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Laura Doud, Long Beach City Auditor participating in
Principal for a Day program. (please see page 5)

City of Long Beach, City Auditor



Laura L. Doud
City Auditor

College Begins in Preschool

Recently, I had the amazing opportunity to learn more about Early Childhood Education through LBUSD's annual "Principal for a Day" program.

After a warm welcome at the Monroe Child Development Center, Director Cindy Young took our group to a colorful CDC classroom at King Elementary. Arriving during an intentional play session, we were immediately immersed in a room full of energetic, happy 3 to 5 year-olds engaged in various versions of lively play with joyous laughter. Within seconds we were drawn into their activities – down on the carpet building train tracks, joining in explorations of a caterpillar habitat, reading and role playing. Nurturing teachers involved children in conversations, sparked imaginations by guiding their learning experiences and all while nudging these little children to extend their knowledge and skills. It was very evident that these youngsters were definitely learning.

I gained a newfound respect for Cindy and the many dedicated teachers who work hard to ensure these children achieve school-ready benchmarks such as color recognition, enriched vocabulary and math skills. Through their guided activities, they also promote children's social and emotional development.

Education holds the promise of leveling the playing field and preparing all students for the next steps in their lives. Early Childhood Education is the important first step every child deserves to ensure they transition successfully into Kindergarten and beyond. This means, then, that college begins in preschool. While college may seem far off for children under 5-years-old, the education these young children receive is crucial to their future. It is this early learning that builds the critical foundation for later success.

Given this, I am thrilled that Long Beach is expanding its Early Childhood Education program with Educare. Educare, a partnership involving non-profits, federal funds, LBUSD, and private donations, will ensure young children in Long Beach, including the financially disadvantaged, have the best possible chance for success in life. It will not only give students the school readiness skills they need, it will allow for partnerships with parents and provide teachers with resources. As this program kicks off, I am honored to be part of the Educare Steering Committee. This educational approach extends beyond the classroom to help children, families and the Long Beach community thrive.