



Play Based Philosophy

Playing to Learn/Learning to Play. High quality early childhood programs teach children to think creatively so they may succeed in a complex and ever-changing world. Purposeful play is developmentally appropriate and a significant element of any early childhood program. The following emphasizes the importance of play in a child's intellectual, social, emotional and physical development. Play is a way of learning for children. During a typical preschool day there will be structured and unstructured periods, enabling children to learn through at their own rate.

Values that support learning through play include:

- Children are viewed as thinkers, reflecting about their world
- Purposeful play is when children learn through the process of their efforts
- Children gain knowledge by building on a path of ever increasing knowledge
- Children are encouraged to make choices and practice individual decision-making

Learning environments support purposeful play by:

- Blocks of various sizes and materials
- Materials and time for dramatic, imaginative play
- Manipulative and table toys
- Art materials and tools to explore
- Sensory play materials, including sand and water
- A library area • Music and movement activities
- Cooking experiences
- Computer exploration
- Outdoor and gross motor play
- A quiet area for the child who needs to be alone
- Ample and rich language and print
- Writing tools and materials