

Educare of Chicago

Educare of Chicago is a state-of-the-art school that serves approximately 150 infants, toddlers, and preschoolers in Chicago's Grand Boulevard neighborhood.

Launched by the Ounce of Prevention Fund in 2000, Educare works to narrow the academic achievement gap between at-risk children and their more advantaged peers by giving students the skills they need to succeed in school.

Features

- Full-day, full-year services for 150 children
- Low staff/child ratios and small class size
 - Infants and toddlers: 3 adults and 8 children to a classroom
 - Preschoolers: 3 adults and 17 children to a classroom
- High standards for teacher qualifications
 - Master Teachers with advanced degrees in early childhood
 - Lead Teacher with bachelor's degree in early childhood
- Emphasis on language and literacy
- Emphasis on social-emotional development
 - Promotes school readiness, behavior, and problem solving skills
- Curriculum informed by research
 - Continuous program evaluation and improvement
- Specific focus on parental involvement
- Continuity of care
 - Each child stays with the same teacher for three years in a row to help develop secure relationships.
- On-site family support

Educare Learning Network

The Buffett Early Childhood Fund and the Ounce of Prevention Fund work with local public and private partners in communities across the country to establish Educare Schools. These schools comprise the growing consortium known as the Educare Learning Network.

Partners in the Educare Learning Network share a single commitment: to building, developing and implementing local Educare Schools that give at-risk children, from birth to age five, opportunities for school success and lifelong achievement. Through their combined efforts, members of the Educare Learning Network serve as catalysts for broader early childhood programmatic, policy, and systems change.

Educare schools across the nation are showing dramatic results. University of North Carolina researchers who have evaluated the program found that children who begin the Educare program early in life score better on measures of school readiness— developing the skills they need to become active, engaged and successful students.