

Who We Are

Launch is a nonprofit organization that has been helping children succeed in school and life for almost 40 years. We are proud to provide high quality preschool, kindergarten readiness, before and after school enrichment, and full-day summer learning camps for children ages 3-12. Our programs help children build a strong foundation for long term success. Our guiding strategies are to increase equitable access to services for all children and to ensure program quality. Every year we work with nearly 1,200 children, including 300 preschoolers.

Leap Ahead

Our Kindergarten Readiness Program

Starting kindergarten is a fun and exciting time! At Launch, we recognize that this is a key milestone in children's lives and work hard to help children have a successful transition from preschool to kindergarten. Leap Ahead Campers will begin their journey to elementary school through weekly themed explorations that will nurture kindergarten readiness skills. The day includes observing nature, learning about the local environment, sensory activities, games, and having fun with new friends. Campers will also get the chance to visit their kindergarten classroom and meet their teacher!



What We're Seeking

Launch is seeking partnerships with childcare programs that do not offer preschool programming in the summer or have children exiting their program to transition to kindergarten. We are offering a 9 week, Kindergarten Readiness summer camp program for families at Elementary Schools throughout Southeast, West, and Central Seattle.

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launch

Learn. Grow. Inspire.



Don't assume that when children turn 5, they're "ready" for kindergarten. Kindergarten readiness isn't an age – it's a set of skills. They:

- Can follow directions & routines
- Can run, jump, throw & catch
- Can speak clearly in 4-6 word sentences
- Are flexible & creative in thoughts and play
- Know names & sounds of 10-20 letters
- Count up to 20 & recognizes shapes
- Know first & last name, address, phone, and body parts

Children who participate in our Leap Ahead program will spend the summer mastering the skills to take to enter Kindergarten confident and ready.



We accept City of Seattle and DSHS childcare subsidies, and have Leap Ahead scholarships available for eligible students.



Assessment & Evaluation

We regularly evaluate individual child progress, teacher to child interactions, and overall program quality. We measure school readiness using Teaching Strategies GOLD (TSG), which is a research based assessment tool used by teachers to measure children's development across six domains (Cognitive, Literacy, Math, Physical, Social-Emotional, and Language) and compare them to typical age-level development. This allows our teachers to see a child's strengths and where they may need additional support to become ready for kindergarten.

During the 2014-2015 school year, 77% of our preschool children were fully ready for kindergarten compared to the King County average of 50%.

Demographics

Launch classrooms are mixed in both income and student backgrounds (ethnicity, religion, language, etc.) Research proves that the most effective learning environments are diverse. Children learn best when they are with other children who have varying experiences and perspectives. Launch works hard to ensure that our programs are accessible to all families, including those who are traditionally underserved in early learning programs (which includes children of color, lower income, ELL, and immigrant/refugee).

- Over 50% of our preschoolers receive childcare subsidies from DSHS or the City of Seattle
- 21% of our preschoolers speak a primary language other than English

Alignment in P-3

We collaborate with kindergarten teachers and principals to develop a plan for Kindergarten Readiness each year as part of a P-3 Alignment Initiative. Plans may include weekly meetings with kindergarten teachers, classroom visits, sharing curriculum, attending joint trainings, and learning about kindergarten expectations. We also assist families with kindergarten paperwork, host family events, and participate in community outreach.

