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Explore+Discover Unveils Infant & Toddler Education and Care Program More than 20 Social Learning Centers To Open in New York

NEW YORK (April 15, 2014) –Explore+Discover will set a new standard in education for infants and young toddlers this September when it opens the first of more than 20 early learning centers in New York City.

This new initiative is built on a comprehensive approach that includes a highly trained staff, an arts-oriented responsive curriculum and an innovative environment that is specifically geared to support the learning process of young children ages 3 to 23 months. The combined impact promotes social, physical and cognitive growth.

The group's first center will be located at 444 Second Avenue (26th Street) in the Kips Bay/Gramercy Park region of Manhattan. The 5,000-square-foot facility includes eight classrooms, a community gathering space, and an enclosed outdoor area, among other features.

Explore+Discover's approach recognizes that infants and young toddlers are naturally inquisitive learners. But unlike older children, the very young learn primarily through their senses of touch, hearing and seeing. Too often, traditional preschool and daycare centers either overlook their education needs or do not fully engage infants and young toddlers, which can hold back their well-rounded growth.

Explore+Discover directly engages the natural curiosity of the very young through early child education professionals, designed environments, creative materials and a series of interactive learning paths that include music, art, movement and language. Explore+Discover also relies on the Reggio Emilia approach to early childhood education that advocates intentional and alluring learning experiences.

All centers will rely on highly trained, professional staffs that include head teachers with master's degrees in early childhood education and related certifications as well as assistant teachers with bachelor's degrees and/or years of experience working with infants and toddlers.

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Explore+Discover Sets New Standard in Early Childhood Education

The group's first center will open on the east side of Manhattan in September. During the next five years, Explore+Discover expects to open more than 20 other centers in Manhattan, Brooklyn and Queens. Each center will include the same core philosophy, facilities and operational approach. These elements include:

- Approximately 80 students per facility
- Innovative environments
- On-site outdoor play areas
- A head teacher and three assistant teachers per classroom
- An arts-oriented curriculum

"For too long infant and toddler education has been invisible in New York City and at Explore + Discover this is the first time we are able to gather a team that has the expertise to put the infant toddler perspective on the map and to shift the way early care is provided across the city," said Renee Bock, Explore+Discover's Educational Director.

Explore+Discover is a unit of K3Learning, Inc., a for-profit specialty education group held by the Koffler family, which has been a leader in the field of special education, early childhood education, daycare and college preparatory services in New York for almost 30 years.

"Explore+Discover is designed to meet a specific and largely overlooked need for high quality early education for infants and toddlers," explained Michael Koffler, K3Learning Chief Executive Officer. "These very young children learn at extraordinary rates, virtually absorbing all the sites and sounds around them. With Explore+Discover we have created an environment that helps feed their curiosity and fuel their physical and cognitive growth so they can begin a lifetime of learning."

About Explore+Discover

Explore+Discover is dedicated to setting the standard for infant and toddler care and education—an experience of natural discovery where children thrive as confident, creative learners. Headquartered New York, N.Y., Explore+Discover is a member of the Koffler Family-owned group of education businesses, K3 Learning. The Kofflers are specialists in early childhood education, daycare, college preparatory support and special needs education. In the last 30 years they have helped transform the education landscape by creating many iconic brands that have helped thousands of children and their families.

Please visit <u>explorediscover.net</u> to learn more.

