

Program Philosophy Statement

Example 1:

We at, Little Children's Child Care believe that our program and services offer developmentally appropriate curriculum and we strive to enhance social, emotional, physical and intellectual growth in young children. Our program fosters curiosity, creativity and self-esteem by taking into account children's abilities and interests. Child initiated and teacher supported play is an essential component of our program. (Used as an example on the Developing a Program Philosophy document to align with the Early Childhood Indicators of Progress (ECIP))

Example 2:

At our Center, you step into the wondrous world of young children where imagination and self-expression flourish. Our teachers encourage children to use critical thinking and problem solving skills in their daily experiences. The classroom environment is carefully designed to reflect the children's interests and to cultivate positive self-image, independence, and interdependence. We foster equal opportunity in learning and education for all children regardless of race, creed, sex, religion, national origin, or physical condition.

Example 3:

Little Children Child Care's education program is grounded in traditional and well-established early childhood educational philosophies. Therefore, our program contributes understanding that support teacher's in maintaining a cohesive purpose: improvement of the life chances of culturally diverse children through formal education.

We strive to foster an ethic of social responsibility among our children and we urge students to acquire and use all the resources of their culture that can be implemented into our program.

Example 4:

The mission of our program is to prepare teachers who demonstrate the commitment and capacity to reform schooling and education for all young children's educational needs.

As educators, we believe that all children have a right to respect, regardless of their abilities. We provide an environment that is safe yet stimulating, and a curriculum that challenges them through creativity, self-choice, and learning through play. Therefore, our program supports the following philosophy about children and their growth:

- √ Each child individually learns in different ways, at a different pace, by different approaches and at different ages of maturation.
- √ A positive self-concept develops in children who can fulfill their goals, accomplish tasks on their own, and cooperate with others and receive positive feelings from others.
- √ Self-disciplined children can direct their efforts towards fulfillment of their goals. Children learn self-discipline through understanding, commitment, and reinforcement.
- √ Self-reliance is achieved by allowing children to do as many things for themselves as they are capable of, but keeping in mind new skills.

Example 5:

Reggio Emilio philosophy is based on the recognition that young children have many ways in which they can express themselves, and that we, as educators, must tap into those ways and engage the children in their learning.

Example 6:

We believe that children experience the greatest growth when they feel secure and wanted. Therefore, We at Little Children Child Care will provide a warm, caring, comfortable and safe environment for our children. Together, we will establish routines that are predictable and consistent. All children will be treated with gentleness, honesty and respect. We will encourage them to treat others in this manner. Our classrooms cultivate an unbiased atmosphere where children and parents are encouraged to challenge their individual paradigms and subsequently see society through a lens that celebrates diversity of thought and culture.

We are committed to children learning and believe that educators are important role models. Therefore, we use modeling as a vital tool in our classrooms. To maintain an atmosphere where children feel comfortable and confident, we use constructive guidance and positive reinforcement. We feel it is also necessary to establish and clearly define reasonable limits with logical consequences. The children are encouraged to take ownership in shaping our classroom dynamics through openly sharing their work, ideas and personalities which will enrich their peers and foster their intellectual development.

Little Children Child Care advocates open communication with parents, for they ultimately play the most vital role in their child's intellectual development. As much as we love to care for and guide children, we believe that parents should also be encouraged to be active participants in their children's education. Parents and teacher share a common priority: providing the best that they possibly can for the child. Working together, we believe that optimum development will be obtained.

Example 7:

The American Montessori Society is committed to promoting quality Montessori education for all children from birth to 18 years based on these key concepts:

- The aim of Montessori education is to foster competent, responsible, adaptive citizens who are lifelong learners and problem solvers.
- Learning occurs in an inquiring, cooperative, nurturing atmosphere. Students increase their own knowledge through self- and teacher-initiated experiences.
- Learning takes place through the senses. Students learn by manipulating materials and interacting with others. These meaningful experiences are precursors to the abstract understanding of ideas.
- The individual is considered as a whole. The physical, emotional, social, aesthetic, spiritual, and cognitive needs and interests are inseparable and equally important.
- Respect and caring attitudes for oneself, others, the environment, and all life are necessary.

Example 8:

Marie Montessori School of the Golden Gate Philosophy: Dr. Montessori believed that each individual human being has an innate unique talent which, when fulfilled, is the individual's essential contribution to life and the human community on this planet. It is their purpose in life. To discover his or her unique talent, each child needs to be exposed to experiences pertaining to all facets of life. To this end, Dr. Montessori designed manipulative materials for all subject areas, activities which children experience sensorially and interactively in a multi-age and multi-ethnic classroom setting. Freedom within limits leads children to responsible choices, self-discipline, and self-respect. Self-respect leads to respect for others. We are dedicated to fulfilling the ideals of Maria Montessori, who in 1948 and 1950, earned Nobel Peace Prize nominations for "Education for Peace."