



EST. 2005

# HUDSONWAY IMMERSION SCHOOL

The Unique Challenges (and Joys!) of  
Early Childhood Mandarin Immersion

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# HudsonWay Immersion School

- NYC/NJ's first full-day immersion school
- 14-year history
- Serves 200+ students in Preschool to Grade 5, expanding to middle school in the fall, 2019
- Two campuses - New York City and Stirling, New Jersey



- Early Childhood Program (5 days per week)
  - 2's – half or full day at 100% in target language
  - 3's – half or full day with 90:10 model
  - Pre-K – full day 90:10

# Brain Science

“Science indicates that babies’ brains are the best learning machines ever created, and that infants’ learning is time-sensitive. Their brains will never be better at learning a second language than they are between 0 and 3 years of age.”



Bach, D. (2017). *Bilingual babies: Study shows how exposure to a foreign language ignites infants’ learning.*  
<https://www.washington.edu/news/2017/07/17/bilingual-babies-study-shows-how-exposure-to-a-foreign-language-ignites-infants-learning>



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# Joy = Engaging Environment

- Class size and student-teacher ratio
- Teacher's role and students' role





# Theme-based Learning Environment

2s

3s

PreK



# Joy = Engaging Delivery



Multiple Intelligences



Total Physical Response  
Making Input  
Comprehensible



Backward Design –  
The Scientific Method

# Challenges

## Child

- Separation
- New to language
- Developing social skills
- Behaviors – biting, etc.

## Teacher

- ECE education
- ECE experience
- Cultural differences
- Pay/prestige

## Parent

- Immersion understanding
- Language ability
- How to support
- Differing expectations

## Administration

- Finding ECE teachers
- Training in ECE
- Retaining teachers
- Retaining students through elementary school and beyond



# Addressing the Challenges

