

Learning In Afterschool & Summer

Preparing Youth for the 21st Century

A project of Temescal Associates and The Partnership for Children and Youth



The *Learning in Afterschool & Summer* project is an effort by advocates and program leaders to focus the afterschool and summer movement on promoting young people's learning. This initiative focuses less on what children should learn and more on how children learn best, and afterschool and summer program strategies to support meaningful learning. On the reverse side are learning principles that are supported by new brain research and what we know about how children learn. For more information and to join as a **co-signer**, go to: www.learninginafterschool.org

1. Learning that is Active

Learning and memory recall of new knowledge is strengthened through different exposures – seeing, hearing, touching, and doing. Afterschool & summer activities should involve young people in “doing” – activities that allow them to be physically active, stimulate their innate curiosity, and that are hands-on and project-based.

2. Learning that is Collaborative

Afterschool & summer programs should help young people build team skills that include listening to others, supporting group learning goals, and resolving differences and conflicts. Collaborative learning happens when learners engage in a common task where each individual depends on and is accountable to each other.

3. Learning that is Meaningful

Learning is meaningful when youth have some ownership over the learning topic, the means to assess their own progress, and when the learning is relevant to their own interests, experiences, and the real world in which they live. Community and cultural relevance is important to all youth.

4. Learning that Supports Mastery

If young people are to learn the importance and joy of mastery, they need the opportunity to learn and practice a full sequence of skills that will allow them to become “really good at something.” Afterschool & summer activities should be explicitly sequenced and designed to promote the layering of new skills.

5. Learning that Expands Horizons

Afterschool & summer programs should provide learning opportunities that take youth beyond their current experience and expand their horizons. They should go beyond the walls of their facilities to increase young people’s knowledge of their surrounding neighborhood and the larger global community.