



Dear Parents,

Welcome to the Transitional Kindergarten class! The Transitional Kindergarten is an early childhood program that builds a bridge between the preschool years and traditional kindergarten, providing time for students to build the necessary social and academic skills for success throughout their school experience. The Transitional Kindergarten classroom design and curriculum are based on the Developmental Philosophy of Learning. We look at children as individuals. Each child will be supported, encouraged and challenged at his or her individual level of development. We will guide the children in developing skills that are an essential part of everyday life. Our classroom and Multi-purpose Room are set up in the following learning centers:

Building Center	Sand/Water Table	Math Center
Writing Center	Meeting Area	Reading Loft
Listening Center	Dramatic Play	Science and Discovery
Fine Motor Play	Art	Music
Movement	Woodworking	Technology

In each center, you will find materials that pertain to the specific learning area. The *most important goal* of these centers is that they create a *fun, hands-on, stimulating* learning atmosphere in which the children are excited to *play*. With our care and guidance, the Developmental Philosophy encourages children to become decision makers and problem solvers. The children will develop positive self-esteem, confidence within themselves and a love for learning.

In the Transitional Kindergarten we also utilize the Responsive Classroom Approach. We believe in creating a caring community within the classroom that allows both social and academic learning to take place throughout the day. The children will be nurtured and guided as they become strong and ethical thinkers.

As we create the Transitional Kindergarten curriculum, we adhere to these seven beliefs of The Responsive Classroom Approach...

- The social curriculum is as important as the academic curriculum.
- How children learn is as important as what they learn.
- The greatest cognitive growth occurs through social interaction.
- Children need a set of social skills in order to be successful academically and socially.
- Knowing the children we teach is as important as knowing the content we teach.
- Knowing the parents of the children we teach is as important as knowing the children.

Our Transitional Kindergarten curriculum is designed to include engaging, and fun hands-on themes. Some of the themes we will study are All About Me, Fabulous Fall, Nursery Rhymes, Storytelling, Holidays, Winter, Penguins, Groundhog Day, The 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School, Dr. Seuss, Spring, Weather, Rainforest Explorers, Lifecycle of Butterfly, Gardening, Ocean and our Community. These themes will vary in length based on the needs and interests of the children. Each theme will incorporate learning experiences in literacy, math, science, history/social science, health education and the arts. We will also include themes that pertain to the particular interests of each child. Our goal is to get the children excited to learn!

Sincerely,  
Anne, Kathy, and Diane