

# THE HEART & SOLE OF EDUCATION

Self-Organizing Learning Environments (SOLEs) draw on children's natural curiosity, creating a dynamic space for students to learn, interact and develop critical problem-solving skills.

Here are three major benefits to SOLE and three steps to help you begin your own SOLE journey in the classroom.

## SOLE BENEFITS



Students develop critical thinking, creativity, collaboration and communication skills.



Students build motivation and independence, as they want to answer the "Big Question" and present to the class.



Teachers shift their role from knowledge provider to facilitator of student-led learning.

## 1. THE BIG QUESTION



In the Question Phase, the educator introduces the Big Question and shares some background or a short story around the question. It's important to remember not to lead students to an answer or in any way reveal what they should learn. Big questions should lead to more questions, and don't have a single right answer.

## 2. INVESTIGATION



Students organize into groups. In some cases, teachers have found that the process runs better when they assist in the formation of groups. From this moment, the educator simply let's the adventure begin! Students begin exploring the big question, jumping on computers and searching for answers. In some cases, open and supportive questions may help, and very important, offer encouragement.

## 3. REVIEW



Each group now presents their discoveries. This is one of the most important elements of the session as it gives them a chance to think more deeply about what they've found out, and how they discovered it. Ask the groups how they found their answers and what they think went well - as well as what they could do differently next time.