

WCK Assessment Philosophy

“Stand aside a while and leave room for learning. Observe carefully what children do, and then, if you have understood well, perhaps teaching will be different than before”

Loris Malaguzzi

Following the educational philosophy born in Reggio Emilia, Woody Creek Kids holds an image of the child -and of all human beings- as possessing strong potentials for development and as a subject of rights who learns and grows in relationship with others and with the environment. As such, our curriculum is born from the interactions of teachers, students, the immediate surroundings and the community at large.

Student assessments are based on observations and are woven into the daily activities rather than taken in isolation as a separate checkpoint. The number one tool for assessing students' learning is *documentation*. Through different techniques -such as taking photographs or videos of the children at work, writing descriptions of student activities, and collecting work samples- teachers focus on telling the story of the whole learning process, rather than only displaying the finished product. These documentation pieces are displayed in order to:

- Provide a record of the learning process
- Reveal connections between events
- Review past experiences and plan future experiences
- Make learning visible to children, families and teachers
- Honor children's work

In order to more formally follow the assessment standards for children going into Kindergarten, our educators have created charts as an observation tool to keep track of student's progress in different areas. Teachers carefully observe children at work and play to record their knowledge during daily activities. When a child needs more support in a specific area, teachers find ways to incorporate these skills authentically into their work.

As a leading Reggio educator, Carla Rinaldi, has beautifully said, "Documentation is not about what we do, but about what we are searching for". A window to our children's soul and imagination.