

# Our Core Values

## 1. Respect for the Child

We see every child as capable, curious, and worthy of respect. We listen to children, honor their ideas, and support their individual pace and development.

## 2. Independence and Agency

We encourage children to make choices, care for themselves and their environment, and take an active role in their learning.

## 3. Learning Through Exploration

We value hands-on experiences, open-ended materials, creativity, and meaningful projects. We give children time to investigate, revisit ideas, and learn through discovery.

## 4. A Thoughtfully Prepared Environment

We create calm, welcoming, accessible spaces that invite children to explore independently, work together, and care for their surroundings.

## 5. Relationships and Community

We believe children learn through trusting relationships. We build strong connections among children, educators, families, and the wider community.

## 6. Many Ways to Learn and Express Ideas

We value children's many ways of communicating and creating—through words, movement, art, building, dramatic play, music, and more.

## 7. Observation and Reflection

We pay close attention to children's interests, questions, and progress. We use observation and documentation to guide teaching and make learning visible to children and families.

## 8. Inclusion and Belonging

We welcome each child and family, honor their identities and experiences, and work to ensure everyone feels they belong.

### What This Means for Staff

Staff are expected to:

Treat children as capable people and speak with them respectfully.

Offer meaningful choices while maintaining clear, caring boundaries.

Prepare and maintain inviting environments and accessible materials.

Observe before stepping in, then offer support that encourages independence.

Follow children's interests and use open-ended questions to extend their thinking.

Document learning through notes, photographs, children's words, or displays, following privacy policies.

Work in partnership with families and colleagues.

Support children's safety, wellbeing, and sense of belonging.

Our shared commitment:

We create a respectful, thoughtfully prepared community where children are trusted as capable learners, encouraged to explore, and supported to grow together.

