



History

Growing Years Preschool Development Center was started in 1987 by Anita Collins and was located inside of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church. In 1991 we opened our present location on 2190 Wieneke Road. It was built by Steve and Anita Collins and renamed Growing Years Christian School and Child Care Center. The building began with six classrooms, all specifically designed for children. After nine years of business, an addition was built, increasing our school's size to ten classrooms and a licensed capacity of 150 children. Our facility and educational programs have evolved over time to reflect what is appropriate and effective in an early childhood environment.

Program Philosophy

Growing Years Christian School and Child Care Center, first and foremost, was built on non-denominational Christian principles and values. Our primary hope is to glorify God in all that we do here at Growing Years, because we have been blessed with the opportunity to serve Him. Also, that as Christians and educators, we are responsible for every aspect of a child's growth, including building strong character.

It is also our responsibility to provide an environment where your child will be challenged and stimulated on many levels. This will help prepare him for more formal education later on. Growing Years has a reputation for equipping children with all the readiness skills they will need—parents have come to expect this from our program. Therefore, each of our employees does his or her best to educate each child in all areas of growth: social, emotional, cognitive, physical, and spiritual.

Ultimately, we believe that when a child becomes an adult, they will need to be able to do many things effectively. For instance, they will need to:

- *Communicate well with others while respecting the differences of others within a group.*
- *Have the ability to analyze situations, make good judgments, and problem solve in a variety of ways.*
- *Assess information, whether spoken or written will also be a high priority, as well as knowing how to employ complex technologies.*
- *Be able to adjust to new situations and conditions by learning the skills and approaches necessary to make those adaptations.*



For all of these reasons an appropriate philosophy of early childhood education needs to encompass the commitment and values necessary to achieve these goals, as the teacher becomes the decision-maker in the learning environment. The teacher, therefore, needs to:

- *Possess a sound knowledge of child development and how that knowledge affects good practice.*
- *Develop a values-driven program that appreciates each child as unique and valuable in his or her own right.*
- *Recognize that children are best understood within the context of their family, culture, and society and because of this, close ties need to be maintained between teachers, parents, and children*
- *Maintain an early childhood program in which children are helped to achieve their full potential while providing an environment that is based on love, trust, and respect.*