We are born curious. We wonder if dreams are real, where the sky ends, why we die. We don't think of these questions as philosophical, but they are. Philosophy doesn't happen only in colleges and universities; it is alive within all of us, beginning early in our lives.

Prompted by books, art, music, and film, and through engaging in games and activities, young students explore important issues already on their minds – the meaning of justice and fairness, the relationship between freedom and community, and the nature of friendship.

Rather than teach philosophy, PLATO's approach is to do philosophy.

Not every young student will become a professional philosopher. But all students should have the opportunity to cultivate philosophical habits of mind that nurture lifelong learning and encourage us to become more thoughtful friends, neighbors, and citizens.

I really like how [philosophy] makes people think in a somewhat new way, such as looking inside, instead of just looking out. It's a different kind of thought process.

- Philosophy student, Nova High School, Seattle

I have watched students who never participate in anything at school become excited and exuberant over the chance to express their ideas.

- High school teacher

WHY PHILOSOPHY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE?

SUPPORT PLATO!

Your donations make our work possible—https://www.plato-philosophy.org/individual-donate/
PLATO’s Vision

A future in which all young people confidently ask questions, express well-reasoned views, and welcome the perspectives of others.

Opportunities for educators and administrators include:
- Workshops
- Intensive classes
- Whole school programs
- Webinars
- A biennial conference
- A wealth of free online lesson plans and other resources

What is PLATO?

PLATO’s mission is to nurture young people’s curiosity, critical thinking, and desire to explore big questions, through philosophy and ethics programs for students, educators, and families.

PLATO’s innovative work serves thousands of students, teachers, and community members nationally and internationally. Its programs foster analytic and reasoning skills and encourage self-confidence and respect for diverse viewpoints.

We believe every student deserves the opportunity to engage in philosophical conversations that matter to them.

We Offer:

- Philosopher in-residence programs
- Philosophy classes for young students
- Opportunities for educators and administrators
- Programs for parents and families to inspire deeper conversations at home
- Grants for innovative philosophy and ethics programs
- Graduate, undergraduate, and other programs at the University of Washington
- Two open-access journals

Contact Us!

info@plato-philosophy.org
www.plato-philosophy.org

I like having my voice valued.
- Ten-year-old philosophy student

I have watched students who never participate in anything at school become excited and exuberant over the chance to express their ideas.
- High school teacher

This program transformed my teaching. I used to just give answers and now I mostly listen for questions.
- Elementary school teacher