

Here We Grow! Children's Center

Philosophy Statement and Center Philosophy

Children are the future. There is no disputing that and therefore they need and deserve all of the opportunities and experiences we can give them in order for them to become productive members of society. We must give them the guidance and tools to become kind, tolerant and resilient human beings. We can accomplish this in many ways.

Teachers and families need to be a partnership since we have the same goal; giving our children the best experiences and upbringing we can. We must involve parents in what we are doing for their children and encourage participation and input as much as possible. Parents often need encouragement and guidance as well. It is critical to make them feel just as connected to their child's world outside of the home as it is for the child to feel connected to their outside world.

Children learn through virtually every experience and through all of their senses. Learning happens every minute of everyday and it is our responsibility and pleasure to create and provide experiences that a child may not have the chance to get in their everyday lives. It is also our responsibility to do this safely and with the guidance of loving, caring, patient adults who are nurturing role models for them.

Children need the time and materials to really explore and connect with the activities they are provided. There is no rush to complete a project or craft. Free play, indoors and out, is where children will spend much of their time. Play is critical to a child's development in

essentially every area; social, emotional, physical, and intellectual. Teachers can capitalize on the time children are playing as useful insight for assessments and guidance. The teachers joyfully participate with children each and every time an opportunity presents itself. This promotes a greater learning experience and will help stimulate a child's natural curiosity. Teachers offer thoughtful, open ended questions and really listen and elaborate on children's responses. This practice perpetuates the learning and allows for a natural expansion of the curriculum based on the thoughts and concepts that children are exploring.

It is the responsibility of all of the educators at Here We Grow! to provide a center that is a safe community for the children and families, one that is full of opportunities for play, adventure and investigation. Our center promotes positive self concept, and positive social and emotional skills, while taking into account the child's physical and emotional needs. We help guide children as they learn how to express themselves in words, actions and creativity. This is all accomplished through the activities and materials provided, and also through the role modeling and guidance of the adults present. Our center will instill a lasting love for learning!