

## **Heather's Teaching Philosophy:**

When young children are happy, safe, and having fun, they learn to their fullest ability. My teaching philosophy is to incorporate an element of fun in everything we do. With over 20 years of experience, I've learned that all aspects of early childhood development: social, emotional, physical, and intellectual are nurtured through planned play and building upon present knowledge. Storytime can advance pre-reading skills like rhyming, letter-sound recognition, and the ability to focus and introduce new concepts in an enjoyable way. A simple activity like planting seeds and observing their growth stimulates scientific questions while building with blocks establishes a foundation for understanding geometry. Repetitive play, such as putting a puzzle together, taking it apart, and then reassembling it, strengthens fine motor skills, perseverance, and patience. Imaginative group play boosts children's social skills, encourages cooperation, and provides a safe place to work through and process complex or scary experiences. Identifying the variety of styles of learning allows me to focus and build upon on what works for individual children and the class as a whole.

Every child is unique. By establishing respectful, caring bonds with children and their families and keeping communication open, I am able to establish a strong foundation for educating every child. My goal is to get to know our students, help them to feel secure, and be confident enough to explore and learn in the world around them.