



Cecilia Fernando

Early Years Educator

ABOUT ME

An adventurer at heart and an educator by passion, I bring a spirit of exploration to the early years — where curiosity sparks ideas, questions open doors, and discovery fuels learning.

Drawing on my experience with diverse learners, I curate engaging, inquiry-driven experiences that nurture agency, cultivate resilience, and honour the hundred ways children think, create, communicate, and make meaning.

Driven by intellectual curiosity and a commitment to continuous growth, I draw on reflection, collaboration, and purposeful experimentation to continually reimagine what learning can be.

My goal is to empower children to become confident, compassionate, and curious changemakers who make a meaningful difference in their communities and the world.

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Mumbai, India

ACADEMICS

New Zealand Tertiary College
Postgraduate Diploma in Education, 2018

State University of New York (SUNY)
Buffalo State Credits
Early Years Language Development, 2020 – 21

St. Margaret's Training College, Mumbai
Teacher's Training Course, 2003 – 2005

ICFAI University, Tripura
Diploma in Business Management, 2008

Mumbai University
Bachelor of Commerce, 2007

ENDORSEMENTS

Apple Teacher, 2020
Seesaw Ambassador, 2020, 2021

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

American School of Bombay (ASB)

2013 – Present

Kindergarten Associate Teacher

2026 – 2027

- Collaborated with the teaching team to co-construct, reflect and implement an inquiry-driven curriculum responsive to student needs and learning goals.
- Led whole-group and targeted small-group learning experiences across Literacy, Mathematics, and Units of Inquiry within an IB PYP framework.
- Designed and implemented differentiated learning experiences, leveraging formative and summative assessment data to identify diverse learning needs, monitor progress, and inform responsive instructional planning.

Pre-Kindergarten Teaching Assistant

2022 – 2026

Multiage (PreK 3 & PreK 4)

- Planned and facilitated developmentally appropriate learning experiences for multi-age learners (3–5), inspired by the Reggio Emilia Approach.
- Introduced and led a hydroponic garden program, fostering hands-on learning about plant growth, food origins, and environmental stewardship.
- Supported and assessed learners with diverse abilities and behavioural profiles, including those on the autism spectrum and selective mutism.
- Planned, taught, and assessed purposeful play-based experiences fostering emergent literacy and social-emotional growth integrated through the arts.
- Conceptualised and delivered technology-enriched learning opportunities through Bots Coding, Green Screen, and Design Lab experiences, supporting student agency and 21st-century skill development.
- Spearheaded the “Portfolios with Purpose” cross-grade task force to strengthen SeeSaw-based Student Growth Portfolios.
- Served on the CSR Review Team and as Pre-K CSR representative to engage young learners in community and environmental programs.
- Redesigned the Early Childhood Philosophy with Kindergarten colleagues and school leadership, aligning it with current values and practices.

Performing Arts Teaching Assistant/Theatre Manager

Middle and High School (Grades 6 – 12)

2013 – 2019

Elementary (PreK to Grade 5)

2019 – 2022

- Co-pioneered grade-level atelier spaces in the elementary, creating environments that serve as the ‘third teacher’.
- Assisted Pre-K–12 performing arts learning in theatre/drama, music and movement, supporting the delivery of arts-based learning experiences.
- Stepped into a lead instructional role for Pre-K–5 performing arts during COVID-19, ensuring continuity through adaptive and innovative practices.
- Managed the full production cycle for middle and high school theatre, coordinating logistics, rehearsals and high-calibre showcases.

Our Lady Of Perpetual Succour High School

Homeroom Teacher (Grade 1)

2005 – 2006

- Assessed holistic development and independence through child-centred learning, fostering strong parent partnerships to support each child.
- Created and led an innovative math program that applies real-world concepts and hands-on activities to deepen student understanding.

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"The child has a hundred languages, a hundred hands, a hundred thoughts, a hundred ways of thinking, of playing, of speaking."

Loris Malaguzzi

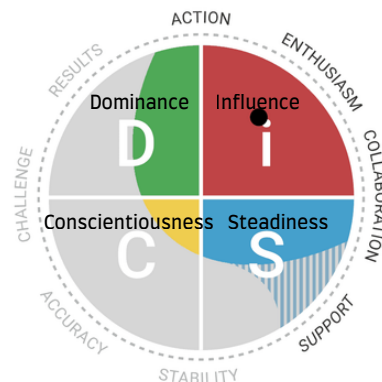
- CO-CURRICULAR TEACHING EXPERIENCE
- Led co-curricular activities for PreK–Grade 2, including Culinary Arts, Music & Movement, Yoga and Creative Lettering workshop.
 - Assistant Coach, Middle School ASIAC Badminton (2024; 2025; 2026). ASB competes in the American Schools in India Activities Conference (ASIAC) alongside American Embassy School New Delhi and American International School Chennai.
 - Led choreography for the Grade 4/5 musical “Go Fish”, supporting students in developing performance skills, teamwork, and artistic expression.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 2026 REGGIO Teacher’s Training Tour, Italy
- 2024 Each and Every Child (NAEYC)
- 2024 THRIVE Educators Conference (The KAUST School)
- 2023 Adaptive Schools Foundation Seminar
- 2022 Atelier in a Kit (Inspired by Reggio Emilia Approach)
- 2020 Design for Online Learning: Student Agency
- 2020 Design for Online Learning: Elementary
- 2020 Making the PYP Happen: Implementing agency (Singapore)

PERSONALITY PROFILE

Undertook Tony Robbins DISC Personality Test; insights gained on traits and motivators inform communication and teamwork style.



DISC Style – High I / Networker Profile

- Highly enthusiastic and naturally people-oriented
- Thrives in spaces that foster collaboration and openness
- Outgoing, optimistic, and consistently energetic
- Effective communicator and confident presenter
- Proficient in cultivating connections and networking
- Skilled in motivating, inspiring, and encouraging others

VOLUNTEER & COMMUNITY SERVICE

- New Life Church Bandra, Sunday School Teacher, 2014 – 2025
- Apni Shala Foundation, Project Khoj Co-teacher & Mental Health Ambassador 2020 – 2021
- Metro Ministries, Club Baloo Teacher, 2018 – 2019
- Hope Club Committee Member & Emcee, 2017 – 2019
- New Life Church Bandra, Alpha Group Teacher, 2017 – 2019
- LiveJam, Breakfree Tour Mumbai Co-Ordinator & Emcee, 2010 – 2017

REFERENCES

John Smithies

Head of American International School Dhaka

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Danielle Shakur

Associate Principal Jakarta Intercultural School

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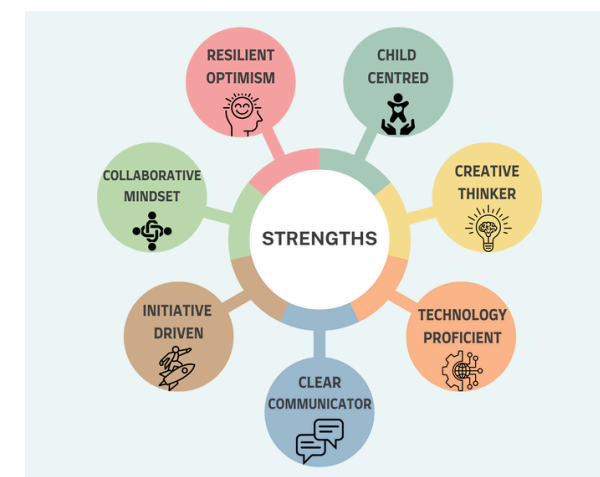
Angela Mee Lee

Atelierista | Co-founder Circles & Cycles, Mumbai

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PROFESSIONAL ATTRIBUTES

Key strengths highlighted through consistent feedback from colleagues and supervisors.



INTERESTS



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“Every child needs at least one adult who is irrationally crazy about him or her.”

– Urie Bronfenbrenner

COVER LETTER



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Mumbai, India



[Portfolio Link](#)

I am thrilled to submit my application for the Early Years Educator position at your institution. Over the past fourteen years at the American School of Bombay, my career has evolved from delivering Performing Arts instruction across Pre-K to High School as a specialist to my current role as a Kindergarten associate teacher, where I cultivate foundational learning and holistic development in young children. Every phase of my career has honed my pedagogical skills, but it is in the early years that I have discovered my true vocation—fostering meaningful connections with young children and nurturing their innate curiosity through joyful, inquiry-based, and hands-on learning experiences. I am now eager to advance into a lead teaching role, where I can leverage my years of experience, collaborative ethos, and deep passion for early childhood education to cultivate a dynamic, nurturing, and intellectually stimulating learning environment.

In the classroom, I have established a strong foundation in early childhood pedagogy, with a particular expertise in designing inquiry-rich learning environments that foster independence, collaboration, and discovery. As part of this approach, I launched a hydroponic garden initiative that immersed children in hands-on investigations of plant biology, food systems, and sustainability. This project bridged classroom learning with community engagement, enabling students to translate their discoveries into creative culinary explorations and tangible, real-world experiences.

I am passionate about leveraging technology to enrich learning and empower both students and colleagues. In addition to designing and facilitating student-led initiatives such as Bots Coding, Green Screen, and Design Lab, I have frequently served as a resource for staff, supporting the effective use of digital tools, streamlining data processes, and troubleshooting technical challenges. These experiences have strengthened my capacity to lead innovation, foster collaboration, promote digital literacy, and contribute to a culture of continuous improvement.

In recognition of my organisational strengths, collaborative leadership, and proficiency with digital learning platforms, the leadership team entrusted me with launching an elementary schoolwide initiative. I spearheaded the “Portfolios with Purpose” cross-grade task force to strengthen SeeSaw-based Student Growth Portfolios, elevating student agency, deepening parent partnership, and enhancing the visibility of learning across the elementary division.

I am intentional about being fully present with each child, attuned to their unique needs, and deliberate in crafting opportunities that invite exploration, questioning, and conceptual understanding. My colleagues often describe me as a creative and reflective practitioner, recognised not only for strong communication skills but also for a collaborative spirit that enriches curriculum development and strengthens team practice. Notably, I collaborated with the Pre-kindergarten and kindergarten colleagues alongside school leadership to revamp the Early Childhood Philosophy, aligning it with modern pedagogical principles and school values.

I am eager to bring this blend of experience, energy, and passion to your institution. I see this role as an opportunity to deepen my impact as an educator while continuing to grow professionally and contribute meaningfully to a dynamic early years community. For a broader overview of my professional journey and work, please visit my [digital portfolio](#). To explore my practice and experiences in early years education, please navigate to the “Homeroom” section.

Thank you for considering my application. I look forward to discussing how my skills, values, and vision align with your aspirations for early childhood education.

Yours sincerely,
Cecilia Fernando