



WELCOME TO ROCKRIDGE LITTLE SCHOOL

Rockridge Little School is a vibrant, culturally rich pre-school program for forty children, ages 2.8 to five. We offer full and partial day programs. The school is located in the heart of Oakland's Rockridge neighborhood at the historic College Avenue Presbyterian Church, designed by Julia Morgan. We are an independent pre-school school and are not affiliated with any religion.

OUR PHILOSOPHY

We inspire children to learn by creating a thrilling environment full of learning opportunities. We encourage children to explore, investigate, create and discover their passions. We believe that if they are treasured by the people they spend their time with and they are excited by the activities available to them, they will reach for the stars. Our goal is to bring forth the passions and curiosity already within each child by introducing ideas and concepts that inspire.

Our bright, airy classrooms are packed with materials to engage and support creativity and curiosity. We draw from the experts in the field (Montessori, Reggio-Emilia, Waldorf, etc) but we don't adhere rigidly to any single system.

At Rockridge Little School each child's initiative and independence is recognized, celebrated, and supported. Children will have the opportunity to try out a number of structured learning activities, and have access to special materials that emphasize the use of all senses as they learn about the world around them through a variety of activities.

OUR FRIENDSHIPS

Sharing paints, taking turns with a favorite bicycle or giving a hug. Young children are learning the foundations of friendship in each interaction. Of course the gentle balance between "mine!" and taking turns can be met with many tears in between. Teachers at Rockridge Little School help children to understand and learn from one another. Many of the friendships formed at Rockridge Little School will last a lifetime.

ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT

Lessons at Rockridge Little School are designed to teach children about, science, math, culture, nature, dance, music and language. Our goal is to give children an opportunity to try out new skills through play. We encourage students to plunge into hands-on learning in ways that reveal the wide world and how wonderfully intricate its workings are. We want them to curl up with a familiar book in the corner or have their teacher read their favorite story so many times that they both know it by heart.

Trees and gardens and mud pies and recycling, carrots and radishes and carpentry and airplanes...everything is a subject for study. We will help children find answers to their questions. How do things work? How high is the sky? Am I big or little? How old is old? How did grownups pursue the things that sparked their imaginations when they were little?

CULTURAL ENRICHMENT

The Bay Area has so many opportunities to learn about various cultures, and young children are so open to learning. We will offer cultural enrichment activities in Spanish language, American Sign

Language, dance, music and movement. Our goal is to make sure kids have the chance to feed their natural curiosity and appreciation for people who are similar *and* different from themselves. We welcome children from all racial, cultural and family backgrounds.

YOUR FAMILY

We welcome family involvement, but it's entirely voluntary. On most days parents are busy and they want a quick report on how their child's day is going. On other days, it might be nice to spend time observing their child at school and speaking more in depth with the teacher. We understand that each person has their own way of contributing to their child's school.

When you do come, you are invited to bring your best, most interested self to the school. Read a book, plant a vegetable garden, share travel pictures, teach a language or just sit down and relax. Live music, dance or other cultural activities are always welcomed. The classroom is a place where parents should feel comfortable and inspired. The special time that parents spend in their child's classroom is the foundation for lifetime memories, so we will work to make it relaxed and enjoyable for you both.

OUR TEACHERS

Little School teachers are dedicated to introducing children to the marvelous possibility the world and its inhabitants have to offer. We hire professionals who love children and have committed themselves to making the world a better place for them. They are compelling people who are passionate about helping children discover the wonders of the world and of their own growing capabilities. Our small teacher:student ratio allows teachers to give each child the individual attention he or she deserves.

Teachers exceed mandated standards for early childhood educators, and they take advantage of learning opportunities for professional development. They will ensure that every child feels gifted, respected, responsible, and profoundly cherished regardless of any aspect of their life that makes them feel "different."

OUR DIRECTOR

Holly Gold has long been passionate about the welfare of children. She has worked in classrooms in a variety of capacities including teacher, aide and volunteer. After moving to the Bay Area, her first professional position was with San Francisco's Larkin Street Youth Center, an agency serving homeless and run-away teens. Since then, she's worked with Camp Sunburst Children's National AIDS Project, Haight Ashbury Free Clinics, and Big Brothers Big Sisters. From 2000-2005, she served as Executive Director of Ala Costa Center, Berkeley's innovative after-school learning program for students with developmental disabilities. In 2000, Holly was awarded the prestigious Eureka Fellowship for community leaders. In 2003, she was recognized by the City of Berkeley as a "Woman of the Year" for her work with Berkeley children. Holly lives here in the East Bay with her partner and their young daughter.

A pre-school for children ages two and half to five years old

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