



THE FOUNDATIONS OF LEARNING (as we see it)

A strong foundation is made up of an interlacing of rebar that holds the concrete in place and keeps it from cracking as the structure is built, inhabited, endures storms, etc. Education should lay a solid foundation for children to build their life upon, an enduring base that will withstand the tests and stress of time, adversity and expansion over the years.

"Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won't collapse because it is built on solid rock." Mt 7:24-25

1. **Believing the truth that we are made in God's image.** God is smart. He is powerful. He is wise. He is kind, etc. Understanding God's character provides the greatest foundation we can hope for and a blueprint for what we are building with our life choices.
2. **Understanding how we learn.** When we know the physiology of how brain cell development takes place, we can cooperate with God's design to maximize learning.
3. **Restoring the keys of reason.** Learning how to ask good questions and think critically is necessary for developing intellect and discerning truth.
4. **Exercising all 7 of our intelligences!** God, didn't just make us smart, He made us BRILLIANT! But we must utilize ALL of our intelligences in order to capitalize on our learning experience. These Intelligences include: Intrapersonal, Interpersonal, Visual/Spatial, Language, Math/Logic, Music/Intuition, Kinetic.
5. **Cultivating creativity.** Creativity develops the parts of the brain which are essential in problem solving and thinking vs remembering what one is told. This is not crafts, but actually creating with manipulatives, art supplies, words, movement, etc.
6. **Making room for play.** Play is similar to creativity and an important part of learning. Play helps build communication between the "right" and "left" parts of the brain. The brain learns best when it has time to rest and integrate the learning. Not simply physical activity, but also exploring, experimenting and pretending help connect the dots with other parts of our experience so learning goes deeper and is "locked in."
7. **Enjoying enrichment.** A wide range of hands-on experiences and exposure to various aspects of the community, culture and life has extensive impact not only on the learning process, but also on enriching the life of the child. Kids typically remember their enrichment opportunities more than their classroom learning, as necessary as that is. Making the classroom learning as enriching as possible is one of our goals. But experiences beyond the classroom are important too.
8. **Nurturing community.** Learning cannot happen in a vacuum. Family is the most important part of the learning community. Parent involvement is critical to the mental development of healthy kids.. But people outside the home are important also. It's essential for kids to have exposure to others with different personalities, strengths and insights.
9. **Developing stability.** Authority must be exercised with kindness as well as consistency in expectations and discipline. This creates the stability kids need to feel confident. They know the rules and rules apply to everyone. When they feel respected and know they are expected to respect others, they are safe so they can focus on learning.
10. **Empowering collaboration.** When Home life and School life are synced up and in full collaboration, this is of maximum benefit to our kids
11. **Weaving it all together.** Incorporating all of these elements into the learning experience will provide the greatest benefit to our students. Using visuals, manipulatives, music, rhythm, movement, words, worship, practice, pondering—(what does this look like for me?)