

Honoring Those  
Who Bring the  
Light to Young  
Children



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

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Community of People Working Together in Head Start in Strong  
History of Working Together for Children and Families  
57 years by touching the lives of 30 million children and their families



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The essential element which is  
repeatedly identified is:



A trained,  
responsive teacher  
caregiver, who  
builds positive  
relationships

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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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A language model during the window of opportunity for development



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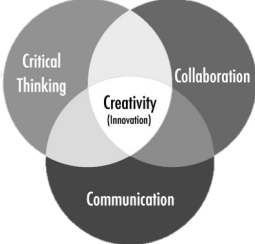


Conversations that are interactive or essential to the language development

- > Serve and Return
- > Reciprocal
- > Be an active listener
- > Be sensitive to the "wait" period

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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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Understanding and Respecting the Capabilities of All Children

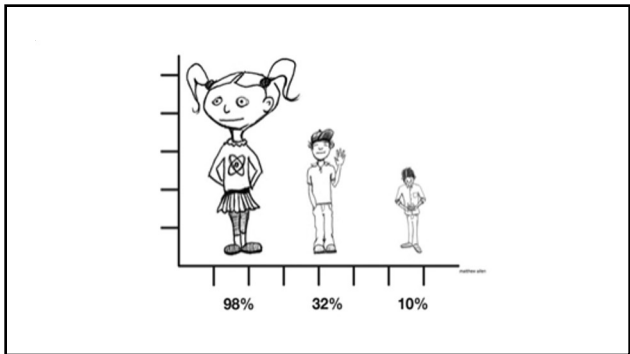



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This is a critical time to nurture creativity and creative thinking!



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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 21<sup>st</sup> century: Creativity, Communication, Collaboration, and Critical Thinking



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## Creative Confidence

- You have willingness to try and take safe risks
- You are persistent and capable of doing difficult things
- You welcome challenges and value new ideas
- You know mistakes are opportunities to retry, learn, and grow



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You understand young children develop holistically, including:



- Health needs
- Physical development
- Arts (music, art, movement)
- Social-moral development
- Language
- Intelligence

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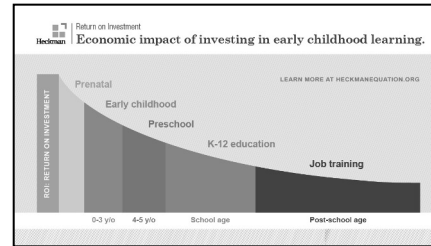
“Children who are read one book a day, will hear about 290,000 more words by age 5 than those who don’t regularly read books with a parent or caregiver.”



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

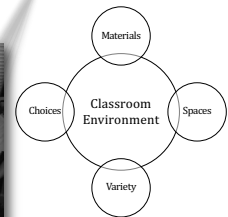
- More likely to graduate from HS
- Less likely to be incarcerated as juveniles
- More educational attainment

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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A risk-taker who is not afraid to try new things and it is okay to make mistakes!

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You are a treasured person to many young children and their families

- 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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**You make the difference in the lives of young children**

**YOU BRING THE LIGHT!!!**



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**This Little Light of Mine**

This little light of mine – I'm gonna let it shine  
 This little light of mine – I'm gonna let it shine  
 This little light of mine – I'm gonna let it shine  
 Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

Don't you try to blow it out – I'm gonna let it shine  
 Don't you try to blow it out – I'm gonna let it shine  
 Don't you try to blow it out – I'm gonna let it shine  
 Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

Everywhere I go – I'm gonna let it shine  
 Everywhere I go – I'm gonna let it shine  
 Everywhere I go – I'm gonna let it shine  
 Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

This little light of mine – I'm gonna let it shine  
 This little light of mine – I'm gonna let it shine  
 This little light of mine – I'm gonna let it shine  
 Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine



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