

Honoring Those Who Bring the Light to Young Children



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What is the critical period in child development?

The first 5 years of child development is crucial:

- Physical Growth and Development
- Cognitive Development and Learning
- Social and Emotional Development
- Language Development



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Research and studies have
identified the elements of a
quality early childhood
program

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The essential element which is repeatedly identified is:



A trained,
responsive teacher/
caregiver

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A Caring and
Responsive
Caregiver:
Building Positive
Relationships

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You respect and
value
ALL CHILDREN!

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Every Child Needs Someone Who Believes They Are Wonderful: **YOU** Are That Person For Many Children



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Windows of Opportunity:
Language Development



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You are a language model during the window of opportunity for development



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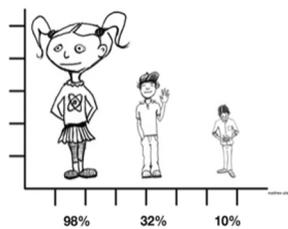
Language Explosion



- Toddlers: 18 – 24 months have 25-50 words
- By 6 years of age, they can have as many as 14,000 words

(Hoff, E. 2009. Language Development at an Early Age: Learning Mechanisms and Outcomes from Birth to 5 years)

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Creativity Age Graph

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Research

- Torrance Creativity Test: Scores have decreased (1998 –2008)
- Children are less expressive, less talkative, and less imaginative
- The most significant decrease was found in the Kindergarteners (5 – 6 years old)
- Young children generate fewer and unique ideas

(Kim, College of William and Mary, 2017)

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A creative teacher who will help young children gain the skills for the 21st century: Creativity, Communication, Collaboration, and Critical Thinking



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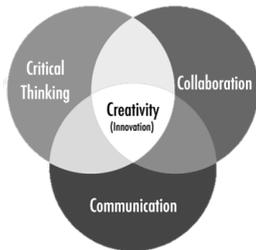
You as a Creative Teacher...



- You are open to new ideas
- You will value unique and different ideas from young children
- You can change and rotate materials
- You understand different perspectives of children
- You display and share children's work and projects

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The Essential 4C's in the United States



- Creativity
- Communication
- Collaboration
- Critical Thinking (Problem Solving)

(Trilling & Fadel, 2009)

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You are preparing young children for the future: To be creative thinkers, communicators, innovators, and problem-solvers!!!

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Creative Confidence in Children

- They have willingness to try new things
- They are persistent and capable of doing challenging things
- They welcome new ideas
- They learn that making mistakes are okay, and try it again



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A trained and continually learning person who demonstrates this love for learning

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A lover of stories and reader of books that will help young children find joy in stories



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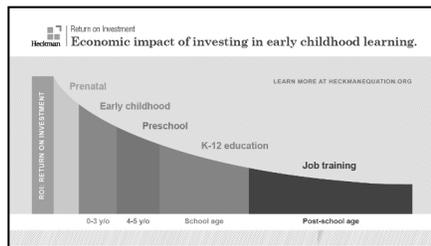
“Even children who are read one book a day, will hear about 290,000 more words by age 5 than those who don’t regularly read books with a parent or caregiver.”



Jeff Grabmeir, Ohio State University

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YOU are a great investment!



Heckman Equation

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Boston Longitudinal PreK Program Research

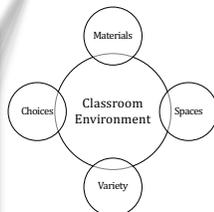
- More likely to graduate from HS
- Less likely to be incarcerated as juveniles
- More likely to attend college
- More educational attainment

Positive Life-Long Outcomes

Leonhardt, D. (2021, May 10)

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A designer of calm and stimulating environment that is appropriate for active learners



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Working with Families

- Diverse families
- Diverse backgrounds
- Smaller-sized families
- Different: single parenting, male parenting, grandparents parenting, same-sex parenting

You are responsible for providing information to caregivers, meeting where they are, and supporting in their roles –

BIG JOB!

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You are a treasured person to many young children

- You value each young child and his/her uniqueness
- You respond to their needs, questions, and possibilities
- You are a language and literacy model
- You are a creative thinker and problem solver
- You design and implement amazing environments

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Let us celebrate!!!

Today We Honor You Who Bring
the LIGHT to Young Children!

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References

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