

Philosophy Of Care

The philosophical approach at WHE is based on the teaching and caregiving approach developed by Magda Gerber under the name Resources for Infant Educators, or RIE™.

RIE™ is a relationship-based approach rooted in a foundation of respect for children. Knowing that children learn best through exploration, we encourage them to be independent learners.



In the classroom children find items that are made of natural materials they can touch, smell, look at, listen to and manipulate creatively. We invite each child to choose her activity and to be an active participant in her own personal care.

Parallel to supporting the development of individual skills, we recognize equally the important human inclination towards interdependence. We aim to foster a sense of belonging among all members of our community.

Our day is structured with consistent routines and expectations which serve to facilitate the child's basic sense of trust in the world. Within this context, each child gains a sense of himself as an individual while learning to negotiate socially.

As a social person, the one and two year-old child is eager to interact with others and build language and communicative competence. She attempts to model the language and behaviors of the adults and children she spends time with.

As she listens to and "reads" other people, she learns to express her own ideas and solve problems in a kind and sensitive manner. Accordingly the educator's role is that of a model and facilitator. At WHE we model behaviors we want children to acquire. We are appreciative of each other and we use language that is positive and encouraging.

During the second and third years of life, young children experience incredible growth. Around the time of their first birthday, they enjoy increased mobility and are striving to master their new-found ability to walk. As the second year progresses they gain increased coordination and refinement of both large and fine motor movements. They are more and more interested in doing things for themselves.

At WHE we support these great steps in development with daily observation to assure that our environment and routine works for the members of our community. Similarly, the interested child watches. He gains understanding and integrates information when he observes and interacts with the people, materials and environment around him. Through activity and his own observation, his mind is engaged. At this time it is critical that he has loving, kind models to emulate.



Personal Care

While at WHE your child will be cared for by two staff members. We will support you as a parent, helping to ease transitions and sharing with you about your child's development. One of us will help her with individualized personal care. We provide cloth diapers for all children to use during the day. At rest time children nap on a low, open cot.

Nutrition

WHE is committed to providing nutritious, peanut-free vegetarian meals. We prepare and serve breakfast, lunch and one snack each day according to the guidelines established by the Child Care Food Program. We encourage children to gain independence by feeding themselves, drinking from a cup and learning to pour their own drink. We also practice acceptable table manners. If your child is breastfeeding we are happy to accept and feed him breast milk.

About Our Director

Jude Rose brings a wealth of personal and professional experience to WHE. With over 25 years experience as an early childhood educator and advocate, she has worked in community-based educational programs for children and families. In addition, she was fortunate to study directly with Magda Gerber in becoming a RIE™ Associate.



Jude is a published photographer, specializing in anti-bias images of children in preschool settings. Her images have appeared in professional journals and books including "Young Children," "Montessori Life" and "Your Self Confident Baby."

