



The University of Chicago Laboratory
Schools
Early Childhood Principal
Chicago, IL

At the [University of Chicago Laboratory Schools](#) (familarly known as Lab), students in nursery through grade 12 experience a world-class educational journey. Founded in 1896 by John Dewey as a place for educators to develop and explore novel approaches to pedagogy and curriculum, Lab originated the practice of progressive education. Today, the school continues to inspire excitement, creativity, and curiosity among students through academic rigor, experiential learning, and intellectual discourse, while emphasizing social-emotional learning and an experience of equity, inclusion, and belonging. Across all four divisions, the unifying features of the Lab community, enshrined in the school's mission, are commitments to scholarship, exhibiting kindness, and honoring diversity.

Lab School seeks a new Early Childhood Principal to start July 1, 2024.

Lab's Early Childhood division expertly supports children in Nursery-3 through Grade 2, and sets them on a path for healthy growth and the excitement of learning. In addition to Dewey's founding vision, Early Childhood educators draw from the principles underlying Loris Malaguzzi's Reggio Emilia approach, Lev Vygotsky's ideas about the zone of proximal development, and Josephine Yates' work on thought power. Teachers provide children with a play-based experience filled with possibilities to encourage choice, initiative, and collaboration. As children move into first and then second grade, Lab's curriculum begins to guide their learning; new skills and challenges are introduced, and learning is structured to support purposeful freedom. Classrooms are designed so that a child can function as independently as possible, growing in confidence and competence as they choose what to do. In developmentally-appropriate ways, students in each grade are empowered to explore, represent their ideas, and understand their world in a carefully designed program in which the children themselves, alongside their teachers and classrooms, are considered educators. Children arrive at Lab's state-of-the-art, standalone Early Childhood campus, Earl Shapiro Hall, eager to get involved. Teachers respond by supporting their desire for understanding, autonomy, and competence.

To show interest in the position and to receive the Opportunity Statement once it becomes available, please click [HERE](#) and submit your information.

Senior Talent Consultant: Andrew Watson

Start Date: July 1, 2024

Status: Accepting Applications

The Laboratory Schools are an equal opportunity employer and the search team for the next Early Childhood Principal is excited to meet interesting candidates with diverse backgrounds.

Lab seeks the finest employees to join our vibrant learning community. We employ people with a wide range of skills and training in many different disciplines, who have in common a love of learning and the wish to inspire that same love of learning in young people. We seek candidates for employment who thrive in an educational environment. We provide a great professional home for those committed to collaboration, ongoing personal and professional growth, and cultivating positive relationships. We strongly encourage applications from candidates of color, LGBTQ+ identified candidates, candidates from historically marginalized or underrepresented backgrounds, and candidates with a demonstrated commitment to a deepening diversity, equity, and inclusion practice. In turn, we strive to ensure that Lab is a joyful, welcoming, and inspiring place to work. Through our connection to the University, faculty, staff, and administrators enjoy benefits and opportunities that would be nearly impossible to match in any other environment.

Andrew Watson
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