Our Mission is to EMPOWER TEACHERS to ensure that every child learns to read by third grade.

Learning and Teaching the ELLI Way

The ELLI Classroom is an immersive and ever-changing teaching and learning environment. Daily, ELLI programs integrate language and literacy, STEAM-infused content, and 21st century skills. Each classroom serves as a space station, a dinosaur habitat, or a paleontologist’s lab.

ELLI classrooms foster children's love of learning at a young age. Teachers intentionally link each theme to students' background knowledge, and other preliteracy skills. They teach students to plan, create, and collaborate. The coaching focuses on building the teachers’ knowledge about language and literacy development and its central role in learning to read and write proficiently. They learn to adapt and analyze and literacy assessment to identify children at risk.

The ELLI Research Agenda

The ELLI Research Agenda underpins continuous program and curriculum improvement, assessment, professional development, and student growth. Studies are conducted annually to help answer the primary research questions. What are the optimal conditions for children to learn and grow up successfully?

In order to achieve these goals, the classroom and curricular programs are ongoing, the research is continually evolving the relationship between teachers’ attitudes about language and literacy skills and their knowledge of theory and pedagogy, enhancing children’s reading outcomes.

ELLI Programs

Four elements of ELLI programming have expanded to include:

- The ELLI Lab School of Norwalk grades, serving children ages 10 months through five years.
- ELLI classrooms in three Norwalk elementary schools (with a fourth to open Fall 2020), serving children ages 5 through five years.
- ELLI at Fairfield University, serving children ages 3 through five years.
- ELLI at Eastern Connecticut State University, serving children in kindergarten through ELLI grades.

* This project is adapted from R. B., M., C., & G. (January 2014). Hand to Hand 32: Closing the Opportunity Gap with ELLI, a Museum for Children opened in December 2012, it cemented a longstanding partnership between the museum, Norwalk Hall, a collective impact initiative, and ELLI How, a collective impact initiative, and ELLI How, a collective impact initiative.