



SOCIAL VENTURE
PARTNERS
PORTLAND

SVP PORTLAND'S COMMITMENT TO CHILDREN

SVP Portland is working toward a future where all children enter kindergarten with the foundation for success in learning and in life. We have learned a great deal in the years that we have been working to promote healthy development and school readiness in young children. We believe that it is now time for us to spell out the core principles that inform our work and to make our commitment to children visible.

Healthy, capable children represent the best future our community. A child's positive development touches the whole family and the society. An investment in the early years is an investment for life. We are committed to honoring a variety of culturally specific and culturally responsive approaches to learning while at the same time acknowledging the established and evolving global body of research and practical knowledge that informs the field of early childhood education. We recognize that children who have experienced adverse circumstances in their early years should receive specialized services (trauma informed care).

SVP is committed to leveraging its resources to support programs, organizations, collaborations and initiatives that nurture children's ability to thrive. They base their practice upon current knowledge and global research in the field of early childhood education, health and child development. This can be realized in practices that:

- Support children's physical and mental health and well-being.
- Are responsive to individual children's interests, abilities and experiences.
- Foster warm, positive relationships between children and their peers, and between children and the significant adults in their lives.
- Support physical, social, emotional, cultural and cognitive development, recognizing that all of these areas are important and interconnected.
- Provide opportunities for children to engage in active learning with adult support
- Promote the development of enthusiastic, joyfully engaged learners who are developing understanding of themselves and who connect meaningfully with others and with the world around them
- Connect authentically with families, and make their values, perspectives and practices central in the design and management programs while also supporting them in helping their children to grow and learn.
- Help parents, teachers, caregivers and other staff members grow in their understanding of child development and early education and learn skills needed to support children's healthy development.
- Engage teachers and administrators in ongoing reflection designed to lead to the best possible programs and outcomes for children.

Since community programs and organizations are embedded in cultural contexts, and are in various stages of development, we acknowledge that these principles can be implemented in a variety of different ways.

SVP believes that these core principles will support the emergence of the next generation of leaders, innovators, planners and problem solvers in our community. We invite others with a shared commitment to our children to join us.



This draft was written by SVP Partners Christyn Dundorf, Stephanie Feeney, and Linda Hassan Anderson. It was reviewed by SVP partner Teresa Gonczy O'Rourke and community partners Amy Corbett, Arika Bridgeman, and Kali Thorne Ladd.