

My Professional Philosophy

By: Tami Raleigh

The early years of a child's life, their minds are very absorbent. I believe learning is happening in every minute of their lives. Children are naturally curious and eager to learn. It is our job as teachers to observe what interests them and plan attractive work. With every environment and every experience, they are developing skills for later in life. These include: physical, social/emotional, cognitive and communication. Therefore, the goal of my program is to make this ongoing learning experience safe, positive, and fun, nurturing the whole child as I strive to guide them into the next stage of development with confidence in themselves and an excitement for continued learning.

Children need assurance of being nurtured, loved and respected for while they are enjoying an educational environment. I am very passionate about teaching children and guiding them through their absorbent years. Security and trust are very important components of my relationship with each child. Children need to feel secure and trust you to allow you to help them develop.

Each young child is unique with different interests, backgrounds, and developmental stages, but all carry an interest in exploring and learning. Children want to be independent; it is our obligation, as teachers, to guide them in performing tasks.

When planning my lessons, I strive to make them developmentally appropriate. The classroom belongs to the children. It is their environment where they are welcome to choose any work or material that they are interested in and have the opportunity to master new challenges through activities that are attractive to them, thus building their self-esteem as they develop and learn.

Children should be given choices, responsibilities, and opportunities to initiate their own learning. I believe observations and assessments are excellent tools to use when planning curriculum. Observations not only aide in creating the curriculum but also give insight into the development, knowledge and skill levels of each individual child. This also provides opportunity to adjust lessons where needed to allow each child to be successful.

I believe the environment is an important role in the success of an early childhood program. It needs to enhance the children's interests in all developmental areas. Learning in an early childhood environment is done most successfully through centers that can be visited, explored, and revisited again and again. The environment should take into consideration the social skills, communication skills, physical abilities or challenges, and learning styles of the children being served.

Parent involvement in the classroom is important and parents are welcome in the classroom anytime. Observing their child in the classroom environment may provide parents with more knowledge of their child's development while providing the child with an opportunity to make their parents proud. Parent and teacher communication is vital. We are all aiming toward the same goal...to **nurture, guide, teach and help children become a success.**