

Parents want their children to be successful and most want to see us as allies in making their children successful.

Taking a step back, we see that our policymakerscast us in the role of getting children "college and career ready," which is widely viewed as the surest pathway to worldly success.

the far more important goal of education is to support children in creating a meaningful life.

It all begins with belonging It's within the context of community that we flourish. Community is an active living thing, something that requires the contributions of everyone. Success is inclusion.

FROM TEACHER TOM

Little Sunshine House



Parent Night 2023

Mission

The Mission of Little Sunshine House is to provide quality early care and education for ALL young children by drawing from current research, that supports the idea that children are constructing their learning, to provide a balance of intellectual stimulation, emotional support and physical nurturance.

- We draw inspiration from the schools of Reggio Emilia
- We include Best Practice in Early Child Development from NAEYC, QSOC and QCLA and research based organizations such as NAREA (North American Reggio Alliance).

What is "Best Practice?"

The term "**Best Practice**" has been used to describe "what works" in a particular situation or environment. *When data support the success of a practice, it is referred to as a research-based practice or scientifically based practice.* We must keep in mind that a particular practice that has worked for someone within a given set of variables may or may not yield the same results across educational environments.

Best practices are the integration of professional wisdom with the best available empirical evidence in making decisions about how to deliver instruction." Professional wisdom allows educators and family members to adapt to specific circumstances or environments in an area in which research evidence may be absent or incomplete. But without at least some empirical evidence, education cannot resolve competing approaches, generate cumulative knowledge, and avoid fads and personal biases.

Little Sunshine House is dedicated to providing quality in early care and education for young children. Eligible children and families are served without regard to sex, sexual orientation, race, religion, ethnicity or special rights. We strive to reflect the larger community of Long Beach and Los Alamitos in our programs.

We do NOT EXCLUDE or “GIVE UP” on a child. We have procedures in place to support all children as they develop.

To provide a balance of, **social, emotional, intellectual** and **physical** stimulation that is essential for the development of the whole child. In our program we support and enrich individual development.

It is our goal:

To Support Children Socially and Emotionally by being responsive to the individual child while encouraging self-care and independence.

To Support Children Intellectually by providing opportunities that reflect the child's interest. These opportunities provide time for interactive exploration while also providing a unique and exciting learning experience. Furthermore, activities prepare children for future life experiences.

To Support Physical Development by providing an outdoor classroom, play areas and a variety of physically stimulating activities.

The Vision of Little Sunshine House, Reggio Inspired Preschools, is to create a unique and special community that inspires and engages children, families and educators as they grow and develop.

"The development of intelligence is a matter of having wonderful ideas." Unknown

The Child:

Children are active citizens & contributing members to their learning

They have an interest in constructing their own learning

"when the child is the active one, the one doing the choosing, compelling, imposing, and causing, we find ourselves in an environment in which higher level learning can take place. . . . This is the kind of learning that involves the actual thinking, which, as Eleanor Duckworth points out, is indistinguishable from learning.

Rarely does a wonderful idea emerge from "teaching," except perhaps as an act of rebellion, because wonderful ideas are the product of higher level thinking.

And thinking is the process of trying to understand

When we observe children at play, which is to say choosing their own course of "study," we are witnessing self-motivated learners engaged in thinking about relevant subject matter. We see that thinking is not merely a process of the brain, but rather one that is so fully engaging that it involves the entire body. There is no need for adults to "get" the kids to do things or to "impose" or "cause" things to happen, but rather to be alongside the child, observing, researching, and supporting them, minimally. An educator, as opposed to a teacher, trusts the child's natural instinct to think and understand, not what the adult wants them to know, but whatever is relevant to that child.

LSH ENGAGES FAMILIES AND EDUCATORS

Families:

Actively involved as a school member - initiate an understanding of our LSH program through a tour, reading information put out by educators etc.

Opinions are sought out and valued - opinions are in alignment with LSH Mission and Values

Collaborate with teachers as partners in the school - attend conferences, join committees

Educators:

Learning alongside the child rather than instructing on basic skills - fellow investigator, scaffolds learning, engages with children.

View self as a fellow researchers - is curious

Involved in continued professional; development on childhood learning - bring new information to the team, continue to grow in the field of child development, advocate for children,

TOPICS FOR FUTURE CONVERSATION:

- Is this normal? Emotional responses
- Cheat sheet of verbiage (language used with children at school)
- Transition plans to TK, Kindergarten (locations)
- How do you support children to do things independently(ex. wipe , putting clothes on, help with their lunches, water bottle ect.
- Transitions (love ones/pets pass)
- Sexuality
- Naps - differences between lsh and home
- Transitions from lsh environment to “academic”
- Should my child stay at lsh or transition to TK? (setting meetings with primaries)

TOPICS FOR FUTURE CONVERSATION:

