

THE CASE FOR ARTS IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

The research is clear: The **first few years of a child's life are a critical time** to prepare young children for a lifetime of success in the classroom and beyond. Get the facts about how Wolf Trap Institute for Early Learning Through the Arts' **research-based programs are making a difference for students and teachers** through high-quality professional development and rich in-classroom experiences.



High-quality **early childhood education is essential** to giving children the best possible start in school and in life.

In the first years of life, the brain forms one million new neural connections every second. Those connections provide the foundation for all future learning, behavior, and health. (Child H. U., 2017)

Research clearly demonstrates the relationship between **kindergarten readiness and third grade test scores**—important indicators of future academic SUCCESS. (ReadyNation, 2013)



Teachers need tools and best practices in order to set their students up for success.

When asked what effective professional development looks like, teachers describe learning that is relevant, hands-on, and sustained over time. (Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, 2014)

Continuing education and training for teachers is a critical component in the **10 standards for accreditation** of early learning programs established by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. (Children, n.d.)



The performing arts are a powerful, effective teaching tool that **unlocks children's innate desire for joyful, active learning.**

Multi-sensory experiences help young children build cognitive and social skills, and cultivate emotional and physical health. (Child H.U., 2014)

In arts-integrated activities, children are **simultaneously engaging different senses**—sight, sound, movement—that **create and strengthen connections across the brain.** Giving children these experiences early in life helps build a stronger, more permanent basis for continued brain development. (Child H.U., 2014)

REAL-WORLD IMPACT

Backed by more than 35 years of experience, Wolf Trap Institute leverages the power of the performing arts to **engage learners and empower educators**. Independent research of Wolf Trap Institute programs demonstrates that providing teachers the tools to integrate the arts into their classrooms leads to **deeper, more meaningful learning** for their students.

Higher Standardized Test Scores	Preschoolers excelled in six key areas. Preschool children who participated in a Wolf Trap residency scored significantly higher on standardized tests measuring: initiative, social relations, creative representation, language and literacy, logic and mathematics, and movement and music. (Klayman, 2006)
Increased Language Development	Kindergarteners showed meaningful improvements in language development. Kindergarten students whose teachers participated in a multi-year Wolf Trap program showed improvements in language development. This was especially true of both African-American students and English Language Learners (ELL) from low-income communities. (Alliance Arts for Learning Institute, 2012)
Enhanced 21st Century Skills	Students made gains in academic achievement and social/emotional development. Head Start students whose teachers participated in the Wolf Trap program showed significant gains in social/emotional development, science and technology knowledge, and approaches to learning. (Green & Sawilowsky, 2015)
34 Days of Extra Learning in Math	Students gained more than one extra month of learning in math. Preschool and kindergarten students who participated in Wolf Trap residencies gained 34 days of additional learning in math in the second year of the program. (Song, Ludwig & Marklein, 2016)
Improved Teacher Practice	Teachers felt more creative and confident in their abilities. 92% of participating Wolf Trap teachers reported feeling confident in their ability to facilitate interactive drama activities, be creative, and seek out opportunities to integrate arts education into core curriculum. (Clay, Campbell & Madsen, 2015)

Learn more at wolftrap.org/institute

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EARLY LEARNING
THROUGH THE ARTS

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