



## STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

We believe that children learn by doing and that play is their way of learning about their world. They acquire knowledge about the physical and social worlds in which they live through playful interaction with objects and people. Therefore, children at WCNS are provided concrete learning activities with materials and people relevant to their own life experiences. A wide variety of equipment and materials for exploration and discovery fills spacious classrooms.

Our daily program for all classes offers painting, singing, climbing, building, story time, snack time and dress-up. In addition, children may select their own activities from among a variety of learning areas the teacher prepares. These include dramatic play, games and small manipulatives, blocks, water and sand play, books, art and music. Special themes are also highlighted to encourage new play patterns and provide further opportunity to develop cooperative and problem solving skills. Children are encouraged to be mentally and physically active. The curriculum is balanced between large and small muscle play, indoor and outdoor play, and teacher directed and child initiated play. Language, literacy, and math are integrated across all settings.

The learning environment presents an atmosphere of warmth and mutual respect. We believe that children deserve to have a sense of belonging, a sharing of good feelings and respect, and opportunities to develop self-reliance and self-discipline. Our child to adult ratio is low, there is a lead teacher, an assistant teacher and one or more parent helpers in each class. This allows for individual and small group play.

Each day, the parent helpers contribute a very important part of the educational program facilitation. Parents of all children are involved. Parent participation exists at all levels of the administration of the school from policy making to playground maintenance. The parent commitment and spirit of cooperation are basic to the philosophy of WCNS.

It is our role as a community to provide opportunities for children to experience personal relationships, accept responsibility, ponder and reflect, satisfy curiosity, solve problems, deal with frustration and disappointment, explore creativity and imagination, and most of all, enjoy themselves while pursuing their natural instincts.