

## Experience a Progressive Learning Program

*The Early Learning Express is a progressive early learning program set in a safe and nurturing home environment. The program fosters independence, competence, and success through a wide range of activities that are fun and engaging for young children. The curriculum is designed around the concept that children are naturally curious and truly enjoy learning.*



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**A Progressive  
Learning Program  
for  
Young Children**

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## **EARLY LEARNING EXPRESS**

### **Philosophy**

Early Learning Express is based on the concept that children are naturally curious and truly enjoy learning, as long as they are interested. Children learn best through hands on experimentation such as painting, art activities, pretend play, stories, music, sand and water play, writing, games, puzzles, blocks and other construction activities. Children also need teachers to introduce topics of interest and to create fun and developmentally appropriate activities that influence children to learn and grow. Thinking skills are developed through language as children are encouraged to describe their experimentations. Children learn as they play and the teacher acts as a facilitator for the learning experience. By making learning fun, the program aims to instill a lifelong love of learning.

### **Background**

The director of Early Learning Express designed this small, private program based on her studies at the University of Virginia, the Virginia SOLs, her experience setting up an Even Start Family Literacy program, designing and implementing a phonological awareness curriculum for young children, her work experience in private preschools, Falls Church City Special Needs Preschool and the Fairfax County Public Schools Head Start program.

### **Curriculum**

The program fosters independence, individual growth and success through a wide range of creative activities. Specific knowledge and skills such as social skills, reading, language and literacy, math, and science are targeted in order to prepare children for success in school and life. Early Learning Express also offers art, music, computer and outdoor play.

### **Working with Others**

Conflict among the children is used as a positive teaching tool in problem solving. Cooperation, listening skills, negotiating skills and mutual respect for one another are all used to improve each child's ability to get along and work with others.

### **Reading Skills**

- ◆ Phonological Awareness
- ◆ Rhyming
- ◆ Listening
- ◆ Oral expression
- ◆ Vocabulary
- ◆ Print awareness
- ◆ Book awareness and appreciation
- ◆ Letter recognition
- ◆ Left to right progression

### **Math**

- ◆ Number sense
- ◆ Number recognition
- ◆ One to one correspondence
- ◆ Concepts of more, less, fewer, same and how many
- ◆ Patterns
- ◆ Shapes

### **Science – Everything Changes**

- ◆ Backyard Science
- ◆ Weather and Seasons
- ◆ All About Me
- ◆ Growing Things
- ◆ Water Changes

### **Social and Thinking Skills**

- ◆ Following Directions
- ◆ Predicting outcomes
- ◆ Problem solving
- ◆ Getting along with peers
- ◆ Cooperation
- ◆ Helping
- ◆ Making decisions
- ◆ Making “good choices”
- ◆ Conflict Resolution

### **Early Learning Express also offers:**

- ◆ Computer
- ◆ Art
- ◆ Music
- ◆ Outdoor play

