



Our mission is to improve the quality of early childhood education for children from birth to age five living in Washington, DC's most under-resourced communities.

Our award-winning, arts-based early learning programs for children, teachers, and families inspire a lifelong love of learning, books, and the arts.

Inspired Child is the education program of Dumbarton Arts & Education



EARLY CHILDHOOD. ARTS. BRAIN SCIENCE. EQUITY.

Early childhood is the most important phase of our lives.

Inspired Child's programs focus on the first five years of children's lives, the stage when 90% of our brains develop. It's crucial to prioritize this early stage of development when foundations for learning are established.



Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, & Access

Inspired Child was founded to promote diversity, community, accessibility, and love of the arts and learning for children who might otherwise have limited access to books or high-quality early childhood programs. We recognize the arts as a powerful tool for creating positive social change and removing systemic and structural barriers to equity. We stand in solidarity with marginalized communities and offer support by celebrating and amplifying diverse voices.



The arts promote brain development and learning.

Research has proven that engaging in arts activities stimulates brain growth, learning, and social-emotional development.

Our programs are specifically designed to create spaces for creativity and socialization, which stimulate the neural connections necessary for learning and human relationships.

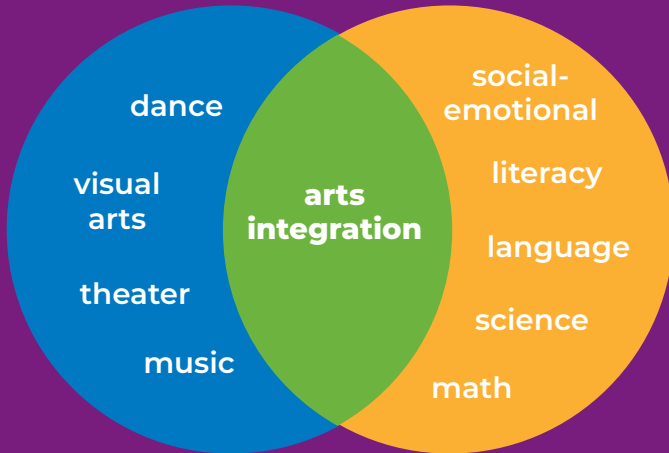
Music, dance, theater, and visual arts promote active exploration of the environment through individual and group creative processes and encourage human connections—the foundation for learning.



WHAT MAKES OUR PROGRAMS UNIQUE

ARTS INTEGRATION

Arts integration uses music, dance, theater, and visual arts to teach cognitive and social-emotional learning goals.

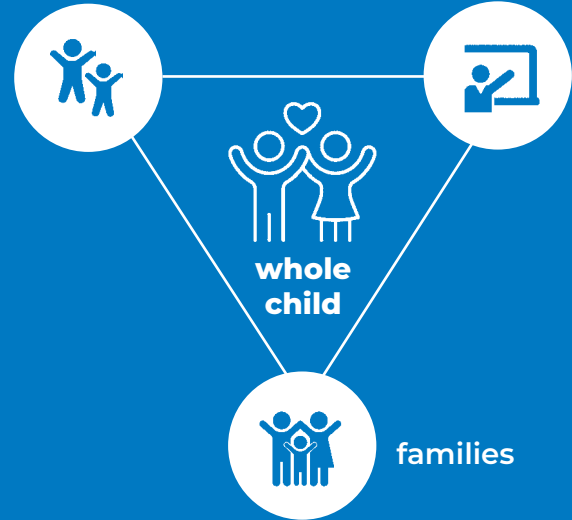


THE ARTS

CURRICULUM

children

educators



THREE-PRONGED APPROACH

To benefit the whole child, Inspired Child takes a three-pronged approach. Our programs are designed for children, educators, and families.

Inspired Child programs help children learn and grow.



IMPROVED ENGAGEMENT
WITH BOOKS



INCREASED EXPOSURE
TO THE ARTS



INCREASED
SELF-REGULATION



IMPROVED SEQUENCING
OF FULL BODY MOVEMENT



IMPROVED MATH SKILLS
AND COUNTING



IMPROVED USE OF
IMAGINATION



IMPROVED
SHAPE RECOGNITION



IMPROVED
LETTER RECOGNITION



IMPROVED ABILITY
TO IDENTIFY BODY PARTS

Inspired Child has been supporting and improving early childhood education in Washington, DC since 1994, and we are a proud six-time recipient of the Mayor's Award for Outstanding Work in Early Childhood Education.

Every year Inspired Child:

- Brings direct programs to over 1,000 children
- Provides professional development to over 1,000 teachers
- Distributes over 2,500 books

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CLASSROOM RESIDENCIES

Inspired Child partners with DC public schools, charter schools, and community-based child development centers to bring multi-week arts-based classroom residencies to early learners. Our team of professional artists use music, movement, and visual arts to support classroom learning standards and promote cognitive and social-emotional development through specialized programs designed for infants, toddlers, and preschool students.



Through our book donation program, Reading For Life™, Inspired Child provides thousands of books to stock classrooms and home libraries. At the end of each residency, every child receives a backpack full of books to take home; for some children, these are the first books they own.

We believe that something as simple as a backpack filled with books not only inspires enthusiasm for reading but also sends a powerful message to the children that they matter and that people care about their future.

BOOK DISTRIBUTION

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

To ensure that learning continues at home, Inspired Child develops parent workshops, family events, and educational materials that encourage parents to engage their children in arts-based learning outside of the classroom.

Every year we send thousands of books to children's homes, with tips for parents on how to inspire a lifelong love of reading:

snuggle

Find a comfortable, quiet spot to read together.

ask questions

As you read, stop to ask "What do you think might happen next?"

take turns

Let your child "read" to you. Children love to make up stories.

explore

Visit your local library to discover new books and let your child select the books they take home.

every day

Read to your child every day, especially at bedtime.

remember

A child is never too young for reading together!



Our workshops for early childhood educators provide teachers with the skills they need to effectively integrate the arts into achieving classroom learning goals. Inspired Child is certified as a professional development provider by DC's Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE), and teachers earn credit hours they can use toward their professional recertification. The content of the workshops aligns with the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and Common Core standards.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



GIVE THE GIFT OF LEARNING

Inspired Child programs inspire a lifelong passion for books, learning, and the arts for children in underserved communities, and we need your support to make that happen. Please consider donating today to help Washington, DC's youngest learners be successful in school and life. ***Make a contribution by visiting www.inspired-child.org/donate.***

ENJOY OUR CONCERT SERIES

Inspired Child is a program of Dumbarton Arts & Education, which offers the beloved Dumbarton Concerts chamber music series. Dumbarton Concerts ticket purchases also help to support Inspired Child programs. ***Learn more about our concerts and purchase tickets at www.dumbartonconcerts.org.***



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