

Our Shepherd Early Childhood Philosophy

We believe that children are a gift from God and are strong, capable learners. Our teaching practices reflect our belief that Jesus Christ is all and in all. We honor the importance of a Christ-centered developmentally appropriate environment for the children as they play, learn, and grow.

We believe that early childhood education must be holistic in nature in order to address the student's intellectual, social/emotional, physical, creative, and spiritual growth. We place value in adjusting the environment to meet individual student needs. Therefore, we pay careful attention to each student's individual capabilities so that the environment can be enhanced to appropriately challenge the children as they grow and mature.

It is our belief that young children learn best about God's world through hands-on experimentation and exploration of real items. Play is integral to a young child's growth and development for it is through play that a child unveils the world around them. Through a balance of guided, directed, and free choice play, students are provided with opportunities to express wonder and curiosity. Teachers are able to provide rigor and support students as needed to foster a lifelong love of learning through an inquiry-based approach centered on student interest.

We value the importance of relationships with children and their parents. A positive, loving relationship between the teacher and each individual child is the foundation for learning. Furthermore, this view is also reflected in the positive partnership fostered between teachers and parents to optimize a student's success.