

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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562.426.8144

Educare Los Angeles
At Long Beach
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562.422.6618



LBUSD Child Development Centers
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Lakewood, CA 90713
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LBUSD Buffum Total Learning Center
2350 Ximeno Avenue
Long Beach, CA 90815
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Early Learning Programs



Long Beach Unified School District
Early Learning & Elementary Schools Office

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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

Sarah Forrester, Director

LBUSD's Child Development Centers (CDC) offer fee-based and free/low-cost preschool programs for income-eligible families that include part-day and year-round full-day options for children ages 3 to 5. Our program believes that in an effective Early Learning Program, children learn best in an atmosphere that fosters self-esteem and confidence. CDC classrooms are reflective of thoughtful observation and intentional planning, and our developmentally and age appropriate activities are designed around language/vocabulary skills and children's interests. These activities focus on developing social-emotional skills, cognition, physical abilities and healthy well-being. The 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 CDC teachers receive ongoing professional development anchored in research-based best practices. They are highly qualified professionals, certified by the state of California. Learn more at lbschools.net/CDC.

Educare Los Angeles at Long Beach

Kris Damon, Principal

Educare is formed through a public-private partnership between Head Start/Early Head Start, State Preschool, Long Beach Unified, L.A. 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 kindergarten. As a lab school, Educare is a showroom for an authentic experience to demonstrate quality and best practices in service to children ages 0 to 5. Learn more at lbschools.net/Educare.

Buffum Total Learning Center

Danielle Wright, Principal

The Buffum Total Learning Center (Buffum TLC) provides an age-appropriate behavioral, language, academic, play and sensory based program for preschoolers with special needs. Buffum TLC services students with disabili-

ties 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. Learn more at lbschools.net/Buffum.

Head Start/Early Head Start

LaShell Diggs, Director

LBUSD's Head Start and Early Head Start programs provide high quality, no-cost early care and education services to children from birth to 5 years old 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. LBUSD's Head Start and Early Head Start programs help children prepare 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 LBUSD's Head Start program. Eligible families must live within the boundaries of the cities of Long Beach or Signal Hill. Learn more at lbschools.net/HeadStart.

Transitional Kindergarten

Assistant Superintendent of Early Learning & Elementary Schools Office

LBUSD's Transitional Kindergarten (TK) bridges the path between preschool and kindergarten and gives students the gift of time that will help them build a strong foundation for future school success. TK blends social and emotional experiences with academic learning so that students learn essential pre-literacy, pre-math, and other cognitive skills and develop social and self-regulation skills needed to succeed in school and life. Learn more at lbschools.net/TK.

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.