

MY PHILOSOPHY OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION



As a teacher of young children, I would like to help them grow in self-confidence. To do this successfully I would like to help the children to develop a very positive self-concept. The vehicle to effectively help develop self with young children is play. Judith Turner in her book "Creative Play" says;

"Play is vital to the normal development of a child; he/she learns more through play than by any other means". (Page 6)

To gain an understanding of how valuable play is to children, think of the differences between a baby, a toddler and a preschooler. The changes that occur are not just physical; here is a growth in social/emotional skills, language and cognitive levels. These developmental areas are given a chance to develop within a kindergarten setup.

The children are continually at play inside and outside. They are playing in a number of situations. They can be active/passive, involved in individual or group play and they can be noisy or quiet. I programme to facilitate these situations and timetable to allow for a flow of movement to enable a variety of play situations to occur. There is a balance between teacher directed activities and activities that are child directed.

Kindergarten is a rich learning environment that provides children with opportunities to explore and discover how they fit in the world about them. They come to kindergarten from home with this curiosity quality. I will try to nurture and encourage their enthusiasm.

I do like to have parent involvement. I believe that children develop at different rates in the areas of physical, social, emotional and cognitive domains.

Language is an important area of development. This is reflected in many areas of a kindergarten class, for example at mat sessions, news telling, the puzzle area, the home corner and at outside time. This is an ongoing process of communication.

I would like to be able to look back at the end of a teaching year and say with satisfaction that "my kindergarten" centre has provided the children with a secure, stimulating environment that has enabled them to enjoy their learning experiences.

Mary Genovese.