, area, or volume</li> <li>• Knows the usual sequence of basic daily events</li> <li>• Knows a few ordinal numbers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Begins to use multiples of the same unit to measure</li> <li>• Begins to use numbers to compare</li> <li>• Begins to know the purpose of standard measuring tools</li> </ul>
	Patterns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Begins to copy simple repeating patterns</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Begins to copy simple repeating patterns</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Copies simple repeating patterns</li> </ul>

## Science and Technology, Social Studies, and the Arts

The following is the scope of knowledge, skills, concepts, and behaviors in science and technology, social studies, and the arts. These are presented in an integrated way that reflects how content in these areas is introduced in early childhood classrooms.

Area of Development & Learning	Learning Objective	Throughout the Year
<b>Science &amp; Technology</b>	Scientific inquiry skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Observes and explores things in the environment</li> <li>• Reacts to changes</li> <li>• Manipulates objects to understand their properties</li> <li>• Connects new observations to what he or she already knows</li> <li>• Identifies problems, makes predictions, thinks of ways to solve problems, and tries possible solutions</li> <li>• Organizes information</li> <li>• Makes comparisons and classifies</li> <li>• Communicates with others about discoveries</li> <li>• Represents his or her thinking through drawing, dramatizing, graphing, or making models</li> </ul>
	Living things	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shows a growing ability to classify living and nonliving things</li> <li>• Communicates about the characteristics of living things</li> <li>• Demonstrates understanding that living things grow, change, and reproduce</li> <li>• Shows awareness of life in different environments or habitats</li> <li>• Groups or categorizes living things, e.g., appearance, behavior, plant, or animal</li> <li>• Demonstrates awareness that living things go through a growth cycle</li> </ul>
	Physical properties of objects and materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examines, describes, and measures the observable features of objects</li> <li>• Demonstrates understanding that objects are made from one or more materials, e.g., metal, wood, plastic, or paper</li> <li>• Communicates that the physical properties of objects and materials can change, e.g., when solid ice becomes a liquid</li> <li>• Displays awareness of natural forces that affect objects and materials, e.g., wind and gravity</li> <li>• Explores and describes ways that objects can be moved in space, e.g., pushing, pulling, rising, or sinking</li> </ul>

Area of Development & Learning	Learning Objective	Throughout the Year
<b>Science &amp; Technology</b> , continued	Earth's environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrates understanding that there are different kinds of weather and that weather changes</li> <li>• Describes and measures weather</li> <li>• Communicates awareness that the environment changes, e.g., season to season, sometimes slowly and sometimes suddenly</li> <li>• Communicates that Earth's surface is made of different materials, e.g., rocks, sand, dirt, and water, and each material has properties that can be described</li> <li>• Shows awareness that different objects can be seen in the sky</li> <li>• Demonstrates understanding that people can affect the environment in positive and negative ways</li> </ul>
	Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shows understanding that different tools and technology are used in different places for different purposes, e.g., finding information, communicating, and designing</li> <li>• Demonstrates the appropriate use of various tools and other technology</li> </ul>
<b>Social Studies</b>	Self	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrates understanding that each person has unique characteristics, ways of communicating, and ways of solving problems</li> <li>• Communicates that each person is part of a family that has unique characteristics</li> <li>• Shows awareness that each person has basic needs that must be met to stay healthy, e.g., food, clothing, shelter</li> </ul>
	People and how they live	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shows awareness that there are similarities and differences among people and families</li> <li>• Demonstrates understanding of the various jobs of people in the community</li> <li>• Shows understanding that people buy, sell, and trade to get goods and services that they do not raise, make, or find themselves</li> <li>• Communicates about the various means of transportation that people use to move goods and go from place to place</li> <li>• Shows increasing awareness that respect for others, cooperation, and fairness help us get along in communities</li> <li>• Demonstrates increasing understanding that there are rules in our homes, schools, and community and that each rule has a purpose</li> <li>• Communicates understanding that people have various rights and responsibilities</li> </ul>
	Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrates understanding that people and things change over time</li> <li>• Shows that time can be measured</li> <li>• Communicates about time, e.g., uses words such as <i>yesterday</i>, <i>today</i>, <i>tomorrow</i>, <i>day</i>, <i>week</i>, <i>month</i>, <i>minute</i>, <i>hour</i></li> </ul>



Area of Development & Learning	Learning Objective	Throughout the Year
<b>Social Studies,</b> continued	Geographic knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrates understanding that we are surrounded by geographical features (e.g., mountain, hill, desert, lake, river, creek, bayou) and that specific information identifies a location (e.g., address)</li> <li>• Communicates that we depend on people who live far away for many necessities and information</li> <li>• Shows increasing understanding that maps are tools with symbols that help us locate objects, find where we are, and where we are going</li> </ul>
<b>The Arts</b>	Visual arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shows appreciation for various forms of visual art</li> <li>• Shows appreciation for the artwork of peers</li> <li>• Communicates what he or she sees and how it makes him or her feel</li> <li>• Uses and cares for art materials</li> <li>• Explores different materials, tools, and processes</li> <li>• Shows increasing awareness of color, line, form, texture, space, and design in his or her artwork or the work of others</li> <li>• Communicates about his or her artwork, e.g., what it is made of, what he or she was thinking, and from where the idea comes</li> </ul>
	Music	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shows awareness and appreciation of different kinds of music</li> <li>• Expresses thoughts, feelings, and energy through music</li> <li>• Shows increasing awareness of various components of music: melody (tune), pitch (high and low sounds), rhythm (the beat), tempo (speed), dynamics (changes in volume), and timbre (sound quality distinguishing one instrument or voice from another)</li> </ul>
	Dance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communicates feelings and ideas through dance and movement</li> <li>• Demonstrates spatial awareness (<i>where</i> the body moves); location (separate or shared space); directions (up or down, forward or backward); levels (low, middle, high); and pathways (straight, curved, zigzag)</li> <li>• Demonstrates effort awareness (<i>how</i> the body moves); speed (fast or slow); force (strong or light); and control (bound or free)</li> <li>• Demonstrates relational awareness (<i>relationships</i> the body creates); with the physical self (body parts); with body shapes and size (big, small, straight); roles with other people (leading or following, mirroring, alternating); and in space (near or far, over/ or under, around or through)</li> </ul>
	Drama	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shows that real-life roles can be enacted</li> <li>• Communicates a message or story through action and dialogue</li> <li>• Represents ideas through drama, e.g., pretends to be the big bad wolf</li> <li>• Shows appreciation of the dramatizations of others</li> </ul>