

PHILOSOPHY

The philosophy of our program is to help children grow and develop in a secure and safe environment. We want to provide a very happy “surrogate home environment” for children. All children will be treated with complete respect and dignity, and consideration will be given to their individuality and uniqueness.

Our school environment is a safe and comfortable place for all children. It is designed to provide opportunities for socialization, creative activities and emotional, physical and cognitive development. Through a variety of hands-on experiences the children will gain confidence in their ability to explore, question, discover, solve problems, think critically, and take risks. Such an environment is based on the following.

1. **Children grow and develop at different rates.** Each child’s rate of development is unique and different from any other child’s. The rate of development is often different from the child’s chronological age.
2. **Each child is a unique individual:** He/she must be appreciated for his/her own strengths and abilities.
3. **Play is a child’s way of working and learning.** Through cooperative play experiences, children learn to discover, reason, problem solve, employ critical thinking skills, and develop social skills.
4. **Children learn from each other.** They learn to experience a sense of responsibility and respect for themselves and others.
5. **A rich learning environment, designed with exploration and discovery, is essential.** Approaches to teaching and learning include time to make choices, a thematic and integrated curriculum, and materials and activities that are open-ended and flexible.

