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# Back To School

## Explore + Discover sets new standard

Explore+Discover is setting a new standard for early education and daycare for infants and toddlers in New York by opening its first center this September in Kips Bay at Second Avenue and 26th Street.

E+D's new state-of-the-art 5,000 square-foot facility is designed to specifically support the education and daycare needs of children three months to two years old. The facility will hold up to 90 students in eight age-appropriate classrooms. There is a community room, private outdoor play area and an area where visiting mothers can nurse their children.

Each classroom will have three dedicated teachers from E+D's highly professional staff composed largely of teachers with master's degrees in early education or related areas.

In addition to superior



Rendering of new facility

daycare, the center will offer an arts-oriented curriculum that is inspired by the Reggio Emilia approach to education. This includes exposing children daily to literature, music, art and natural materials under the guidance of teachers trained to specifically nurture their curiosity.

E+D offers flexibly weekly

and daily scheduling that accommodates a complete range of needs daycare needs.

"We want to help our children grow socially, physically and cognitively every single day," explained Renee Bock, E+D's Education Director. "And we're going to do this through the support of our amazing staff, infant and tod-

dlar curriculum and inspired facility."

Demand for admission has grown steadily since E+D's was launched earlier this year. "We still have some openings," added Jacqueline Marks, the center's director. "But we're filling up quickly."

Marks added that E+D is committed to building a strong and positive presence in the community that will help the neighborhood and the school. "We believe that parents and teachers are partners in supporting powerful early learning to grow happy and confident children." E+D will build this by encouraging parents to visit the center and participate in regular events, such as singalongs.

For more information, please contact E+D at [info@explorediscover.net](mailto:info@explorediscover.net), call (212) 867-3386 or visit [explorediscover.net](http://explorediscover.net).

## It's all about growth at Bellevue South

Bellevue South Nursery School believes that there is no area more deserving of involvement than the growth and development of their students.

Socialization, emotional and intellectual growth are primary goals. Children are given the freedom to develop at their own speed in a supportive, non-competitive atmosphere. The Pre-K afternoon class stresses more academics, preparing the 4s and young 5s for Kindergarten (including private, G&T and Hunter).

Informal teaching takes place as a child expresses interest in particular subjects. The primary objective is to provide abundant opportunities, which stimulate creativity, initiative, appreciation of beauty, excitement in learning and enjoyment in social activity.

Each child selects materials and activities within the environment from the structure created by the teachers. The space includes an entire room for dramatic play including a "kitchen area," puppet theater, climbing apparatus and dress-

up clothing. The main room has areas for arts and crafts, manipulatives, water, sand, blocks, language and math materials. Science, nature and cooking are also integral parts of the program. Music, utilizing piano, instruments and records, are part of the daily movement period, as well as a certified yoga program. Stories are read throughout the day to small groups as well as the entire class. There is outdoor playtime in the state-of-the-art playground.

Before the school term begins, teachers visit each

child in his or her home to help children bridge the gap between home and school. Guidance for the ongoing school process is a major focus of the directors. Separation is accomplished gradually, according to the needs of each child. Immediate openings are available.

An open house for parents will be held on Tuesday, November 4, 2014 from 4 to 6 p.m. Bellevue South Nursery School is located at 10 Waterside Plaza. For more information call (212) 684-0134 or visit [bsnurseryschool.org](http://bsnurseryschool.org).

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