

The Learning Brooke Philosophy

For an early learning center, the ultimate goal is to help children begin the exciting journey of self-discovery.

How do you help children become lifelong learners? By celebrating their inquisitive nature. By finding out what motivates them. And by allowing them to question the surrounding world.

Our overriding focus is to bring out each child's natural curiosities. By encouraging problem-solving and investigation, our teachers also help instill a lasting feeling of confidence — enabling each Learning Brooke Explorer to gain a sense of personal purpose and individuality.

Viewing “languages” from a wider perspective.

At Learning Brooke, we blend various aspects from proven approaches to early childhood education. These include the much-celebrated Reggio Emilia approach, which is based on the belief that learning is expressed through the use of hundreds of “languages” or means of expression.

As such, the basis of our work is to help children gather knowledge and represent their thought processes through the spoken and written word — along with non-verbal avenues such as art, movement and motor skills.

Framing our environment with proud accomplishments.

Children at Learning Brooke have the opportunity to express themselves through multiple forms of media. Their works-in-progress are displayed prominently as a living and breathing part of the school environment. This not only elicits pride in their work. It encourages ongoing dialogue and sharing of ideas among the Learning Brooke community.

While fostering this creative learning environment, our school artfully integrates daily routines. This helps to ensure the health, safety and comfort of the children. It also provides them with a measure of predictability that is important for their sense of emotional and psychological well-being.

Learning Brooke
401.941.3705

The Reggio Emilia Approach

“Reggio Emilia is a city of 130,000 people in the prosperous and progressive Emilia Romagna region of northern Italy. Its municipal early childhood system has become recognized and acclaimed as one of the best systems of education in the world.”

Newsweek • December 1991

Our philosophy, curriculum planning, environmental design and development, have been and will continue to be greatly influenced by the Reggio Emilia approach to early childhood education.

Over the past 30 years, the innovative educational system of Reggio Emilia has evolved into a distinctive set of philosophical assumptions, curriculum and pedagogy, methods of school organization, and the design of environments. Taken as a unified whole, the Reggio Emilia approach fosters children’s intellectual development through a systematic focus on symbolic representation.

Basic Tenets

Young children are encouraged to explore their environment and express themselves through all of their “natural languages”, or modes of expression, including words, movement, drawing, painting, building, sculpture, shadow play, dramatic play, and music.

Guiding children to surprising levels of symbolic skill and creativity, the Reggio Emilia approach is not based on an elite, sheltered setting of private education. It is geared toward a municipal system, providing full-day childcare that is open to all — including those children with special needs.

Classroom Communities

Classrooms are organized to support a highly collaborative, problem-solving approach to learning. Other important features are the use of small groups in project learning, the community-based management method of governance, and the teacher/child continuity — in which two co-teachers work with the same class for three years.

In Reggio Emilia, education is viewed as a communal activity. It is the sharing of culture through joint exploration between children and adults — opening topics to speculation and discussion.

The study of this approach has provided our Director with a valuable perspective for developing not only Learning Brooke’s physical design, but also for the training and guidance of our teachers.

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