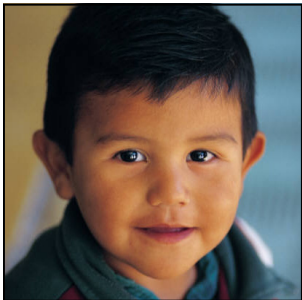


Educare Arizona

Catalyst for Change



“Investing in the early years – beginning at birth and even before, and focusing first on those children and families who face the greatest risks – is a responsible way to shift the odds so more children grow up eager to learn, ready for school, and inspired with hope.”

- Susie Buffett, Chair
Buffett Early
Childhood Fund



investing in the early years



What is Educare?

Spearheaded by the Buffett Early Childhood Fund, Educare is an exciting early childhood initiative which will create a network of centers around the country that demonstrate the impact of high quality early education in our communities.

Each of the 12-15 Educare sites nationally will be founded on a public-private partnership comprised of a Head Start provider, a school district, and one or more anchor funders. In Arizona, where the need for a qualified early education workforce is great, Educare also includes a university partner to strengthen professional development functions, as well as a consortium of other contributing nonprofits serving children and families.

Educare Arizona will be a leader in professional development, a practicum hub where students preparing for careers as early childhood educators can learn best practices from master teachers and mentors, and an educational resource for established teachers to continually update and improve upon their skills and knowledge.

Taking into account Arizona's unique climate, the building will be designed to maximize solar efficiencies and reduce environmental impacts.


What will it do?

Modeled after the great research studies—Abecedarian, Perry Preschool, and others—each Educare Center puts science into practice and provides the highest quality care to at-risk infants, toddlers, preschoolers and their families. Professional development ensures that teachers are implementing the best of what we know works. Technical assistance and evaluation services will

provide data to showcase the center's successes and radiate high quality across the state. Educare Arizona will draw a national spotlight to Arizona and provide an opportunity to leverage new dollars for the state.



By engaging parents and caregivers in their child's education, Educare Arizona will impact neighbors, schools, and radiate excellence throughout our communities. Families enrolled in Educare centers receive a spectrum of support services, including health, nutrition and social services. Educare further enriches the educational experience by dedicating additional resources to language and early literacy development, providing substantial emotional support in a learning environment that maximizes consistency and trust-building, raising requirements for staff qualifications, reaching out to families before childbirth, and individualizing



services for children and their families by using cutting-edge assessment tools to guide lesson planning. In these ways, the Educare approach reaches beyond the expected to strive for more effective and lasting change.

Who's supporting it?

There are currently three local anchor funders, the Steve Nash Foundation, the Whiteman Foundation, and the Ibis Foundation. The Buffett Early Childhood Fund, in partnership with the Bill and Melinda Gates

Foundation and the George Kaiser Family Foundation, is contributing to the capital costs as well as providing ongoing guidance and technical assistance.

Programmatic Head Start and Early Head Start services will be

provided by Southwest Human Development on the campus of Brunson Lee-Elementary School in the Balsz school district in East Phoenix, where nearly 80% of students qualify for Free or Reduced Lunch.

How is it funded?

Each Educare site nationally is a public-private partnership relying on capital from the private sector to build the building, and ongoing public

support to fund operations. Public support braids multiple state and federal funding streams to maximize resources and potential. Because Arizona's level of public funding for early childhood is less than the cost of quality programming, an operating gap exists that must be filled.

How will it help children statewide?

Children all across Arizona will benefit from Educare, regardless of whether they ever step foot in the center itself. Far from being just a place, Educare Arizona is a platform to elevate awareness

about and advances in early childhood brain development and quality child care. For example, Educare Chicago was a key player in advocacy that resulted in \$30million new general-fund dollars for early childhood education. Educare Arizona will serve as a place for visiting and local legislators,

business leaders, philanthropists and policymakers to see firsthand the difference the highest quality care can make for at-risk children and their communities.

Demonstrating what can be achieved when public and private entities pool their resources, Educare Arizona is not just a place, it's a new paradigm for early childhood education and a platform for policy change.

