

ROSS VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT TK MISSION & PHILOSOPHY

Ross Valley School District provides an inclusive, high-quality TK program that meets the developmental needs of our young students while preparing them for success in future schooling and life. By valuing and respecting the needs, languages, and cultures of all students, families, staff, and the community, we ensure an equitable start for all children on their educational journey.

PHILOSOPHY/CORE BELIEFS:

We believe:

- Every child develops (social emotional, cognitive, language, and physical development) at an individual rate, regardless of family language, background, culture, special needs, socioeconomic status, experience, or ability, and possesses unique characteristics that are enhanced by their cultural and familial background
- Children learn through active, engaging experiences and intentional child-directed play in support of TK learning standards
- In building strong social and emotional competencies in support of self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making
- Positive, intentional teacher-child interactions support social-emotional, academic, and language development as well as each child's sense of self
- Children's oral language, literacy, math and science knowledge is enhanced through a variety of authentic teaching and learning opportunities incorporated throughout the classroom environment, the day, and the program
- Culturally relevant, responsive, and respectful family engagement supports a child's self-identity, continued individual development, home language, and later academic success

Components Critical in Achieving Our Core Beliefs:

- Indoor and outdoor environments designed specifically to support and offer equitable learning opportunities
- Qualified, nurturing, growth-minded, and collaborative staff who are supported through continual professional learning opportunities
- Curriculum, materials, and related developmentally appropriate teaching and learning strategies that build a sense of wonder, curiosity, and independence
- Assessment data collected and analyzed to guide ongoing, collaborative planning to meet each child's development and learning

Background: Our philosophy is based on input from staff and families, early childhood research and practice as outlined in the CA Preschool/TK Foundations, National Association of the Education of Young Child standards, knowledge of child development, dual-language learning, and best practices for educating young children. These resources emphasize culturally, linguistically, and individually responsive learning experiences and environments.

