

## **A Case for Early Childhood Programs**

### ***Generation One Academy: A Position Statement***

Having experienced firsthand for five years and completed a research review across a wide array of topics, including child development (cognitive/brain, social-emotional, language and literacy) and factors that affect it (poverty, toxic stress, trauma, parenting, etc.), Generation One Academy states its position as follows:

1. Children three years of age and younger are not in our classes for childcare, rather they are students at one of the most critical stages of brain development.
2. There are teaching strategies for children, birth to five years, which Generation One staff are identifying, utilizing, and evaluating as best practices.
3. Statistics indicate that many 3- & 4-year-old students are not served in public or private Pre-Kindergarten, Head Start and Early Head Start programs in the Third Ward where Gen One derives its students; for children under age 3, even fewer programs, if any, are available for these children at their most critical stage of development. Gen One Academy stands ready to provide an education program for them, far more than mere child care.
4. These children must be served if the bonds of generational poverty are to be broken. Hence, new legislation and initiatives are needed to provide funding for more early educational programs. Faith-based organizations can raise a portion of the funds for start-up and on-going maintenance. However, like Gen One Academy, financial assistance is needed when no tuition is charged. As well, these new programs need guidance in decision-making regarding operating expenses, curriculum and instruction, program standards and evaluation, etc.
5. Generation One Academy is in its second year of serving 2-, 3-, 4-, and 5-year-old children in pre-kindergarten and kindergarten classes and has also conducted extensive research. Gen One Academy seeks the opportunity to serve as a research site where best practices can be developed, implemented, and reported, and guidance/training can be provided to early childhood programs starting up in other areas. New initiatives are needed to create and maintain such research/training sites. Gen One Academy stands ready to conduct seminars, even a conference, where early childhood educational topics can be discussed with a sharp focus on collaborative problem-solving paths forward.
6. Generation One has been serving the children and families of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward for 10 years and is fully committed to making a transformative difference in their lives. We welcome any discussion on this most crucial subject.

*Mike Malkemes*  
*Founder/President*  
*Generation One*

**The mission of Generation One is to physically and spiritually rebuild the  
Third Ward by coordinating volunteer skills, talents, and resources.**

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