

How you can use

CELEBRATION  EDUCATION
as a Full Curriculum



We provide **Adventure,**
which inspires **Creativity,**
and leads to **Possibility.**

Five Lessons Not Taught In School: Foundational Principles of True Learning



1. Learning is fun!

Textbooks, worksheets, lectures, and sitting in a crowded classroom for multiple hours a day is a slow learning process that approaches futile and rarely elicits positive feelings toward learning. Exploring, playing, questioning, and experimenting is not only a more enjoyable way to learn, but it is a more powerful and effective way to learn.

2. Every child has genius.

We do not seek to standardize children, but to draw out each child's individual strengths. These strengths can be found in a variety of disciplines, not just reading, writing, and math.

3. Children like to learn.

We believe in the capacity of children to learn without exterior motivation, grade levels, or grading. Children are naturally curious and love to explore, experience, experiment, create, and learn.

4. A child's time is important.

Class time should move at the speed of learning. We don't want to waste the time of the students. Class time should be reserved for learning experiences that are not as easily done individually or at home. Things like collaboration, experiments, group learning games, projects, team sports, and the performing arts. Beyond those activities, children should be set free to read, exercise, play, explore, study, experiment, and create on their own for as long as they like. Extensive time in a classroom can deprive students of this important process.



5. Children deserve to feel comfortable, included, and liberated.

We seek to have students that are comfortable at our facilities, with our teachers, and with fellow students. Facilities are to be clean, open, and inviting.

Introduction

“Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.”

– William Butler Yeats



Why would we even *try* to fill the bucket when we can spend our days lighting fires? Here's how you can use Celebration Education to spark interest and fan the flames of learning.

Imagine your children **anxiously engaged** in learning because they love doing it. Even high energy children can focus when presented with **exciting learning opportunities**. We help children become **immersed in learning**. Children will want to repeat the things that they enjoy and each repetition creates **stronger learning patterns**.

The backbone of Celebration Education's approach is the theme. With an **exciting theme**, students have buy-in before the classes even start. Children look forward to being part of the **adventure**. The outline of a theme goes like this:



Yearly Theme

- I.** Five components
 - A.** Weekly topics
 - 1 Workshop classes with a Celebration Education teacher
 - 2 Books for at-home learning
 - 3 Fireworks
 - 4 “Being There” experiences
 - B.** Projects for groups and individuals
 - C.** Celebrations
- II.** Journaling
- III.** Math
- IV.** Personal genius



Explanation

NOTE: Activities in **red** are those you can do at home. We are happy to help you get the resources you need for these experiences.

Yearly Theme

Each year's theme is voted on by the families so it's fresh and welcoming every year.

I. Five components

The year's theme is broken down into five six-week components, each with its own focus.

A. Weekly topics

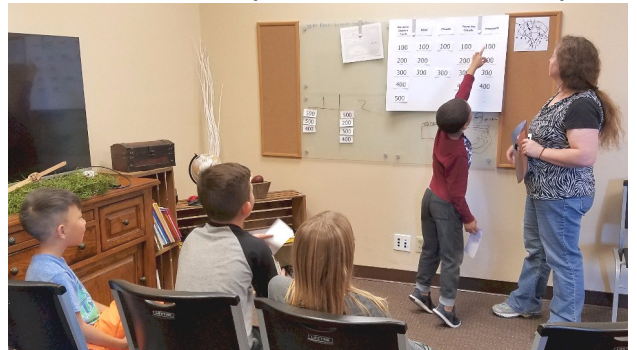
There is a focus topic for each week, inspired by the year's theme. The purpose of these topics is to expose the children to a variety of things that they may find interesting. Students may study each topic as much or as little as they like.



1 Workshop classes with a Celebration Education teacher

This is where, through a group of fun child-involved activities, the students are introduced to the weekly topic. Activities are intended to spark interest in the topic. All school subjects are worked into these experiences. Workshop activities include:

- a. A craft
- b. Topic key points
- c. Collaborative activities
- d. Language arts activities
- e. Math and logic activities
- f. Science and Social Studies activities
- g. Larger, high interest activity
- h. Physical activity



2 Books

Instead of textbooks, allow your children to select books to read. You can get books from Celebration Education's lending library (\$50/year) or the public library. Read to your children, with your children, and allow them to read on their own. With language skills being of utmost importance, if all the "schoolwork" you get done in a day is reading, you will have had a productive day. Books may include:

- those that relate to the week's topic
- books on topics that the child chooses
- fiction
- non-fiction



3 Fireworks

Like homework, but better. These are learning activities that can fan the flames of interest in a topic. Instead of doing worksheets, we encourage you to give your child interesting short-term projects that connect with the weekly topics. Help your child choose the activities and materials that will be most meaningful to her. Allow her to explore the topic as long as she likes. These projects can encompass reading, writing, math, science, social studies, and the arts. To get ideas of things you can do at home that relate to the weekly class topics, get a family membership at LearningOutsideTheBox.com .



4 "Being There" experiences

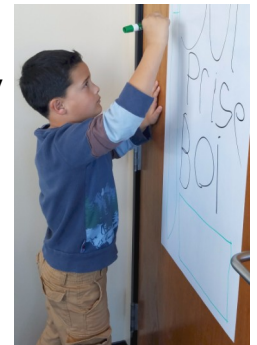
This is how the students get to fully immerse themselves in the topic. Students can:

- go on trips hosted by Celebration Education.
- go on their own adventures.
- talk to experts on the topic.
- experience the topic in a [virtual Minecraft world](#)



B. Projects for individuals and groups

These are longer-term self-directed projects that the students work on. Students may follow [Celebration Education's projects format](#) or they may create projects of their own design.



C. Celebrations

We hold six larger events – or celebrations – throughout the year. They complement the components and provide opportunities for the students to show off their best work.

II. Journaling

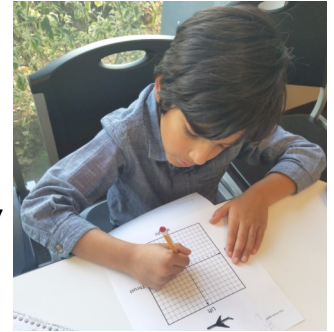
Keeping a journal is an easy way to create a writing habit. Students can simply write about the things they do each day. The experience is even more enjoyable when the writing is combined with musings, pictures, poems, stickers, drawings, etc. Journaling should be pleasant, not complicated. Instead of giving writing lessons to your children, provide teaching moments as you help your children correct their writing. Spelling, grammar, punctuation, and composition can all be learned this way. Children can also dictate to you as you model correct writing. Here are additional writing experiences your child may choose:

- 1 prompts from a journal jar
- 2 research notes
- 3 nature journaling
- 4 notes on the fireworks done
- 5 notes about things completed in class
- 6 travel journal
- 7 copywork
- 8 book reports



III. Math

Math does not always fit neatly into the weekly topics. For this reason, we use several resources for math learning. We can help families get and use math games, math-related projects, math-intensive literature, math apps, and even traditional math programs, as needed by the family and the student.



IV. Personal genius

We recognize that every child has their own genius. In addition to the theme, students are encouraged to follow their own interests. These are not only the things that the child naturally does well, but it is also the things that the child desires to improve upon. Instead of focusing on subjects in which a child falls behind, Celebration Education seeks to enhance the areas wherein each child excels. These skills are enhanced by:

- a. taking [enrichment](#) classes
- b. working on long-term projects
- c. exploring
- d. researching
- e. creating
- f. exercising
- g. setting goals



Scheduling

There are so many great ways to learn it can be overwhelming. You might be tempted to try everything. We want to encourage you to *NOT* overschedule your child. Your child needs large doses of unstructured free play to increase intelligence, to be mentally well, and to engage in physical play. It is also not necessary to do all school subjects every day. To illustrate how "schooling" can remain simple, take a look at the accompanying schedule.

Summary

It is important that you do not force feed ANY learning. This is as futile as trying to fill a leaky bucket. Your job is to help your child get excited about learning, to provide great learning tools, and to help as necessary. We want to keep the fires of learning burning brightly!

Each element of this process has it's own blog page on our Website.
Go to <https://www.celebrationeducation.com/journey-program>

Turn everyday learning
into an adventure at

CELEBRATION



EDUCATION

