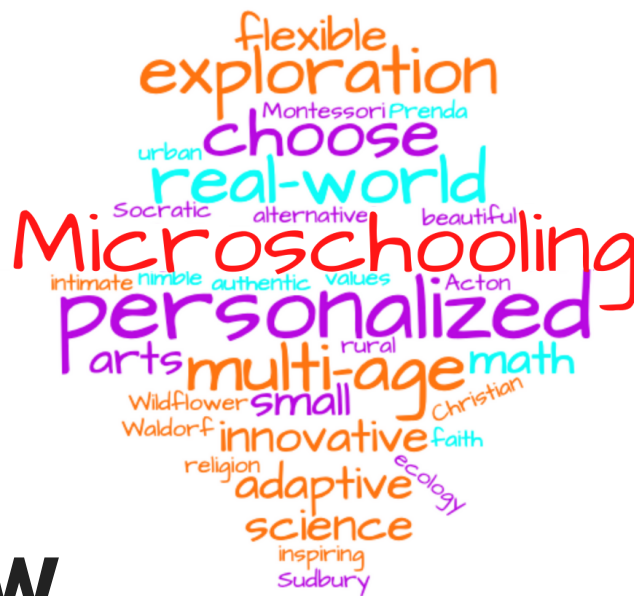


ROADMAP TO SUCCESSFUL MICROSCHOOLING

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OVERVIEW

Welcome to the most exciting movement in American education in a generation. Microschools, rooted in relationships and understandings that every leader has of who each child is as an individual, are blooming across the country.

Microschooling need not be not constrained by strict definitions, though there are some common characteristics that microschooling settings share, such as being multi-family.

Microschools are creating a transformative shift in teaching and learning. Flexible and adaptable, they meet each child where they are in their learning trajectory. Microschool leaders foster close communities and culture.

Today, Microschools are commonly found in three tracks: Independent, Partnership, and Corporate Networks.

OBJECTIVE

The National Microschooling Center is an empowering hub for pioneering small learning environments. We are a highly visible, tireless resource for microschooling leaders, families, policymakers, and those who can support them.

The microschools we help launch and support will offer quality educational options. We strongly encourage microschools to be as equitable and measurably effective as possible to best meet the diverse needs of our families. Our aim is to support you during each step of your microschooling journey and to help you reach your full potential as a microschooling leader delivering the style of educating that you choose.

WHY START A MICROSCHOOL?

At the National Microschooling Center, we believe the best answer comes from the learners in your life whose needs you want to meet.

Many see microschooling as a big part of the future of education - diverse, versatile and unique, with small environments to meet the needs of your learners in the most effective way possible.

Microschools give leaders a chance to implement the style of teaching and learning that they have often wished for. As a microschooling leader, you make the choices and use your background and the needs of your learners to guide those decisions.

REASONS WE LOVE MICROSCHOOLS

1

INDIVIDUAL LEARNERS' NEEDS

Microschooling's greatest strength may be that each microschool can, and should, be designed and built around the specific needs of individual learners. In this golden age of digital content, every choice of learning tools and methods can be made, and revisited, with each child in mind.

2

FLEXIBILITY

Microschooling offers maximum flexibility for learners and educators alike. With a wide variety of curricula, hours, spaces, and other important factors, your microschool can be the exact solution your families need.

3

BUILDING COMMUNITY

Microschooling builds upon the notion of multi-family homeschool collaboratives and allows you to serve your learners and build a schooling environment that best supports the needs of others in the community around you. Microschooling truly creates a close-knit community of families that come together in a learning environment that meets their needs.

4

DO WHAT YOU LOVE

Microschooling is an opportunity to realize your passion for educating young people in the ways that matter most. It allows you the opportunity to support the learning and growth of these children with methods that work best. You do not need teaching experience or an active teaching license to be a microschool leader.

HOW CAN WE HELP?

We are foundation funded and can help you assess the needs of your particular learners and families as your unpaid consultants. We can also help you design your program around these needs. This includes everything from planning a schedule to selecting learning tools.

Working with us gives you access to receive cost-saving benefits, as well as world-class tools that we have tested and compared. Because we work with many microschoools, we can purchase these tools and curricula at a discount, which means these cost-savings can be passed on to your families.

START-UP SUPPORT

Work with our team to make sure you're fully prepared to open your microschoool. We can assist with background checks, instructional options, planning initial assessments for learners, understanding data, setting up space, and more.

LEARNING OPTIONS

Collaborate with our team to gain a better understanding of the various learning options available for your microschoool. In addition to our suggestions, we can support you in identifying alternative options and making a selection that tailors to the specific needs of your learners.

TRAININGS

We offer trainings for microschoooling leaders covering areas such as operational necessities, smart growth, alternative ways to measure effectiveness, and more.

LEARNER INTAKE & BASELINE ASSESSMENT HELP

Partner with us to receive as-needed administrative support, including initial learner assessments and mastery-level placement decisions.

COMMUNITY

Access our community of microschoool leaders and families to share ideas and resources. We host in-person and online forums to facilitate the exchange of ideas and best practices, as well as creating a space for community-driven question and answers.



ROADMAP TO STARTING

1

INDEPENDENT, PARTNERSHIP, OR CORPORATE NETWORK

Take a look at the information on our website, microschoolingcenter.org, regarding three different tracks we see for microschooling - independent, partnership, and corporate networks. Give some thought to what sounds like a good fit to you.

2

FILL OUT OUR MICROSCHOOLING LEADER QUESTIONNAIRE

Filling out the microschooling leader form at microschoolingcenter.org will help us get a better idea of what you are building. One of our team members will reach out via email after you fill out the form. We will provide you with helpful resources and schedule an initial call at a time that fits your schedule.

3

CONSIDER SPACE, LICENSING AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS

If you will be operating a microschool, it is important that you understand your obligations as they relate to licensing, background checks, and other requirements. The space that you plan to operate out of will factor into these obligations as well. We review what you need to know so that you can make an informed decision that is right for you.

4

SHARE WITH FAMILIES

Talk about your idea with families in your community. Get a sense of who is interested, who your learners will be, and what their needs are. We can help you hold informational sessions and connect with families.

5

TRAINING THAT WORKS FOR YOU

The National Microschooling Center has a series of trainings designed with the unique needs of microschooling leaders in mind. These trainings are created to help guide you from pre-launch through growing your microschool.

6

SELECT LEARNING TOOLS

We are constantly studying a variety of world-class learning tools and curricula in order to offer you the best insight possible. We also have access to different licenses for learning tools, allowing you to use these top-of-the-line tools at an affordable price. We can help understand what options might be best for your learners, and if you decide you don't want to use a curriculum or digital learning tools, we are happy to help you think through a solution that works for you and your learners!

LEARNING TOOLS

While your options are vast, the choices below are some of the most popular curricula and learning tools that we have a high seen microschoools thrive with.

A beautiful strength of microschoooling is the ability to build a program to meet the academic needs of individual learners, to meet them "where they are." With that in mind, here are some of our favorite tools we are happy to work with you to integrate into your model, along with any others you might be considering:



Lexia, available for grades K-8, is an adaptive literacy program. Lexia helps learners read, write, and speak with confidence. This adaptive learning tools comes with a variety of lessons and resources for educators.



Zearn is a teacher-designed, child-likeable math learning tool and curriculum, built upon foundational learning practices, where kids learn independently in lively, self-paced lessons. Zearn also provides whole and small group lessons plans and instruction.



One of the fastest-growing and exciting new forces in American education, Outschool engages and inspires learning through a wide variety of classes and subjects so learners can dive deeper into their favorite interests.



Core Knowledge provides comprehensive, content-rich learning materials based on the Core Knowledge Sequence. Student readers, teacher guides, activity books, and other materials are available for Language Arts, History and Geography, and Science. Also check out E.D. Hirsch's "What Your ___ Grader Needs to Know" series.

We can help you select, and change, your learning tools to meet the needs of your specific learners. Contact us today for a more comprehensive selection of options designed to meet the needs of your learners!

CORPORATE NETWORK MICROSCHOOLS

When considering developing your microschool model and learning tools, you might want to think through corporate network microschools. These can oftentimes provide framework to structure your microschools around, as well as learning tools and curriculum built into the cost to affiliate.

We work with microschool leaders who love corporate networks and never want to leave, and others who say that the corporate network model gave them the structure they needed for the first year or so, and then they chose to end their affiliation and branch out on their own after that.

There are many things to consider when looking at corporate network microschooling, such as cost, tools offered, timeframe of commitment, trainings required, how much flexibility you would like vs. how much flexibility offered.

We have good relationships with many of the corporate networks and are happy to talk you through the options and connect you to the right team member at these networks. Some examples of corporate networks are:

ACTON ACADEMY

"Acton Academy is dedicated to inspiring each child to see life as a Hero's Journey. Acton [utilizes] adaptive game based programs for core skills, socratic discussions to strengthen critical thinking, hands on real world projects, and life changing apprenticeships."

prenda

"Prenda is a unique education option that connects students with local microschools. Caring individuals, called Guides, run these microschools from their homes or other suitable locations while Prenda provides the learning experience, state standard-aligned curriculum, and supportive community."



"Wildflower is an ecosystem of decentralized Montessori micro-schools that support children, teachers, and parents. Wildflower aspires to give all children and families the opportunity to choose high quality, beautiful learning environments as they follow life's unfolding journey."



"KaiPod organizes pods of 8-10 students who live close by and are all enrolled in an online school. We provide a location for parents to drop their students off, and staff those locations with a KaiPod Coach. KaiPod Coaches are responsible for making the space a place where students are safe, can focus and complete assignments, and have fun together."

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1 DO I NEED TEACHING EXPERIENCE?

You don't need to be a licensed teacher or have teaching experience in order to open a microschool. Many high-quality microschools start with passionate parents and individuals from a wide variety of professional backgrounds.

2 WHERE CAN I HOST A MICROSCHOOL?

The options can be endless. Many microschools are hosted in store fronts, dance or art studios, Houses of Worship, homes and more!

3 DO MY OWN CHILDREN NEED TO ATTEND?

Not necessarily. You can host a microschool without enrolling your own children.

4 HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

Depending on the format and services provided by you to your learners, the cost for students will vary.



CONTACT US

ARE YOU READY TO GET STARTED?

If you have any questions, concerns, or if you would like to learn more, please reach out!



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