

Address Service Requested

Our mission is to provide quality childcare and preschool programs in a caring, loving and learning environment.

To our friend (s):

ANNUAL FLESTA

FRIDAY, SEPT. 18, 2026, 5:30 - 7:30PM
THE GRAND EVENT CENTER

Young Horizons is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization serving children in Long Beach. Donations are tax deductible to the limit allowed by law.

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Serving 340 children in five Long Beach locations

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501 Atlantic Ave.

Central Pacific Center
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North Pacific Center
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Ludloff Center
2650 Pacific Ave.

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Young Horizons is an equal opportunity provider and employer

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PROUD MEMBER OF:



“Educate Early”

GROWING TOGETHER: A DAY OF LEARNING FOR OUR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION TEAM

This month, our centers took a pause to invest in something precious: the hearts and skills of the educators who care for our community’s children each day.

We know that caring for children is deeply meaningful work, and the people who do that work deserve moments to learn, reflect, and grow. Our Professional Development Day was exactly that: a day dedicated to nurturing the educators who nurture everyone else.

Learning From the Children We Serve: Our first training centered on something simple yet profound: truly seeing children. By learning how to use classroom data such as observations, assessments, and the stories children show us through their play, our educators explored new ways to shape lesson plans that honor each child’s abilities, challenges, and dreams. When teachers understand the “why” behind each moment of growth, they can create experiences that feel intentional, joyful, and meaningful.

Supporting Children Through Connection: Another powerful part of the day focused on behavior management and intentionality. Our staff practiced strategies that help children feel understood, safe, and supported, especially during big feelings or challenging moments. These discussions reminded us that behavior is communication, and that compassion, consistency, and trust are what guide children toward emotional confidence.

Staying Grounded in Quality and Safety: We also spent time reviewing licensing regulations, a topic that truly reflects our commitment to families. Every rule, every standard, every expectation is there to protect children. Understanding these guidelines strengthens our foundation, ensuring we provide environments where children thrive and where families feel at ease.

A Day That Fills Our Cups: More than anything, this day reminded us that our team is made up of caring, thoughtful, dedicated people who show up every day with full hearts. Professional development is not just training, it’s an act of care for our staff. It is time set aside to breathe, to reconnect with our shared purpose, and to remember why this work matters so much.

We are grateful to our presenters who supported this day of learning and to our educators for embracing growth with such passion. When we pour into our team, they pour even more into the children - and that is an investment that lasts a lifetime.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MESSAGE

Growing Together: Winter Reflections

As we begin a new quarter, I am filled with gratitude for the dedication, collaboration, and warmth that continue to define our programs. Each day, I witness the extraordinary impact of early childhood education in the joyful moments of discovery in our classrooms, as well as in the growing confidence, resilience, and curiosity of every child we serve.

This season has been one of meaningful progress. Our educators have been hard at work implementing developmentally responsive practices that nurture the whole child.

It is exciting to see the young two- and three-year-old children that entered the program in the fall, start to blossom and grow as they deepen their socioemotional skills, explore new concepts through play-based learning, and build strong relationships with peers and teachers alike. These foundational experiences are essential building blocks for lifelong success.

This quarter, our team expanded outreach to families at community partnerships events to support early education and family wellbeing. From food resources to parenting workshops, we strive to be a reliable source of support beyond the classroom walls.

Thank you for being an essential part of our community. Your trust, involvement, and advocacy ensure that our program remains a place where children feel safe, valued, and empowered to explore the world around them. Together, we are shaping bright futures, one child, one family, and one joyful moment at a time.



In Service,

Sarah

Sarah M. Soriano
Executive Director

MUGS & MATTERS: CREATING SPACE FOR PARENTS TO CONNECT

At the heart of our work is a simple belief: when parents feel supported, heard, and connected, children thrive. This month, we launched Mugs & Matters, a welcoming monthly parent-connection opportunity designed to bring families together over coffee, conversation, and shared experiences.

Mugs & Matters offers parents a special time to connect with other parents, learn about volunteer opportunities at the centers and the center activities/events. With a warm mug in hand, families can meet other parents, exchange ideas, ask questions, and build relationships that strengthen our community far beyond the classroom walls. Each gathering included a short, meaningful discussion topic such as child development, routines at home, or partnering with teachers, followed by open conversation. Our goal is to create dialogue and support, reminding families that none of us are navigating this journey alone.

We are grateful to our parent coordinator, Andrea Carrasco, and to every parent who has joined us so far and helped make these events feel welcoming and genuine. Also, a huge thanks to our mental health consultant, Stephanie Bobadilla, and MSW intern, Alex, who have also been present to support families and provide resources as needed. As we continue to grow this event, we look forward to more shared stories, more connection, and more opportunities to build a strong, caring community ... one mug at a time.



INVESTING IN QUALITY CARE: STAFF BEGIN PROGRAM FOR INFANT/TODDLER CARE (PITC) TRAINING

We are excited to share that our early childhood team at the Ludloff Center has begun the Program for Infant/Toddler Care (PITC) training, a nationally respected professional development program focused on providing the highest quality care for our youngest learners. This training is an important investment in our educators and the children and families in their care.



PITC is built on a simple philosophy: responsive, respectful, and relationship-based care creates the strongest foundation for early development. Through this training, our staff are deepening their understanding of how infants and toddlers grow, communicate, and form secure attachments and how caregivers can best support them during these critical early years.

Throughout the sessions, educators are exploring key topics such as Individualized Care that honors each child's temperament, routines, and developmental pace, Culturally Responsive Practices that respect each family's values, language, and traditions, Supportive Environments that promote exploration, safety, and emotional security, Responsive Caregiving that builds trust and strengthens brain development and Effective Communication with families to create strong, consistent partnerships.

The training also emphasizes the importance of small group sizes, continuity of care, and predictable routines which are proven elements to support healthy development and secure relationships.

ADDRESSING FOOD INSECURITY THROUGH COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Young Horizons is grateful to have received funding from the Long Beach Food Access Fund, a citywide initiative created to help local nonprofits meet urgent food needs across our community. The Fund was launched in collaboration with the Mayor's Office, The Nonprofit Partnership, Long Beach Gives, and the Mayor's Fund for Long Beach to support rising food insecurity.

Young Horizons was grateful to receive \$1,500, allowing us to provide 30 families with \$50 grocery gift cards just before the holidays. This support helped ease financial strain and ensured families could bring home the food they needed during a meaningful time of year.

We are deeply appreciative of the donors and partners who made this assistance possible and remain committed to supporting the wellbeing of children and families experiencing food insecurity in Long Beach.

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBER ALEXANDRA TORRES GALANCID



Young Horizons is delighted to welcome Alexandra Torres Galancid to our Board of Directors. Alexandra brings a deep commitment to community service and a passion for expanding opportunities for children and families, values that align closely with our mission.

Alexandra brings a strong background in leadership, collaboration, and advocacy, through her 30+ years of working with women in construction. Her dedication to strengthening early childhood collaboratives and supporting equitable access to resources will help guide Young Horizons as we continue to grow and respond to the needs of our community.

We are grateful for her willingness to serve and excited for the energy, expertise, and heart she brings to our organization. Please join us in welcoming Alexandra as she begins her service on the Young Horizons Board of Directors.

Together, we look forward to the meaningful impact ahead.

HELP OUR PRESCHOOL GARDEN GROW!

March's learning theme is "Growing Things," and we're refreshing our garden to support hands-on exploration. We're looking for volunteers to help with simple tasks like planting, watering, and tidying no experience needed!

If you can't volunteer, donations of soil, seeds, small plants, kid-safe tools, or other garden supplies are greatly appreciated.

Thank you for helping our garden and our March theme bloom!

Scan QR to Volunteer



EVENT CALENDAR

CENTERS CLOSED

May 25:
Memorial Day

July 3:
Independence Day



ANNUAL FESTE

FRIDAY, SEPT. 18, 2026, 5:30 - 7:30PM
THE GRAND EVENT CENTER

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A new year brings new beginnings! Ensure your child is prepared for kindergarten with our nurturing, educational programs.

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- ▶ Spanish speaking – all centers
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Young Horizons welcomes children with special needs and supports them with credentialed, highly trained educators who create nurturing, inclusive learning environments.



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