

# SMILE Program

Pitsco Education's **Science and Math In Literacy Education (SMILE)** Program provides engaging hands-on STEM and literacy content for prekindergarten through Grade 2. Each level of the SMILE Program includes innovative instructional strategies that incorporate physical and hands-on activities through an innovative combination of learning through play.



## Pitsco Education

Pitsco Education, founded in 1971, specializes in hands-on, multimedia curricula for science, technology, math, and engineering. Since its inception, Pitsco Education has been dedicated to helping students and teachers succeed. After 40 years of innovation, Pitsco Education products and solutions now serve more than seven million students every year. The company's vision is to lead educational change that positively affects learners.

## LEGO Education

On July 1, 1997, Pitsco joined with LEGO Educational Division® to form the Pitsco LEGO Educational Division, recognized today as LEGO® Education North America. LEGO Education is a partnership that combines the strengths of both companies to form a powerful alliance serving students and teachers with hands-on STEM sets, curriculum, and software.

In 1999, LEGO Education launched, modular curricula for elementary classrooms. In 2004, LEGO Education North America assumed exclusive responsibility for the LEGO Education preschool business in North America.

## Pre-K through Grade 2

The Pitsco approach expands into pre-K with the innovative SMILE Program. This program is based on age-appropriate activities that foster early literacy development, initial critical thinking and problem-solving skills, and basic math and science applications. The program includes four levels: pre-K (Ages 3-4), kindergarten, Grade 1, and Grade 2.

Components of the program include Pitsco Education hands-on elementary science curriculum, LEGO Education materials and curriculum, and an engaging physical education element that ties together science and literacy. Objectives cover colors, letters, numbers, literacy, social studies, communication, emotional development, animal science, plant science, basic math, physical education, and introductory robotics.

Each nine week experience includes four hands-on packs that include all required materials and equipment for the experience. A yearlong experience includes 16 activity packs.

### SMILE Program supports the five domains of child development:

- **Cognitive Development:** early problem-solving and critical-thinking applications
- **Social & Emotional Development:** small group and team interactions, social concepts and settings, imaginative problem solving
- **Speech & Language Development:** learning alphabet letters through auditory and visual strategies, early literacy skills
- **Fine Motor Skills:** manipulating LEGO bricks and tiles, using crayons and drawing tools
- **Gross Motor Skills:** physical activities such as hopping, jumping, and arm motions, incorporating learning of letters and phonetics

