

Cultural Institutions in Teacher Education (CITE) Partnership Chicago Children's Museum

PARTNERSHIP OVERVIEW: The mission of Chicago Children's Museum (CCM) is to improve children's lives by creating a community where play and learning connect. This mission is based on the belief (supported by a significant body of research) that play is critical to children's healthy development in all domains. CCM's Strategic Framework goes further to define that a critical objective of the museum's mission is to Inform, Inspire, and Enable – that is, to expand the museum's impact by empowering adults to support and extend playful learning in their own settings. CCM cannot impact the

lives of children without serving, supporting, and influencing the adults who love, care for and teach them. Since the fall of 2013, Chicago Children's Museum has supported Loyola University's Department of Education through their Teaching, Learning and Leading with Schools and Communities course (Module 101) by serving as a Learning Lab where future teachers can observe child development in action, impact of intentional environments, child-child interactions, adult-child interactions, and more.

Chicago Children's Museum

TEACHER CANDIDATE ENGAGEMENT

During the academic school year, teacher candidates will:

- Participate in an interactive presentation facilitated by a CCM educator to strengthen expertise in play and child development.
- Reflect on play as a natural, age-appropriate way for children to explore, create, and learn.
- Explore the museum and observe visitors (children, parents, caregivers) to examine child development and child-child and adult-child interactions.
- Apply new learning and informal education approaches to classwork and collaborative projects.

INTENDED OUTCOMES

Through the Learning Lab experience at CCM, teacher candidates will:

- Value, understand, and utilize a play-based approach to teaching and learning, particularly with early learners.
- Recognize domains of child development in action.
- Gain new knowledge and learning experiences from museum experts in child development.
- Attain new ideas for creating engaging, developmentally appropriate experiences for learning.

BROADER IMPACTS

As a result of the partnership, CCM will:

- Create sustained museum-university-classroom engagement.
- Build sustained relationships with area schools, cooperating teachers, and future educators.
- Strengthen collaboration with cultural institutions in Chicago.
- Understand and respond to the changing needs of formal educators.