



Bank Street Head Start

Bank Street Head Start is a free preschool program for children ages three to five years old offering educational, nutritional, mental health, and social services to 68 families each year. Our comprehensive program helps prepare children for lifelong success by providing the social-emotional support they need to help them develop a positive feeling about learning and attending school.

- Serves 68 families based on financial eligibility
- 7:1 child to teacher ratio
- 7 languages spoken by staff
- 100 percent of lead teachers are New York State certified

Nurturing the Whole Child



Our program models Bank Street College's approach to progressive education, which focuses on helping children make sense of their environment through play-based learning with open-ended sensory materials. In addition to the classroom, learning at Bank Street Head Start takes place around the neighborhood to give children the opportunity to learn about and celebrate the diversity of their community. Our curriculum maintains six areas of focus that open up the space for deep learning and growth, which include social-emotional development, literacy and language, mathematics, science, physical health and development, and creative arts.

Collaborating with Families

To help children make connections between home and school, we tap into the knowledge of our families to effectively meet their child's social, emotional, cognitive, and developmental needs. We invite and encourage family members to participate throughout the day and we strive to create a welcoming, homelike environment to ensure that both children and adults feel comfortable.

To help children make connections between home and school, we tap into the knowledge of our families to help us understand how we can reach their child in the classroom while preserving their cultural and language identities. Parents are also encouraged to volunteer in the classroom and integrate themselves into the Bank Street Head Start community.

Preparing Children for Kindergarten

To ensure that children are ready to make a seamless transition to kindergarten, our teachers engage in a cycle of deep reflection and planning throughout the school year. They record their observations of each child, create lesson plans based on their observations, and regularly assess each child's progress across many developmental domains. When necessary, staff invite parents in for conversations about next steps and additional services and supports that may be right for their child. Bank Street Head Start also works to prepare parents to be strong advocates for their children in elementary school.

