

## **Dutchess Community College Day Care Center**

### **Our Mission Statement**

Our Mission is to provide exemplary and affordable early childhood education and care for the children of the DCC community, reflecting our core values. Our goals are three fold and prioritized as follows:

- To support families as parents pursue a college education.
- To support families within the DCC community (faculty and staff).
- To serve as a teaching school by providing field placements, observations, and training for early childhood students.

### **Our Core Values**

*We value relationships* Teachers know each child very well and create a caring community that supports interaction and connections. We believe the foundation of a quality education starts with trusting relationships. We want to help each child develop a positive self-image as well as the ability to relate well to others and make friends. Learning social skills is central to our curriculum. We create opportunities for daily practice of social interactions so children learn to cooperate, negotiate and resolve conflicts.

*We value families* It is important to us that all families in our program feel comfortable, included and valued. The beliefs, culture and heritage each family brings to our program enriches our school. We incorporate what we learn about families into the classroom environment to help each child feel at home within our care. We respect each child's unique gifts within an inclusive environment and we value the diversity of our community.

*We value play* We believe play is the natural activity of childhood and that children need rich opportunities for creative and imaginative play every day. We provide a Developmentally Appropriate Program to help each child meet his or her fullest potential intellectually, socially, emotionally and physically. At our school, children have many real choices. We support engagement through hands-on activities and investigative projects. We believe early childhood is a unique time of life and we celebrate the joy and wonder young children bring to learning. We want children to develop a love of learning and a strong foundation for academic and social success.

*We value consistency for children* We help children develop confidence, trust and independence through a familiar routine and consistent guidance. We provide guidance through a caring emotional climate and carefully prepared physical environment. Teachers thoughtfully plan schedules, routines and curriculum to provide security and growth for the children in their care.

*We value wellness* We promote wellness of the whole child. As we care for the child's physical needs during hand washing, dressing, meals and toileting, we always consider the emotional significance of these care-taking rituals. We promote a child's independence and pride as they learn to "do it by myself". We serve nutritious meals and snacks, family style. Physical activity, out door play and fresh air is an important part of our program. We provide a clean, bright, beautiful environment that promotes health and wellness.