



Gads Hill Center

Philosophy Statement

We believe that personal growth is what makes our lives worthwhile. With the ability to grow, each of us gains the opportunity to share our experiences of growth, and in that process of sharing we strengthen the families in which we live and, ultimately, the entire community. Based on our mission, our holistic approach, and on the partnerships we build with families and community, we create, implement and develop family support programs. Involved parents gain skills in decision making, teaching, management, advocacy, and other areas, positively effecting self-esteem, attitudes, behavior and employment. That, in turn, leads to a better environment for children and a healthy community. We value the role of teachers in the Center and believe that each one of us is a teacher for the children in our lives. We have a firm belief that teaching must be focused on our children's strengths rather than their weaknesses. Therefore the work of teachers is to educate others in understanding children's messages through their behavior and self-expression.

We believe in the importance of culture in our lives, for the self-esteem and strong sense of belonging it gives us, and strive to support the self-esteem of others by honoring them and their traditions. We believe that our ability to communicate across cultural boundaries is directly related to the welfare of families and the community.

We seek to recognize and build upon children's strengths with the goal of increasing those strengths. Children grow and change in a climate of collaboration in which staff trust children to be able to master difficult behavior. Physical (corporal) punishment and verbal abuse is not an option for staff and will never be tolerated. We believe that in order to provide high quality service to all our participants, it is necessary to have a competent and well-qualified staff who encourage the development of secure relationships between children and adults, while supporting children's cognitive, social, emotional, spiritual, and physical growth. Our asset-based educational curriculum for children at Gads Hill Center is founded upon theoretically sound principles of child development. We envision an environment in which the tools of technology support working, teaching, learning and communication in all areas of our lives.

At Gads Hill Center we recognize that all children are special and that they sometimes have special circumstances that constrain them from participating fully in programs. The Center is committed to supporting families while auxiliary are being accessed.

Guided by our beliefs, we build partnerships with families and the community, and based upon our philosophy, through our searching, nurturing and holistic approach, we respond to our community's needs.