

## Early Learning Framework

Little Blessings feels it is important to stay current in the field of early childhood education while listening to the needs of the families and remembering the principles of our program philosophy.

Early Learning for Every Child Today (ELECT) or Early Learning Framework (ELF) was established by the Ministry of Education to develop a continuum of education for preschool settings that would link them to future education.

Below are the six principles of this framework and a brief description of how we will implement them into our program.

**Early child development sets the foundation for lifelong learning, behavior and health.**

- children will be supported to build on what they know and what they are interested in
- model that school is fun
- encourage children to respect others, themselves and God

**Partnerships with families and communities to strengthen the ability of early childhood settings to meet the needs of young children**

- share in ongoing communication with families what the children are learning to create a circle of learning
- welcome families and community members to join our program

**Demonstration of respect for diversity, equity and inclusion are prerequisites for optimal development and learning.**

- encourage healthy dialog about cultural, ability and physical uniqueness
- explore and join together with other professional agencies to help children reach their fullest potential
- communicate in our teaching that we are all equal and help everyone to be sensitive to the needs of others

**A planned curriculum supports early learning.**

- observe children to develop individual goals
- provide learning experiences for physical, emotional, language, intellectual, spiritual and social growth
- offer a variety of activities to allow children to have choices

**Play is a means to early learning that capitalizes on children's natural curiosity and exuberance.**

- offer opportunities to enable children to experiment, investigate, problem solve and find their own answers
- come alongside children and ask questions allowing them to lead in play
- encourage oral communication to build confidence and make new friends

Knowledgeable and responsive early childhood practitioners are essential to early childhood settings.

- create an environment that is emotionally warm and positive when dealing with children, families and members of the community
- be in constant communication concerning the children and ideas for the program
  
- participate in professional development always updating and refreshing current skills