Bank Street Head Start

Bank Street Head Start is a free preschool program for children ages 2.9 to 5 years old offering educational, nutritional, mental health, and social services. We help 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. Bank Street Head Start is located on the Lower East Side of Manhattan.

- Serves up to 68 families based on financial eligibility
- 5:1 child-to-teacher ratio in our 3-year-old classrooms and 6:1 child-to-teacher ratio in our 4-year-old classrooms
- Three teachers in every classroom
- Five languages spoken by staff
- Highly qualified master's level and state certified teachers

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 in our 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: 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. Our educators draw from knowledge shared by families to build an understanding of how we can create a rich, child-centered curriculum that celebrates and preserves families' cultural and language identities. 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. In addition, families serve a vital role in the governance of the program as members of our Policy Council.

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 developmental domains. When necessary, staff invite families in for conversations about next steps and additional services that may be right for their child and support families throughout any evaluation processes. Bank Street Head Start also works to prepare families to be strong advocates for their children in elementary school.



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