

The Educated Child (Spheres of Living)

By studying and synthesizing the work of some of the best thinkers of our time, we have developed a portrait of the educated child around what are called “Spheres of Living.” We are about more than simply preparing kids for jobs or getting them into college. We are about preparing them for a life that is defined within the following spheres: learner, civic, cultural, economic, and personal. Each Sphere includes a list of descriptors that define the aspects of life within that sphere. The Spheres of Living are represented graphically. The narrative describes in detail the indicators within each of the Sphere of Living.

- ***Learner***

Students must know how to learn. The educated child is *curious* about new things. She has the confidence to be *self-directed* in her approach to learning. The educated child knows how to acquire quality information and is able to *synthesize* information from multiple sources. She uses what she has learned to fuel her *passion* for making a greater contribution in work, personal, and social endeavors.

- ***Civic***

Students need to be prepared to contribute as *citizens* within a community. The educated child is *engaged* in community service as a *steward* of community traditions and mores. The educated child upholds positions of authority and influence by embracing the *ethical* high ground. The educated child, because of his contributions, makes his community a better place to live and work.

- ***Cultural***

Students need to understand the world and its inhabitants. The educated child is *enlightened* in his understanding of differing worldviews. *Humanistic* in his treatment of others, the educated child demonstrates *respect* for those different from himself by practicing *empathy* and endeavoring to understand multiple points of view. The human condition contains powerful emotions that are not easily represented in words. The educated child explores his understanding of emotion through the aesthetic experience and uses this understanding to build *empathic connections* with those who are different from him.

- ***Economic***

Students need to be prepared for a life of work. The educated child is a *producer* and is engaged in work about which she is passionate. The educated child demonstrates a *work ethic* and understands the importance of serving the greater good, placing the needs of others before the needs of self. The educated child seeks ways to make significant *contributions* to her field of work. She also has the skills to *evaluate* goods and services in order to make quality economic decisions.

- ***Personal***

The educated child has a strong sense of self. She maintains a sense of overall *wellness* by nourishing herself mentally, physically, socially, and emotionally. The educated child develops and maintains healthy relationships through empathic *connections*. She is *reflective* and *balanced* in her approach to life and realizes that her talents are gifts that come with responsibility. In this sense, the educated child is *spiritual*.

By understanding the educated child through the Spheres of Living, we are doing more than preparing students to make a living; we are preparing them to make a life.