

# **TIMSON HILL PRESCHOOL AND PRE-K PROGRAM**

## **School Philosophy**

The Timson Hill philosophy has evolved from many discussions with Timson Hill Preschool parents, board members, and staff. This philosophy seeks to support children's natural curiosity, in keeping with the belief that curiosity leads children to make important discoveries that remain valuable throughout their lives.

Timson Hill Preschool is a non-profit parent cooperative. The school strives to keep tuition costs as low as possible, and all THP families are therefore expected to agree to some fundraising, organizational, and contractual obligations that help keep our school viable. Some buy-outs are optional.

The Timson Hill Preschool is located in the village of Williamsville in an historic old school house. Our facility is fully licensed by the state of Vermont, and currently accredited with the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), and a % STAR program through Vermont's Step Ahead Recognition System for childcare, Early Education, and after school programs.

THP staff provides a warm, nurturing, secure environment. A developmental approach is used to design age-appropriate activities that nurture the child's sense of adventure, self-confidence, humor, and discovery, as well as allowing for opportunities to observe, investigate, and explore.

Multi-age and single-age groups of children learn to master social skills and develop self-esteem during process-oriented activities. The non-competitive, nonviolent and creative atmosphere fosters a child's respect for others, regardless of different religious and/or ethnic backgrounds. Within our goal of overall positive development, children increase their social, emotional, intellectual, and physical skills at their own pace.

The staff is a group of early childhood professionals who continuously collaborate to provide the children with a program of the highest quality. They view each child within the context of his/her individual family, and work with parents to support that family's choices and concerns in ways that best serve the child. The curriculum is developed through teacher observation of the children and is based on a solid understanding of child development. Each day is planned around the children's full range of needs; social, emotional, physical, and cognitive. Literacy, math, social studies, science, art, music, dance, theatrical play, and social/emotional development skills are included in the daily curriculum. The day's planning also leaves space for consideration of the family's needs. Time is available for daily conversations about the child's day and any questions parents might have. More involved discussions about the child's development and how s/he participates in the group happen twice a year during parent/teacher conferences. Parents can also schedule one-on-one meetings with the teachers.