University Settlement has been helping low-income and immigrant families to build better lives for 125 years.

Today, University Settlement offers many free programs to meet the needs of every member of a family.

For young children: Early Head Start; pre-school classes for children ages 2 to 5; therapy for children with special needs.

For school-age children: After-school and summer programs; crisis intervention for children with urgent needs; supportive services for teens.

For adults: Literacy classes; counseling and mental health services; childcare training and referrals.

For seniors: Recreation and lifelong learning opportunities; nutritious meals.

For the whole family: Recreational and educational opportunities at our community centers on the Lower East Side and in Fort Greene. Arts and culture programs at our historic home on Eldridge Street.
An enriching early childhood experience in preparation for kindergarten.

University Settlement’s Early Childhood Center (ECC) is a highly respected child care and early education program offering:

- A full-year, full-day program (8 AM to 6 PM)
- Four 3-year-old classrooms; four 4-year-old classrooms
- Head teacher, assistant teacher and full-time teacher’s aide in each classroom
- A balance of child-centered and teacher-directed experiences
- A variety of learning environments in each classroom
- Inclusive setting supporting children with developmental and other concerns
- Workshops and education for parents
- Social service advocacy and referrals
- Parent involvement through committees and volunteer opportunities

Our services are available in English, Spanish and a variety of Chinese dialects, such as Cantonese, Mandarin, Fujianese and Taiwanese.

University Settlement’s ECC is a supportive and caring environment where children thrive, with services tailored to their individual needs. Each student’s progress is measured and shared with parents.

Curriculum
- Reading & Writing Workshop
- Big Math for Little Kids
- Special Projects (led by children’s interests, these projects integrate topics across all areas of the curriculum)
- Enrichment Classes (yoga, music and swimming)

Parental Involvement
- Through participation in committees, parents are part of the programmatic decision making process
- Volunteer opportunities in the classroom, as well as for field trips, holiday celebrations and more

Social Services
- Referrals and resources to help families with issues surrounding housing, transportation, immigration, second language learning, financial strains, substance abuse, foster care, domestic violence and divorce/separation

Special Needs Services
- Assistance through the evaluation process
- Help securing services on-site for children
- Supportive transitioning services for children moving on to kindergarten

Our Staff
We are committed to having a caring and competent staff who respects the culture, language and community of each family we serve.

The quality and dedication of our staff is reinforced by many opportunities to learn and grow in their profession.

Eligibility & Fees
Early Childhood Center services are offered free or on a sliding scale to income-eligible families residing or working in the Lower East Side and Chinatown communities.

To find out if University Settlement’s ECC is right for you, call us today at 212.453.4584.

Location
The Early Childhood Center is located at 184 Eldridge Street.

For More Information:
Early Childhood Center at University Settlement
212.453.4584
ecc@universitysettlement.org

The Early Childhood Center is funded through the Administration for Children’s Services (ACS) Head Start and Child Care Division. Head Start is a federally funded program providing free services to eligible families. Child Care fees are based on a sliding scale based on family income as determined by the ACS.