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## Community-based Early Childhood Education Centers

*We know that access to **quality**  
**early learning** matters!*



EAST HARLEM  
TUTORING PROGRAM  
EAST HARLEM  
BLOCK NURSERY

# About East Harlem Block Nursery, Inc. (EHBN)

At the height of the Civil Rights movement, a dynamic group of concerned Latino and Black parents living in East Harlem began a courageous organizing effort to address the lack of quality and culturally sensitive childcare in the community. As they advocated for themselves and their families, these efforts led to the establishment of the East Harlem Block Schools, later incorporated as East Harlem Block Nursery, Inc. (EHBN). Because of the historic actions of our founding members, the Nursery school was the first parent- controlled daycare center to receive public funding in New York.

Today, EHBN serves three Harlem neighborhoods and 140 families. Our legacy of emerging from the community and serving the community continues. It is evident in the deep connections to EHBN centers where some of our teachers and Board members are also the parents of alumni.







# Early Learn and Universal Pre-K at EHBN

EHBN's three centers provide full day, year-round childcare for children from ages 2 to 4. **Widely accepted child development research from the field reports that 85 percent of brain development in children occurs before age five.**

EHBN strives to create a quality and nurturing early learning environment with focused attention and small class sizes. Our goal is to encourage curiosity in children and a lifelong love of learning as we also support the community's working parents.

We operate three conveniently located centers that offer quality Early Learn and Universal Pre-Kindergarten programs to nearby families:

**East Harlem Block Nursery #3 at Grant Day Care Center**

1299 Amsterdam Avenue  
*(Between 124th Street and 125th Street)*

**East Harlem Block Nursery #2/ (Formerly Hope Day Nursery)**

2112 Madison Avenue  
*(Lincoln Houses at the corner of 132nd Street)*

**East Harlem Block Nursery #1/ Flagship Center**

215 East 106th Street  
*(Between 2nd Avenue and 3rd Avenue)*

*"My children are all college grads and leading productive lives—in no small part due to the solid educational foundation they received at East Harlem Block Schools. **Empowering attitudes of self-fulfillment can begin at the preschool stage and have long-term benefits for the individual, family and community. This is why I serve on EHBN's board.** I want to try and create early learning opportunities for as many young children in Harlem as possible. It matters to me because so much is at stake today."*

**>> Pedro Pedraza, EHB Boardmember <<**

# EHBN's Parent Leadership and Pathways Programs

We have been integrating a two-generation approach to family economic security and mobility almost since the inception of the Block Schools in 1965.

When the parent-run group that founded East Harlem Block Nursery (EHBN) also began staffing the classrooms themselves, they set forth a leadership philosophy that would come to be called “The Block Schools Way”. Through relationships with area colleges, several parents and volunteers earned their undergraduate degrees and became certified teachers.

The impetus for our current *Pathways to Careers in Early Childhood Education* program is rooted not only in our parents’ desires for personal economic mobility and professional stability, but also by EHBN’s history.

**To address the persistent workforce gap in the pipeline of certified early educators at community-based providers like ours, we developed and introduced *Pathways*, which supports parents interested in obtaining a Child Development Associate (CDA) certificate. The aim of this professional development initiative is to encourage parents to pursue early education as a career choice. This program is also available to our staff at each center.**









# Early STEAM Learning

EHBN delivers on our goal to offer families access to a quality early learning experience that supports their pre-school child's innate interest in the world around them.

As both an early childhood education provider and advocate to the area's families, we understand that access to early STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art/architecture and mathematics) enrichments is especially important for young learners living in chronically under-resourced communities of color.

A focus on STEM concepts effectively targets subjects where low-income children can tend to fall behind by age 8 (science and math)—and helps to prepare them for future academic success.

In addition to our Early Learn program, we've developed an innovative component focused on pre-k STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art/Architecture and Mathematics) immersive curriculum enhancements. These include: access to culturally relevant institutions and destinations; exposure to global arts; introduction to early STEAM concepts; and learning through play-based interactions. All of these activities support healthy social and emotional development as well as kindergarten readiness.



# Committed to the Community's Future

## EHBN at-a-Glance

- We were founded the same year (1965) as the national Head Start program.
- Our focus for over five decades has been on community-based early education. In that time, we've helped four generations of Latino and Black parents to educate more than 10,000 children in East, Central and West Harlem.
- Several adult alumni are now grandparents of the children at our centers. Notably, many others serve the Harlem community and New York City through their roles in education and the arts as well as the public sector.
- Our staff works with 140 toddlers and preschoolers as well as their parents to provide the benefits of a structured early learning environment—because we know what a difference a good start makes.

## Looking Ahead

- We're in development on two early STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering Art/Architecture and Mathematics) education offerings:
  - » a series of after-school STEAM immersion enhancements, and
  - » a pilot program for our pre-k STEAM summer school incubator focused on retaining school readiness over the summer months.
- EHBN is also looking to expand its program offerings and facilities with:
  - » bi-lingual learning opportunities for dual-language learners
  - » a new home for our East Harlem flagship center that will allow us to accommodate the waiting list of families who need access and support.



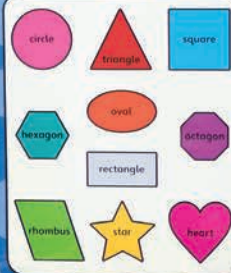
Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii Jj Kk Ll Mm Nn Oo Pp Qq Rr Ss

Walking Feet  
11.15  
11.15

My First Calendar  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

2017

### Shapes



### Colors



Classroom  
1. Walking Feet  
4. Clean Up  
5. Listening Ears

# Why ECE Matters

## ***What makes center-based early childhood education valuable to our communities?***

Center-based Early Childhood Education matters because it provides low-income families with access to a structured learning environment that their toddlers and preschoolers need in order to maintain educational gains as they enter K-12 school systems.

Quality early education and care environments like EHBN's centers offer working parents the full-day options they need in order to make a living wage.

*Early Childhood Education provides a public good that is necessary to the community vitality, workforce continuity and economic opportunity of New York City families.*

Early Childhood Education is curriculum-based education as part of a child's formal education—and is the foundation for their future scholastic journey. EHBN's programs are licensed and meet the NYS Prekindergarten Foundation for Common Core standards.



## For More Information:



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