

# OBSERVATION GUIDELINES

Welcome to our classroom! The teacher probably will not talk too much to you when you arrive since she will be busy with the children, but you are more than welcome to take notes and write down any questions you may have.

1. Observations generally last 30-45 minutes. During the school year, you will observe first in the East classroom and then in the West classroom. You may not bring your child with you.
2. During your observation, please feel free to move unobtrusively around the classroom.
3. Keep greetings and other interactions with the children brief. A comment such as, "I am here to watch the children working," and a shift of your attention will help children understand that you are here to observe rather than to participate. This will help you get a better picture of what happens when you are not present.
4. The teacher will ignore your presence so that the children will do likewise. At the end of your observation, she will be available briefly to answer your questions. For further information, ask the director to give you a call at a later time or just send us an email.

Possible areas of interest:

## **Environment**

- Aesthetics
- Cleanliness, order
- Materials: type, arrangement, accessibility
- Specialized areas of the room

## **Adults**

- General attitude
- Relationships with other children
- Interactions with children

## **Children**

- Levels of concentration and coordination
- Degree of order, independence, respect
- Initiative, creativity, pleasure, sociability

## **Atmosphere**

- Freedom
- Structure
- Security
- Noise and quiet
- Mutual respect
- Transitions

Thank you for taking the time to observe our classroom. Please give us a call if you have any questions or would like to observe at a different time.