



Paladin

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS



imagination.care

811 Royal Road
Michigan City, IN 46360
(219) 873-2146

1200 E. Coolspring Avenue
Michigan City, IN 46360
(219) 872-6723

Philosophy and Mission



Welcome to Paladin's Early Childhood Programs!

Our philosophy is to regard the personal qualities of each child as gifts to be nurtured, shared, and appreciated. Each child is unique in their combination of strengths, weaknesses, interests, talents, needs, and styles. Each child's individuality is appreciated and considered in the context of the children around them. The diversity inherent among families is recognized and respected.

At Paladin's Early Childhood Programs our mission is to provide the highest quality early childhood experiences for all children. We aim to advocate for the importance of quality early childhood experiences, support families' growth, and ensure the safety of all children in our care at all times.



The Reggio Emilia Approach

Paladin's Early Childhood Programs' curricula and philosophy are inspired by the Reggio Emilia approach, and are based on current research and best practices that balance physical, emotional, social, and cognitive development.

A unique feature of our programming is the emphasis on building self-awareness, self-esteem, creativity, and social problem-solving skills—tools all children need to grow and thrive.



Want to learn more?

Scan the QR Code to learn more about the **building blocks** we use to build our curriculum:

Our Locations:

Imagination Station

1200 E Coolspring Avenue,
Michigan City, IN 46360

Head Start

811 Royal Road,
Michigan City, IN 46360

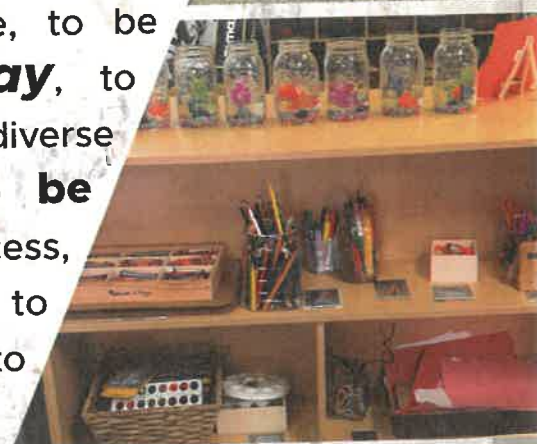


The Rights of Children

The Early Childhood Programs staff collaborated to develop a list of what we believe to be the **inherent rights of all children.**

Children have the right...

to **imagination**, to love, for connection, to **have a voice and be heard**, to **grow and change**, to affection, to **feel safe**, to healing, to nutritious food, to **new experiences**, to make decisions, to **experience joy**, to **inclusion**, to **have fun & be silly**, to **make mistakes**, to disagree, to **support**, to creative expression, to **dream**, to **friendship, family, and love**, to knowledge, to be nurtured, to **freedom**, to **choice**, to **play**, to **construct their own learning**, to diverse experiences, to **grow up great**, to **be curious**, to complex content, to beauty, to access, to **innovation**, to **encouragement**, to exploration, to **hope**, to participation, to **peace...**



Blended Model



Through our unique **blended program model**, Paladin's Early Childhood Programs are able to provide the highest quality services in the most inclusive and accessible model of Early Childhood Education.

By leveraging the quality of NAEYC accreditation and the comprehensive services of the Head Start program, we ***provide a safe and nurturing environment while promoting the physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development of young children to give them the strongest start on their path.***

Young children are still learning *how* to learn, and our unique blended model helps them develop learning competencies like ***focus, self-regulation, memory, flexibility and motivation.***



How Quality Looks Different

NAEYC Accreditation

We funnel our program operations through the NAEYC Standards and Code of Ethics to provide an early childhood experience that reflects excellence.



Formal Education

Our staff are encouraged to strive to attain the highest levels of formal education, and are supported through TEACH scholarships and tuition reimbursement.

Masters	10%
Bachelors	39%
Associates	22%
Technical Certificate	5%
CDA	10%
HS Diploma	13%
None	1%

Ratios - 3 Educators

Each of our preschool classrooms exceed ratio expectations by operating with 3 educators. This results in improved child outcomes by increasing safety, individual interaction, and opportunities for individual educational instruction.

Professional Development

Our programs provide a minimum of 150 annual hours of professional development for our staff, greatly exceeding all regulatory requirements. This level of investment mirrors how much we value our staff and are dedicated to their growth and fulfillment as professionals and individuals.

Environment

Natural spaces

Homelike settings lower cortisol levels in children, affecting their cognitive development, behavior, and ability to learn. Each of our sites boast calm color schemes, soft lighting, comfortable furniture, and safe spaces where children feel at home.

Open-ended materials

Providing children with open-ended materials rather than adult-conceived projects encourages imagination, creativity, and problem-solving skills. This approach creates play that is rich and complex, and allows children the right to pursue their own individual interests through play.



*Want to help?
Donate here!*



1200 E. Coolspring Avenue
Michigan City, IN 46360
(219) 872-6723

811 Royal Road
Michigan City, IN 46360
(219) 873-2146

imagination.care