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
“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.”


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

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<th>Child</th>
<th>Teacher</th>
<th>Parent</th>
<th>Administration</th>
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<tr>
<td>Separation</td>
<td>ECE education</td>
<td>Immersion understanding</td>
<td>Finding ECE teachers</td>
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<td>New to language</td>
<td>ECE experience</td>
<td>Language ability</td>
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<td>Developing social skills</td>
<td>Cultural differences</td>
<td>How to support</td>
<td>Retaining teachers</td>
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<td>Behaviors – biting, etc.</td>
<td>Pay/prestige</td>
<td>Differing expectations</td>
<td>Retaining students through elementary school and beyond</td>
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**HudsonWay Immersion School**
Addressing the Challenges

- Parent/teacher communication
- Value ECE
- Training
- Tuition Discount/Pay
- Organization