Children's Programs

Children's programs at Bank Street College of Education provide the gold standard in progressive education and support for young children and adolescents. Through a unique approach that places children at the center of their own learning, our programs employ dynamic, age-appropriate curricula designed to deepen academic skills and support the whole child by nurturing intellectual, social, physical, and emotional growth.

At the heart of our work is the knowledge that children learn best when they are actively engaged with ideas, materials, and people. This idea guides our educators to create rich learning environments that are optimal for children's development and inspire a lifelong love of learning. Students are encouraged to ask questions, investigate fully, explore with an open mind, create hypotheses, experiment with outcomes, draw conclusions, and widen their perspectives.

In step with Bank Street's longstanding mission to help build a more just and democratic society, our children's programs are broadly inclusive and strive to reflect the diversity of our community. Children's programs educators support students of all backgrounds to work collaboratively and respectfully with one another to solve problems and learn about the world around them.

The School for Children



The Bank Street School for Children is an independent, co-educational preschool through 8th-grade school in New York City. Recognized for its ability to nurture the creative, independent, and problem-solving talents of all children through an approach that emphasizes learning by doing, the School for Children is a working model of the Bank Street Graduate School of Education's approach to teaching and learning.

The school's curriculum is experience-based, interdisciplinary, and collaborative, and students grow by making meaningful connections within the classroom and beyond. Graduates enter the world with a flexible mind, an openness to new experiences, a portfolio of strong academic skills, and a commitment to advocacy and social justice.

The School for Children includes the Lower School for children ages 3–10 and the Upper School for children ages 10–14.

- Serves approximately 420 students ages 3–14 years old
- Over 60 percent of faculty members hold a master's degree from the Bank Street Graduate School of Education
- A 6:1 student-to-teacher ratio across the school
- More than half of children are students of color
- Approximately 60 percent of students receive financial aid

After School

Bank Street offers an After School Program through which School for Children students can pursue creative, intellectual, physical, and social interests outside of school hours. Children can participate in over 20 music, arts, movement, and STEAM activities that promote self-expression, discovery, and growth while having the opportunity to develop new friendships and learn from students in other classrooms.



Summer Camp



Bank Street Summer Camp offers six weeks of extensive programming that mirrors the philosophy of the School for Children and helps campers expand their physical abilities, independence, decision-making, and leadership skills. A large percentage of our counselors are Bank Street teachers, Graduate School alumni, and current graduate students.

Administration and staff work together to create a nurturing, child-centered camp community by establishing deep and caring relationships with children and their families. Counselors go beyond their conventional role by remaining flexible within our shared space and with a busy schedule of swim, trips, and day-to-day activities, such as movement, block building, art, theater, sports, STEAM, and more.

- Serves approximately 175 children ages 4–14
- Over 30 percent of campers receive financial aid
- 40 percent of staff work in Children's Programs during the school year

The Family Center



The Family Center is an inclusive center that provides developmentally appropriate, child-centered services and support for children ages 6 months to 5 years and their families.

Designed to help all children develop the early social, emotional, and cognitive skills essential to lifelong success, the Family Center's Childcare Program provides full-time and part-time child care services for families of infants, toddlers, and preschoolers with a diverse set of needs. In addition, the Family Center offers special education and therapeutic services to children who have developmental or educational challenges through its Home & Community-Based Program. Services include Special Education Itinerant Teachers, multidisciplinary preschool evaluations, and infant-toddler parent playgroups.

- Serves 60 families each year through the Childcare Program
- 12 Special Education Itinerant Teachers support 25 children in Manhattan and Brooklyn
- Conducts multidisciplinary preschool evaluations for 65 children
- Serves 35 children in inclusive infant-toddler playgroups

Liberty LEADS



Liberty LEADS at Bank Street College is a high school completion and college access program that has served more than 1,700 students between 5th and 12th grades since 1989. Established to help empower underrepresented youth in New York City, the program impacts students' lives every day by helping them attain higher education, embrace leadership engagement, and create a positive future for themselves and others.

Bank Street Head Start



Bank Street Head Start is recognized as an outstanding free preschool program offering educational, nutritional, mental health, and social services to up to 68 families each year. Our educators help prepare children ages 2.9-5 years old for lifelong success by providing the social-emotional support they need to help them develop a positive feeling about learning and attending school.