

Benefits of High Quality Early Learning Programs

Early Learning and Education Programs provide children with the critical foundational skills, strategies, and experiences that promote success in school and beyond.

Research shows that students who participate in high-quality early learning and education programs:

- Engage in more complex activities with peers and materials
- Enter kindergarten with the necessary skills for school tasks
- Show greater knowledge of numerical concepts
- Establish home-school connections early: supporting parents as the child's first teacher
- Experience lower probability of retention, special education placement and other factors such as teen pregnancy or dropping-out of school
- Demonstrate increased rates of academic success, including grade level reading, test scores and graduation rates



Contact Information



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1260 E. 33rd Street
Signal Hill, CA 90755
562.426.8144

**Educare Los Angeles
At Long Beach**
4840 Lemon Avenue
Long Beach, CA 90807
562.422.6618



**LBUSD Child
Development Centers**
4400 Ladoga Ave.
Lakewood, CA 90713
562.421.8210

**LBUSD Buffum
Total Learning Center**
2350 Ximeno Ave.
Long Beach, CA 90815
562.494.4898

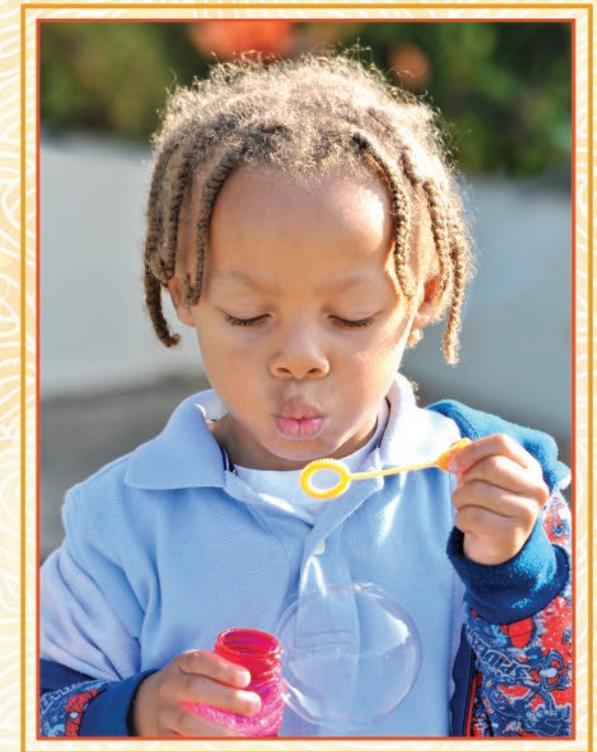


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Early Learning Programs



A Guide for Parents and Families



The Importance of Early Learning

Did you know that a child's learning in the early years forms the foundation for all that is to come during his/her school-age years? Research supports that early childhood education is beneficial for children from birth to 5 years old. High quality early learning programs serve the same purpose: to develop the intellectual and social-emotional skills in young children to best prepare them for their transition into elementary school.

The Long Beach Unified School District serves its youngest students by offering a variety of programs grounded in research-based best practices.

Social-emotional development is important for children to develop the behaviors and traits that will enable them to function productively and collaboratively in school and society.

Integrated learning includes developmentally appropriate practice, intentional play and teacher led instruction to prepare children for school success.

Partnerships with families benefit young children when the school develops a respectful partnership with families, and communicates regularly what children are learning and how they are progressing.

Language development is modeled by teachers and reinforces conversation, vocabulary and sentence structure across social and academic settings.

Responsive instruction in early learning and education programs prepares children to transition successfully to kindergarten. Research has identified key benchmarks that are accurate predictors of future achievement. Teachers continuously monitor each child's progress towards achieving these benchmarks.

LBUSD Early Learning Programs

Child Development Centers

Cynthia Young, Director

Child Development Centers offer fee-based and free/low-cost preschool for income-eligible families that include part day and year-round full day options for 3 and 4 year old children. This program believes that in an effective Early Learning Program, children learn best in an atmosphere that fosters self-esteem and confidence. Classrooms are reflective of thoughtful observation and intentional planning. Developmental and age appropriate child-centered activities are designed around language/vocabulary, skills and interest levels that integrate social-emotional, cognitive, physical abilities, and healthy well-being. Established partnerships between our program, home and the community support and respect each child's culture and language to enhance the child's self-esteem. Our teachers receive on-going professional development anchored in research-based best practices. They are highly qualified professionals, certified by the state of California.

Educare Los Angeles at Long Beach

Maria Harris, Principal

Educare is formed through a public-private partnership between Head Start/Early Head Start, State Preschool, Long Beach Unified, LA Chamber of Commerce, private donations, children and families, community and staff. This dynamic partnership is committed to all its enrolled children and their families as they receive high quality care and education from the moment they are born to the day they enter kinder. As a lab school, Educare is a showroom for an authentic experience to demonstrate quality and best practices in service to children 0-5 years old.

Buffum Total Learning Center

Miriam Garcia, Principal

The Buffum Total Learning Center provides an age-appropriate behavioral, language, academic, play and sensory based program for preschoolers with special needs. Buffum TLC services students with disabilities that may include hearing or physical impairments, mild to severe cognitive delays, receptive and/or expressive speech delays, and students with autism. Buffum TLC's mission is to prepare special needs preschoolers of all ability levels for Kindergarten and beyond.

Head Start/Early Head Start

LaShell Diggs, Director

The LBUSD Head Start and Early Head Start programs provide high quality, no-cost early care and education, services to children birth to five years of age and pregnant women. The program offers a variety of part-day and full-day center-based preschool, infant-toddler care, and home visitation options to meet the early childhood care and education needs of families. Head Start and Early Head Start programs help children get ready to succeed in school and life by enhancing their physical, cognitive, social, and emotional development while helping parents increase their confidence through advocacy, educational and program involvement opportunities. Children do not have to be toilet trained to enroll. The program prioritizes serving income eligible families and/or families with extenuating circumstances whose children could benefit from the comprehensive services provided by the Head Start program. Eligible families must live within the boundaries of the cities of Long Beach or Signal Hill.

Transitional Kindergarten (TK)

Assistant Superintendent of Early Learning & Elementary Schools Office
562.997.8247

Transitional Kindergarten is the first year of a two-year program that provides children, with birthdays between September 2 and December 2, a curriculum that is age and developmentally appropriate, taught by credentialed teachers. Transitional Kindergarten bridges the path between preschool and kindergarten. These classrooms are located throughout the city and have a 25:1 teacher to student ratio. The classes are comprised primarily of students with fall birthdays.

Early Transitional Kindergarten

Assistant Superintendent of Early Learning & Elementary Schools Office
562.997.8247

LBUSD currently offers Early Transitional Kindergarten (ETK) at select school sites located throughout the district. Early Transitional Kindergarten is for students turning five years of age after the eligibility date for TK. These students must turn five during the current school year.



The Long Beach Unified School District has earned a reputation as one of America's finest school systems, winning many awards as a national and international model of excellence. These high expectations of excellence extend to the system's youngest students through its Early Learning Programs.