

PRESS RELEASE

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For more information, contact:
Susan Light, Sr. Editor
Rainbow Educational Concepts, Inc.
(870) 932-1030
susan@rainbowconcepts.com

**Local Education Company Creating New Generation of Investigators,
Meeting Need for Quality Pre-K**

Jonesboro, AR, April 8, 2008 – A new generation of investigators are grabbing their magnifying glasses and notebooks. But these young investigators are exploring more than fingerprints; they are focusing on ladybugs, literature, and Van Gogh. They are official members of the *The InvestiGator Club™*, and they are only four years old!

Rainbow Educational Concepts, a Jonesboro educational consulting company since 1985, and its Illinois-based sister company, Robert-Leslie Publishing, The Early Childhood Company™, have teamed up to create *The InvestiGator Club™ Prekindergarten Learning System*, a high-quality, research-based pre-K program for three- and four-year-olds. This comprehensive learning system is aligned to accepted pre-K quality benchmarks and provides explicit, scaffolded instruction in critical school readiness areas, such as literacy and math. It offers teachers a menu of choices that enables them to customize lesson plans to meet individual teaching styles, classroom environments, and children's needs.

Addressing a Need for Quality Pre-K

After five years of research, *The InvestiGator Club™* was created in 2005 to meet the need for a high-quality core curriculum for pre-K classrooms. Studies indicate that as many as 40 percent of kindergarten students in the United States come to school already below grade level in reading and math. Robert-Leslie Publishing's mission is to close this achievement gap and ensure that all young children develop the skills they need to be successful learners.

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Since its inception, *The InvestiGator Club*[™] has become an essential component of high quality pre-K programs educating thousands of children and has been endorsed by a growing roster of early childhood specialists. The science-based system is in widespread use in Head Start, public, and private pre-K classrooms in 36 states and in Mexico and the Virgin Islands. Pre-K programs that have implemented the system include: Chicago, Ill.; Hartford, Conn.; Philadelphia, Pa.; Salt Lake City, Utah; San Antonio, Texas; and New Orleans, La.

Teachers and administrators are quickly discovering that the program produces impressive results. The Educational Research Institute of America (ERIA) recently completed a year-long study of the program's instructional effectiveness among over 500 children. Results of the study demonstrate that the learning system produces significant improvement in academic and social-emotional skills. The program was equally effective among all groups of children and in all learning domains.

About *The InvestiGator Club*[™]

The InvestiGator Club[™] is made up of a colorful and endearing cast of animal characters led by Dilly Gator and her friends Rosalita Sausalita, Manny Salamander, Great Auntie Lu, Chuck Wood, Bruno Buzzbee, and JT Gator. Children accompany Dilly and her friends through a series of escapades and adventures that lead to investigations of the world around them.

The comprehensive program, which is based on "best practices," includes teacher and family support along with an array of instructional and assessment tools for the pre-K classroom. One of the highlights is an innovative new teaching tool called *Flapboards*[™], magnetic lift-the-flap storyboards and flap fillers that allow for numerous story possibilities and build problem-solving and critical thinking skills.

The InvestiGator Club[™] provides an integrated preschool education in literacy, math, science, language, and art. Children learn basic readiness skills, but they are also guided to appreciate classic art and literature, sing and dance, build structures, and conduct experiments. The inquiry-based program uses engaging stories and children's own creativity to motivate them to think, solve problems, and communicate. It focuses on social and emotional as well as physical development. Adaptations for children with special needs and those learning English are also important elements of the program. *InvestiGator Club* classrooms receive free access to a members-only area of the Website with interactive features for teachers, parents, and children.

Celebrating Arkansas Children's Week

The InvestiGator Club[™] will visit the Jonesboro Pre-K Center to celebrate Arkansas Children's Week on Friday, April 18. Children in all classes will investigate their world, listen to stories, sing along with Dilly Gator and friends, and become members of the club. For more information about *The InvestiGator Club*[™] and Robert-Leslie Publishing, visit www.investigatorklub.com or phone 1-888-345-PREK (7735).

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