CREATIVE CURRICULUM

Creative Curriculum for Infants and Toddlers (Dombro, Colker & Trister Dodge, 1997) emphasizes the environment as the stage for routines and activities that are developmentally appropriate to the age of the child. It is an open framework that encourages individualization and expression by the caregivers as well as the children. Seven guiding principles dominate this approach:

- 1) The Program is based on accepted theories of child development.
- 2) The program is individualized to meet the needs of every child
- Each family's culture is respected and family members are encouraged to participate in the program.
- 4) The physical environment is safe, healthy and contains a variety of toys and materials that are both stimulating and familiar.
- Children select activities and materials that interest them and they learn by being actively involved.
- 6) Adults show respect for children and interact with them in caring ways.
- Staff and providers have specialized training in child development and appropriate programming.