



## Action for Early Learning Initiative Priorities and Principles


The Action for Early Learning (AFEL) Initiative is a Drexel University-led collaboration of social service and education agencies and community stakeholders working to **ensure equitable access to quality early childhood education (ECE)** so that all children are Kindergarten ready.

### Three Main Priorities of AFEL’s Work Are:

1. Supporting Early Childhood Educators and Childcare Providers to create quality learning environments
2. Promoting the importance of quality ECE, how to access it and what to look for
3. Creating a Circle of Support for Children and Families’ Long-term Success

## AFEL MAIN PRINCIPLES

### AND COMMUNITY CHANGE INITIATIVE BEST PRACTICES



West Philadelphia  
**Action For Early Learning**  
*Our Community. Our Neighborhood. Our Kids.*

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be place-based</li> <li>Prioritize <b>building trust / relationships</b> throughout the community</li> <li>Place the <b>child as the central priority</b> of the work</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Infuse <b>knowledge-building</b> of Kindergarten readiness throughout the whole AFEL model</li> <li>Integrate <b>trauma-informed</b> vocabulary, practices, and a resilience-based lens for all programming</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote <b>collaboration</b> at all levels of work</li> <li><b>Include family</b> and community partnerships to acknowledge the value added from the wisdom, experience, and diversity of partners</li> <li>Ensure that goals and desired outcomes are paired with <b>flexibility</b> in the face of changing priorities and community needs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use <b>research and evaluation</b> to inform programming</li> <li>Build stakeholder capacity to <b>understand and use data</b>, and facilitate data-driven decision-making</li> <li>Recognize the <b>balance</b> between conducting research and data collection, while <b>prioritizing the comfort and culture of our partners and the community</b></li> </ul>