

Cuyamaca College Child Development Center

900 Rancho San Diego Parkway

El Cajon, Ca. 92019

619-660-4660

Our Center is a lab school on the campus of Cuyamaca Community College. We can be found in the east county community of Rancho San Diego.

We believe in incorporating the best practices (real world experiences, dialogue, reflection...) and philosophies into our teaching.

“...we have given great care in selecting the term – negotiated curriculum instead of emergent or child centered curriculum. We propose that negotiated curriculum better captures the constructive, continual and reciprocal relation among teachers, children and parents therefore better captures the negotiations among subject matter: representational media and the children’s current knowledge.” –Parent Handbook.

We are inspired by the philosophies of the Reggio Approach; the image of the child as a capable constructor of their own learning, the development of stimulating, beautiful environments, negotiated curriculum and documentation. .

“What we want to do is activate within children the desire and will and great pleasure that comes from being the authors of their own learning.”

-Loris Malaguzzi.

With thoughtful planning developed from observations and staff collaborations we scaffold the learning processes of children, families, college students, ourselves, and the college community. We have found documentation to be a valuable tool in this learning process. We are fortunate to have a large outdoor environment that offers countless opportunities to connect with nature, each other and our community.

We continue along on our journey of interpreting the Reggio Approach and evolving into our own unique learning experience for the children. We welcome regional collaborative exploration of this inspiring approach.

College Park Preschool

5075 B Campanile Drive

San Diego CA 92115.

619-582-2520

We believe first and foremost that education is based on relationships. Our children, staff, families, and nearby community work together to deepen the children’s understanding of the world around them. We believe children must have some control over the direction of their learning, and curriculum is planned based on the student’s interest and passions as well as the teacher’s. We believe children must be able to learn through many experiences and have endless ways to express themselves. We believe children should be given time to learn and develop relationships through small group investigations. We believe visible learning is important for children so that they can revisit and construct new ideas and understandings. We believe the classroom is the “third teacher”, and great attention is given to the look and feel of each classroom and art studio. CPP has been on this journey for the past 6 years.

Rancho Bernardo Community Presbyterian Church Preschool

17010 Pomerado Road
San Diego, California 92128
(858) 487-0824

Our Preschool was established in 1964 to serve as a resource for parents/families and provide a quality learning environment for children 3 – 5 years of age. The foundational focus was and continues to be a developmental approach, celebrating each child's unique self, and striving to foster all areas of their growth and development in a meaningful and respectful manner. We believe that young children are learning all the time. Children should be encouraged to ask questions, explore, experiment, discover, and fully engage in the world around them. Over the past several years, our staff has found renewed inspiration through the philosophies of the Reggio Emilia Approach. In the writings, classes, workshops, seminars, and teachings, we have found inspiration and validation of our roots in celebrating childhood, developing active relationships with children, families, our community and one another. Our journey finds us growing increasingly intentional in; our work with children, communicating wonders of our children with families and one another, documenting observations of children, and integrating the works of Piaget, Dewey, Vygotsky, Erickson, and Malaguzzi. Our commitment is to continue to explore the principles of Reggio Emilia, finding meaningful inspiration in the context of our Preschool and community.

Southwestern College Child Development center

900 Otay Lakes Road
Chula Vista, Ca 91910
(619) 216-6695

Southwestern College Child Development Center is a lab school serving South San Diego County. We embrace and support the individuality of each child in an authentic, emerging learning environment while modeling best practices and providing quality training for Child Development students. The Center is inspired by the Reggio Emilia approach and emergent curriculum. The SWC Center demonstrates our commitment to our philosophy in the following ways:

- 1) Hosting roundtables at our Center and are members of the RRT steering committee.
- 2) Staff conduct child development conferences and presentations
- 3) Attended the "Reggio Children - U.S. Study Group Tour" Reggio Emilia, Italy, 2007 & 2008.

Our Center, with the support of the San Diego Reggio Roundtable, developed the first South bay Reggio Roundtable in Spanish. Our invited guests have come from Tijuana and Mexico City, Mexico to engage and share experience with the philosophy.

We are excited to announce our first art gallery exhibit at the college, "Children as Explorers". Displayed will be the children's on-going discovery and connection to their environment through drawings and conversation. The exhibit will be a composition of the children's interest, documentation, assessment, and construction of an art form.

Grossmont College Child Development Center

8800 Grossmont College Dr.

El Cajon, CA 92020

619) 644-7000

The Grossmont College Child Development Center has been thoughtfully dabbling with the theories and philosophy discussed and advocated for by the child development specialists of Reggio Emilia since 2002. The staff members have spent many hours researching and discussing this approach. Our commitment to the ideas and concepts has grown over the years and this year marks the beginning of the next “leg of the journey”. All staff members are now on board and as one teacher said, “Ready to take the leap.” The atmosphere as we begin this New Year is positive and forward-looking. The time spent in contemplation rather than beginning too soon was well worth the time spent.

Hanna Fenichel Center

336 N Acacia Ave

Solana Beach, CA 92075-1108

(858) 755-0860

The Hanna Fenichel Center for Child Development was founded in 1975. Since 2003, as a staff, we have committed ourselves to the study of the Reggio approach with young children in a preschool setting.

In 2007, our building was completely demolished and remodeled which presented us with a wonderful opportunity to create classrooms with an emphasis on the idea of the environment as a significant educator. We used our classrooms to help us define our values of respect for each child, for one another and for our environment. We continue our journey this year emphasizing documentation and exploring learning opportunities from the child's perspective.

The Little School

9614 Pebble Beach Drive

Santee, Ca 92071

619-449-7162

The Little School strives to incorporate these Reggio Emilia inspired ideas:

1. **The Image of the Child:** *all* children have potential, construct their own learning, and are capable and competent.
2. **Community:** children, family, teachers, parents, and community work together for the children's benefit.
3. **Environment:** school and classrooms are beautiful places, encouraging respect of others and the environment.
4. **Collaboration:** teachers as teams and partners, working together and sharing information to facilitate children's learning.
5. **Time management:** Respect for child's pace. Children stay with teachers for several years to build relationships and consistency. The daily schedule is a "flow" rather than a to-the-minute time schedule.
6. **Emergent Curriculum/Projects:** Curriculum is child-teacher negotiated, following their interests, and there can be long or short-term projects of particular interest to a group of children.
7. **Environmental Stimulation:** Encourages activity, involvement and discovery.
8. **Documentation:** Observing and recording each child's ideas in order to plan; and "making learning visible" to all.

Here, at The Little School, we are inspired by these ideas. We see the child as capable and competent. We collaborate with each other daily to discover the children's interests so that we might provoke their continued learning. We look to social-constructivist theory, which includes emergent (negotiated) curriculum. We stay abreast of current information on what early childhood professionals in Italy, the United States and around the world are doing and speaking about, as well as advances in brain research and new ideas in "thinking about children's thinking" to guide our vision. We collaborate frequently with our colleagues in the field to discuss developmentally appropriate practice and to problem solve.

Our mission is to help facilitate a healthy childhood of wonder, learning, trust and respect.

La Jolla United Methodist Church Nursery School

6063 La Jolla Blvd
La Jolla, CA 92037-6799
(858) 454-1418

La Jolla United Methodist Church Nursery School is a child-centered developmental part time program for children ages 2 to Kindergarten ages. We believe that children are competent, curious and capable and have been influenced and inspired by the work of the educators at the preschools and infant/toddler centers in Reggio Emilia Italy as well as many educators from our own community and throughout the United States. The mission of our school is to provide each child with personal growth opportunities, a rich and secure learning environment and a chance to develop a variety of warm and meaningful human relationships. We have been inspired and influence by the educators in Reggio Emilia, Italy. We have come to understand that a person's best leaning happens when she constructs meaning from her peers, the adults in her life and the environment, so all Nursery School activities take the child's interests, capabilities, and developmental level into account. We emphasize the development of the WHOLE CHILD - physical, emotional, intellectual, social and spiritual domains.

La Jolla United Methodist Church Nursery School, an outreach of the education program of the church, is a community of children, families, and staff where a life-long love of learning and play are valued and supported for the optimum emotional, social, spiritual, cognitive, and physical growth of each individual.

Aspirations School of Learning

6286 El Camino Real
Carlsbad, CA 92009
(760) 603-9173

Aspirations School of Learning follows the cultures and values of the Reggio Emilia Approach created in Italy in the mid 1940's. It encompasses a process approach to learning for young children and includes emergent curriculum, inspiring us with the philosophy, practices and developmental theories of Jean Piaget, John Dewey, Erik Erikson and of course, Loris Malaguzzi.

Our curriculum is driven by the interests of the children and builds from their excitement, ideas and connections they make from the world around them. Our staff spends their day encouraging open ended exploration, nurturing purposeful dialogue, displaying and utilizing documentation as a learning tool for themselves and their students, as well as embracing their classrooms as the space that allows for a rich, meaningful and respectful learning exchange. Learning topics are spontaneous and children's curiosity is supported by this environment, considered the third teacher.

Please join us as we continue on our journey...