

MISSION

At Growing With Pride we believe in the value and uniqueness of each child. As caregivers and educators, our mission is to work closely with families to provide a safe, nurturing, friendly environment that promotes each child's own individual social, emotional, physical, and intellectual development. We strive to provide appropriate learning environments through play, to help foster a child's natural desire to explore, discover, create, laugh, love and become lifelong learners who can grow with pride.

PHILOSOPHY

Our program is built around the concept that children are born ready to learn. As caregivers, we strive to create a learning environment that is safe, stimulating and encouraging. Our hope is to be a significant source of support for each family while providing a caring learning environment for each child. The goals of the program strongly reflect an abiding sense of respect for children, their uniqueness, culture, and individual development. Children develop knowledge of their world through play, active interactions with caregivers, peers, materials, and events.

❖ Children learn best through:

- **Experiences-** Children learn by doing, using their senses, exploring their environment of people, things, places and events. They learn from first-hand and concrete experiences as well as vicarious forms of exploration. Active engagement with things and ideas promotes mental activity that helps students retain new learning and integrate it with what they already know.
- **Consistency & Positive guidance-** Routine is important, setting boundaries and consistency tames chaos and builds strong relationships and good behavior. We use compassion and respect to guide children to positive outcomes, provide security, guidance and love. We base this principle off the theory of Love and Logic.

Our curriculum is based on years of experience. It has been used, adapted and customized to our programs since 1993. It was developed from a collaboration of professionals in early childhood education, and added to by our current staff of teachers. Our curriculum is based on a progressivist education model, with the theory that children learn best by playing. Derived from several models (including Head Start and High Scope), GWP has focused the areas of learning on 8 domains of development. These domains are the building blocks of our curriculum, ensuring our children are exposed to each area daily in the planned activities. We stress the importance of active learners; creating an atmosphere of exploration, experimentation, and discovery.

Learning environments at our school promote learning while having fun during the process. Our environments offer a rich variety of spaces, material and activities organized to promote children's active exploration and discovery. Our teachers encourage curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, promote cooperative social interactions, support individual creativity and diversity and provide opportunities for children to use their growing bodies to develop a sense of autonomy and self-worth. Through a mixture of hands-on experiences, group activities, and individual play, our children develop the intellectual, social, emotional, and physical skills necessary for all aspects of life and growth.

Our program implements a consistent daily routine that includes both teacher and child directed activities. Children spend the majority of their day involved in a variety of developmentally appropriate practices and activities including: art, block building, dramatic play, music, sorting and matching games, listening to stories, movement activities, science/math activities and large motor play.

Learning begins in the family, continues in early care and education settings, and depends on the relationships we cultivate with each of our families through open communication and a growing partnership between parents and teachers. We encourage parent involvement through classroom volunteer opportunities, parent committees, and family functions.

Learning proceeds at different rates in each area, and each child. We evaluate each child's developmental progress through ongoing observation and assessment, to ensure that the individual needs of each child in our care are being met. Using the Early Learning Frame Work COR and ASQ screening.

For a child with special needs, we work to provide the best care possible while helping the family explore all additional resources to enhance the child's well-being.

Children here are encouraged to be children; the individual progress, growth, and development of every child is important to us.

Our dedicated staff is hired based on their belief in our philosophy and their qualifications as teachers and educators including their health and safety certifications. Our staff is committed to their ongoing education and growth in this industry and exceed the standards for further education goals each year.

We are dedicated to providing a warm and loving family environment for children. As we view the Center as a family, the importance of family bonds cannot be understated; we want everyone involved - children, parents, and staff alike - to feel like they are part of our extended family. We are looking forward to providing you and your child with the care you both deserve.