

By Debra Schow-Smith,  
LEGO Education Market Communications Coordinator  
dsmith@legoeducation.com

# Hands-on, heads-in learning

**A**t school, children participate in order to learn. At play, they learn in order to participate. But does it have to be like that?

Kjeld Kirk Kristiansen, owner of the LEGO® Group, once said that “children are (our) role models... that natural curiosity and exuberance they emanate when exploring and learning is an inspiration to us all. Children have taught us that the learning process functions best when it unites play, creativity, and imagination. . . .”

Play is a key element in a child's growth and development, and play stimulates the imagination, the emergence of ideas, and encourages creative expression. It is LEGO philosophy that “good play” enriches a child's life.

With this in mind, the LEGO Group has developed and marketed a wide range of products, all founded on the same basic philosophy of learning and developing through play.

LEGO Education combines the motivational advantage of LEGO Education sets with award-winning software and standards-based activity packs that integrate math, science, and technology into engaging hands-on classroom projects. By using LEGO Education products in a classroom, students play an active role in their own learning process.

Being part of a child's entire preschool and school career is the goal of LEGO Education. We want students to associate LEGO sets with fun-filled, rich



*The first LEGO® Education Center in North America opened in September 2007 near Dallas, Texas.*

learning experiences and for teachers and child-care professionals to see them as essential tools that engage students, challenging their creativity and significantly enhancing their knowledge and understanding.

LEGO Education products are developed specially for the education sector and contain material for both teachers and students. Our preschool portfolio is tailored to the needs of early childhood development and is especially good for stimulating role play and developing logic.

For older students, we offer a variety of theme-based sets that enable a multidisciplinary approach to teaching. We also offer sets that are designed to cover specific areas of the science and technology curriculum.

For students aged eight and above, we are experts in the field of educational robotics, providing LEGO MINDSTORMS® solutions designed through the assistance of educational partners National Instruments, Carnegie Mellon University's Robotics Academy, and Tufts University's Center for Engineering Educational Outreach.

LEGO Education knows the classroom environment and understands the needs of educators. To learn more about how you can incorporate the LEGO philosophy of learning through playing into your classroom, visit us online at [www.LEGOeducation.com](http://www.LEGOeducation.com) or call 800-362-4308 and ask to speak to your local LEGO Education representative. ■



*LEC Instructor Carolyn Finch observes as a student follows picture-based instructions to build an object. At right, a real-life setting made of LEGO® bricks and pieces is one of many creations that spark students' imagination.*