



Early Childhood Connections

Introduction to Project Approach - Building a Foundation

Kohl Children's Museum is seeking preschool to second grade educators to learn about and implement the **Project Approach** in their classrooms utilizing Kohl Children's Museum as a resource and learning laboratory. This program – hosted by the museum for over 20 years – includes professional development for teachers and interactive learning experiences for students and their families.

Programming is Gateways-approved and connects to content areas by addressing Illinois Early Learning and Development Standards, environments, curriculum design, observation & documentation, professional development, and family involvement. Participants will receive 18 hours of Gateways/Illinois CPDUs for complete participation in the program.

Focus

To expand the use of the Project Approach into center, home, and school programs through professional development and field trip opportunities.

Audience

Preschool to 2nd grade classroom teachers in district settings in Cook and Lake Counties, where at least 50% of students receive meal assistance and/or Child Care Assistance.

Application Procedure

Applications must be completed online using the following link:

<https://forms.gle/KzsSZ4CjZiMki4dL7>

Training Dates

Teachers will be selected to participate in one set of training dates. Trainings will happen at the Kohl Children's Museum from 8:30 am- 3:30 pm. Please note the three trainings will be completed in English, but intermittent support and resources can be provided in Spanish.

Series one: Saturday, October 5, 2024 / Sat., December 7, 2024 / Sat., March 8, 2025

Series two: Saturday, October 19, 2024 / Sat., December 14, 2024 / Sat., March 15, 2025

Please send any questions to the Education Department at the Kohl Children's Museum by emailing educationteam@kcmgc.org or calling 847-832-6874.

Requirements

1. **Participate in three professional development workshops.** Participants must attend all three workshops. Participants will receive 18 hours of Gateways/Illinois CPDUs upon full completion of the program.
Hours for Gateways/Illinois CPDUs are only able to be offered for the time spent at in-person trainings. We estimate project work and assignments (detailed below in points 2 and 3) take an average of 5-10 additional hours a month throughout the program. This includes time spent in the classroom on student investigation and pre-project work. More information will be provided upon the start of the program. Please contact us with any questions.
2. **Participate in evaluation, assessment, and assignments.** Participants will be required to complete project descriptions and journals, training evaluations, and attitude surveys.
3. **Plan, design, conduct and document** a child-centered project from October 2024 to March 2025. Additional support for conducting a project in the classroom will be offered by the museum's education staff.
4. **Select and purchase project materials.** Each participant will select and receive materials to support their projects. Materials will be purchased through the Kohl Children's Museum, and must support project work done in the classroom.
5. **Schedule and attend one virtual or in-person field trip** with Kohl Children's Museum at the Museum or in the classroom. The free field trip includes transportation costs and is only for students who are participating in the project.
6. **Schedule, coordinate and conduct one family art activity** to share and introduce information about the Project Approach with families. Activity kits will be provided by the Museum.
7. **Schedule and participate in one Project Celebration at Kohl Children's Museum.** Educators are required to schedule their form of transportation (paid for by the museum) and bring their project documentation to display at the Museum. Each student's family will receive a three-year membership to the Museum. Project Celebrations will be held on Saturday, April 5, 2025; Sunday, April 13, 2025; Sunday, May 4, 2025; and Saturday, May 10, 2025. Teachers will be able to select one of these dates.

Program includes:

Field trip fees and bus	Stipend (upon completion of program)
Project celebration fees and bus	Family Art Activity Kits
Museum membership for each students' family (upon completion of program)	Project Materials selected by the participant and purchased by the Kohl Children's Museum with a set budget