

GRATITUDE REPORT 2025

FROM
WONDER
TO
WHAT'S
POSSIBLE





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TO
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Dear Friends,

What if wonder could change a child's future?

At EarlystART, we see it happen every day. It's in the wide-eyed curiosity of a child discovering something new, the joy of creating, and the confidence that grows with every "I can do it!" moment. Because when wonder is nurtured, it doesn't just inspire a child in the moment - it opens the door to something extraordinary: **possibility**.

In 2025, our Little Learners achieved a remarkable 97% kindergarten readiness rating - a powerful reflection of the growth and development taking place during their first five years. Behind that number are children who are building skills, discovering their strengths, and gaining the confidence to take their next big step into kindergarten and beyond.

But the journey from wonder to what's possible doesn't happen alone. It happens because generous donors believe in every child's potential. Because community partners open doors to new experiences. Because volunteers share their time and talents. And because our dedicated team brings creativity, compassion and expertise to our classrooms every day.

Nothing we do - and no future we imagine for our children - would be possible without you!

Thank you for believing that every child deserves an EarlystART and for helping us turn curiosity into confidence, learning into opportunity, and wonder into what's possible.

With gratitude,

Chief Executive Officer

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**Creativity
takes
courage.**

- Henri Matisse

Miss Bonnie with Ayce.

NURTURING THE WHOLE CHILD

Miss Bonnie knows what's possible when a child is given the chance to wonder, explore and grow.

In 2025, her dedication to EarlyStart's Little Learners was recognized when she was named a Futures First Teacher of the Year. Miss Bonnie represents the creativity, compassion, and purpose our educators bring to their classrooms every day - and their belief in the extraordinary possibilities within every child.

At EarlyStart, we nurture the whole child - mind, heart and spirit. We believe a thriving child is a curious, confident and engaged child. Our whole-child approach nurtures wonder through exploration, play and arts immersion, while Conscious Discipline helps children build self-regulation and resilience.

Through our family partnership model, we provide resources and parenting education that help families grow stronger from the inside out. With trust and compassion, we create a community where every child and family feels a sense of belonging - and where every child's unique gifts are celebrated.

OUR MISSION

Building Bridges. Inspiring Minds. Impacting Futures.

OUR VISION

An empowered community where children thrive and families flourish.

WONDER AT WORK

2025 Highlights

97%

Kindergarten Readiness Rating

That number represents more than a milestone in 2025. It reflects the powerful impact of a child's first five years - and the strong foundation EarlyStart develops in each student.

80%

Developmental Benchmarks

Children ages 6 weeks to 5 years met or exceeded age-appropriate milestones in language, literacy, math, social-emotional, and physical development.

18

Family Engagement Events

Families gathered throughout the year for education, cultural enrichment, and community-building activities. We turned time together into opportunities to learn, connect, and grow.

14

Enrichment Beyond the Classroom

Enrichment activities in 2025 gave our students opportunities to explore the arts, experience new cultures, and immerse in nature, including dance class, the Folly Theater, What if Puppets, Coterie Theatre, Kansas City Symphony, and the Deana Rose Children's Farmstead.



97%

Handling Big Feelings. Building Friendships.

Children demonstrated improved self-regulation and peer interaction, building the emotional and social foundations needed to feel safe, learn, and form healthy relationships.

3,116

Creative Works. Countless Possibilities.

Fresh creations made year-round in our art studio - each a reflection of curiosity, growing confidence, and the unique ways our students see the world.



100%

Growth In Key Areas

Every Little Learner demonstrated growth in learning and developmental milestones with an average 27% gain from fall to spring on the Desired Results Developmental Profile (DDRP) assessment.

98%

Dedication: Team Retention.

With 98% staff retention, our experienced and dedicated educators foster strong relationships and provide the consistency children need to flourish.



OUR UNIQUE APPROACH

Construct. Connect. Create.



PROJECT CONSTRUCT

Learning through curiosity, discovery and hands-on experiences.

EarlystART uses this research-informed curriculum that encourages children to actively build knowledge through hands-on, minds-on learning.

Students explore ideas, ask questions, solve problems and make connections across language, math, science, the arts, and social-emotional learning.



SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

Building emotional strength for life.

Social-emotional learning helps children recognize and manage emotions, build healthy relationships, resolve conflict, and develop skills to learn and thrive. For our students with behavioral plans or experiences of trauma, these skills can be especially powerful - developing their confidence and connection in the classroom.



THE ARTS

Growing Minds. Inspiring Creativity.

At EarlystART, the arts aren't an enrichment activity - they're part of the way children learn. More than a school, we're a creative incubator where children learn through the arts and discover that there's more than one way to think, solve, express, and imagine. It all happens through art, music, movement, storytelling, and play.



136

Commitment to Excellence

In 2025, our educators devoted 136 hours to professional development to strengthen skills and effectiveness in early learning. With expert guidance and training, our team acquired the tools and strategies to support each child's unique needs and to reach his or her potential.



450+

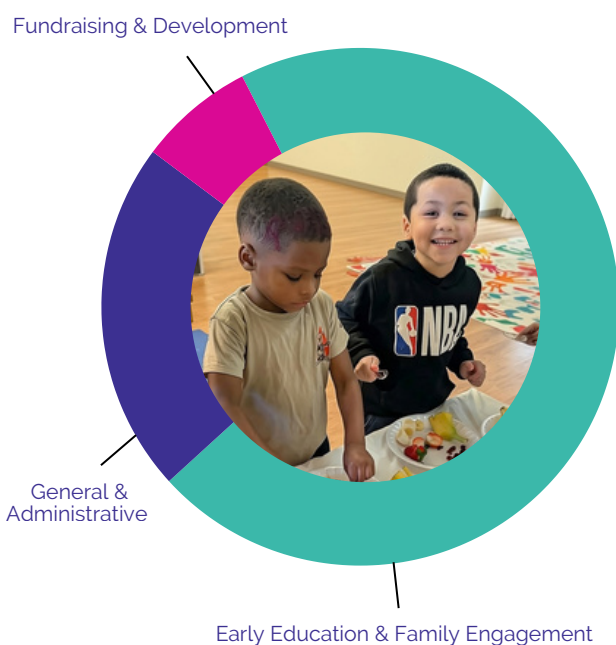
Volunteer Hours

This year *and every year*, volunteers make an incredible difference! From sprucing up our campus and reading with Little Learners, to hosting collection drives and lending a helping hand, they show us what it truly means to invest in young people - and to enrich our community along the way.

**The future belongs
to those who
believe in the
beauty of their
dreams.**

- Eleanor Roosevelt

2025: Financial Overview



INVESTING IN
POTENTIAL.
SHAPING
FUTURES.

OPERATING SUPPORT & REVENUE

Grants & Contributions	\$3,007,590
Program Fees	\$292,284
Special Event	\$97,487
Other Income	\$23,302
Total Operating Support & Revenue	\$3,420,663

Net Assets Released from Restrictions \$365,857

OPERATING EXPENSES

Early Education & Family Engagement	\$2,784,524
General & Administrative	\$864,945
Fundraising & Development	\$285,465

Total Operating Expenses **\$3,934,934**

Change in net assets from operations (\$514,271)

Investing In What Matters Most

In 2025, EarlystART generated \$3.4 million in operating support and revenue and invested \$3.9 million in programs and operations. That investment reflects our commitment to providing high-quality early learning, supporting families and maintaining the people, spaces and resources that make meaningful outcomes possible for every child.

Every child is
an artist.
The problem is
how to remain
an artist once
we grow up.

- Pablo Picasso