

THE KINDERGARTEN PHILOSOPHY

Kindergarten is the initial transition from informal learning experiences at home to schooling. The program is based upon, and extends from, the child's first years of life within the family and community and accepts and reflects the habits, attitudes, and values of both.

Kindergarten depends upon parent and community involvement in the operation of the program. Communication between parent, teacher, and child is very important.

Kindergarten is a carefully planned program of unstructured and structured learning experiences that help each child to develop physically, socially, emotionally, culturally, and intellectually. It is important to provide a program that balances development in each area and emphasizes the process of learning.

Kindergarten provides a warm, friendly environment where each child works to meet personal needs according to ability and previous experience. Activities emphasize the strengths, skills, and interests children bring to school, and help to stimulate new interests, extend experiences, and strengthen areas needing growth.

Kindergarten offers opportunities for children to learn through the manipulation of concrete materials. Experiences involve all of the child's senses, and develop through playing, observing, exploring, experimenting, and discovering. These activities form the foundation upon which abstract concepts are built.

Kindergarten focuses on developing the child's ability to understand and use language. Language is used to reinforce a variety of experiences that extend vocabulary, develop listening and speaking skills, and build concepts.

