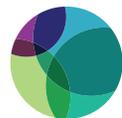




Photo courtesy of AVANCE



Trust for Learning

Ideal learning made real for all

## Are you looking for an early learning or child care program for your little one?

The principles of ideal learning can come to life in any setting. When choosing a program, look for these elements of high-quality early learning environments.



Photo courtesy of Bank Street College of Education

**Instruction is personalized** to acknowledge each child's unique development and abilities

The **teacher is a guide**, nurturing presence, and co-creator of knowledge

Young children and adults **learn through relationships**

**Play is an essential element** of young children's learning

Children **construct knowledge** from diverse experiences to make meaning of the world



The **environment** is intentionally designed to facilitate children's exploration, independence, and interaction.

**Continuous learning environments** support adult development



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Decision-making reflects a **commitment to equity**

The **time of childhood** is valued

## Principles of Ideal Learning

# Principles

## Look for:

- 1. Decision-making reflects a commitment to equity**
  - Home cultures evident in the classroom
  - Teachers valuing differences and diversities in children's work
  - Teachers reflecting children's racial and ethnic backgrounds
  - Educators facilitating all children's participation
- 2. Children construct knowledge from diverse experiences to make meaning of the world**
  - Teachers integrating exploration into routines
  - Classroom art, music, and literature reflecting diverse communities
  - Children engaging in multiple sensory activities
  - Children hypothesizing about the outcome of a particular event
- 3. Play is an essential element of young children's learning**
  - Children planning their play
  - A variety of materials that children can re-purpose to fit their ideas
  - Children's play is not interrupted by adults
  - Children participating in resolving social conflicts with educator assistance
- 4. Instruction is personalized to acknowledge each child's unique development and abilities**
  - Children engaging in different activities based on interest and development
  - Teachers observing children's behaviors and documenting their learning
  - Children working individually or learning in small groups
  - Teachers and parents regularly sharing about children's growth
- 5. The teacher is a guide, nurturing presence, and co-creator of knowledge**
  - Teachers modeling meaningful activity as an example for children
  - Children and teachers interacting in a positive manner
  - Teachers encouraging children to develop and investigate their own interests
  - Teachers providing guidance and direction, rather than didactic instruction
- 6. Young children and adults learn through relationships**
  - Children engaging in conversation, listening and exchanging views
  - Children and adults participating in communal meals
  - Teachers, school staff, and families engaging in respectful conversations
- 7. The environment is intentionally designed to facilitate exploration, independence, and interaction**
  - Children deeply engaged and content in their work
  - Children interacting with the natural world
  - Children engaging with a variety of hands-on materials
  - Children understanding and maintaining the structure of the classroom
- 8. Continuous learning environments support adult development**
  - Teachers sharing observations of children and engaging in peer learning
  - Teachers actively seeking answers to their questions in professional literature
  - Teachers and staff engaging in dedicated planning time
  - Coaches observing other teachers both within and beyond their setting
- 9. The time of childhood is valued**
  - Children engaging in uninterrupted learning and play
  - Teachers allowing children to choose their focus and set their own pace
  - Joyful, authentic materials, music, or stories about children and childhood
  - Children observing beauty in the environment



Photo courtesy of the Educare Learning Network



Photo courtesy of the Educare Learning Network



Photo courtesy of Montessori Partnerships for Georgia