



EastSide Charter School: Early Education Program

In an effort to achieve the vision of creating a full service community school, the Early Education Program serves as a supportive, nurturing first school experience for children on their way to becoming passionate, creative, global citizens prepared with the mindset and toolset for long term success.

Mindset

We believe that children need support in the early years that is intentional, supportive, meaningful, empowering, and respectful of whom they are as individual citizens. We recognize that the brain is developing most rapidly and most comprehensively at this stage of life and believe that our students can only become leaders in a global society if they learn to be creative, social, emotionally-aware beings confident in their ability to take risks and think critically, empowered by their individuality, and enabled by their flexible thinking.

Toolset

We know young children as naturally engaged and curious learners, and that view drives us to provide meaningful, intentional experiences that are not only inspired by the interests of the children, but are designed to promote authentic, self directed experiences. Our goal is to foster a love of learning that drives students to do good work: work that is good in quality, good for the soul and good for the world around them.¹

We look to the latest in neuroscience research to develop environments and experiences for children that stimulate thinking, build confidence, and lay the foundation for creative, scientific, critical thinking.

We see the role of the teacher as a facilitator, stimulator and researcher. As facilitators, we observe; this allows us to really see the children for who they are and where their interests lie. As stimulators, we provide invitations in the form of materials and questions to help children wonder. As researchers, we improve our craft through reflection, conversation, and dissection of our work – always looking to improve our best practices.

¹ Expeditionary Learning, Core Practices.