

AN EDUCATOR'S EXPERIENCE

Kate is the Student and Faculty Achievement Coach at the Primrose School of Burlington, Massachusetts. The school has a philosophy of Balanced Learning. This approach places strong emphasis on life skills and character development, combining purposeful play with teacher guidance. Primrose School employs a number of LEGO® Education solutions including Coding Express, Café+, STEAM Park, Math Train and Build Me “Emotions”.

KATE LEIS



Adding STEAM skills while cutting screen time

It goes without saying that every child needs to develop 21st century skills in order to succeed in the future. However, Kate recognizes that while STEAM skills are essential, it isn't good for her preschool children to spend too much time staring at a tablet or computer screen. Coding Express helps her to balance these conflicting needs, as it introduces the foundational concepts behind coding, yet in a hands-on and engaging way. She says, “Coding Express allows us to introduce early coding skills, which are incredibly valuable, in a way that honors the playfulness and curiosity we are trying to foster and protect in our students.”

Harnessing the power of engagement

Kate is a firm believer in the ideology of combining purposeful play with nurturing guidance. However, she appreciates that the children become so engaged when using LEGO® Education sets that they often require very little guidance. She says, “When we use any LEGO® Education products in the classroom, the children are immediately actively engaged and excited to learn. No matter what type of learner a child is, they can all connect to LEGO® and get excited about it. During time with LEGO® there is very little need for redirection or behavior guidance. The children get so deep into their play and exploration, it is the most natural form of learning I see.”

Kate also likes the fact that Coding Express integrates with the work the children do in a number of subjects. She says, “Like any other well thought-out lesson or material, LEGO® Education solutions are cross-curricular. As a teacher, that enables you to assess skills across many areas of development at the same time. I can use the children's excitement to create extension lessons that don't use LEGO® but that touch on the concepts, ideas and stories they work through during their time with Coding Express.”

Empowering the aha moment

While Kate enjoys being a hands-on teacher, she also likes the fact that hands-on learning encourages the children to make their own discoveries. She says, “I was not sure how easy it would be for my students to connect with the coding concepts, but Coding Express made it so easy for them. I could see them beginning amazing technological inquiries almost immediately.”

But the real aha moment for Kate came when she realized she wasn't the only teacher in the room. She says, “I love the moments when I catch them teaching each other with the set. It shows how empowered LEGO® Education solutions help them to feel. I absolutely love that.”



To learn more about Coding Express, visit LEGOeducation.com

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