



Identifying and Creating Child Centered Environments The Ooey Gooley® Way!

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The Ooey Gooley® philosophy is play-based, hands-on & child-centered. We are committed to creating early childhood environments that embrace the following principles:

Principle 1: TIME

Children are provided with long periods of uninterrupted free time for exploration and interaction within their learning environment.

Principle 2: OUTDOORS

There is lots of outdoor play time. The outdoor environment is not considered a separate space, but instead is seen as an extension of the indoor space. It is understood that the outdoor environment is just as credible of a classroom as the one inside.

Principle 3: RULES

Children have the freedom to explore this environment with few restrictions. We support having one overarching rule: *People are not for hurting*. We are able to provide this level of freedom because...

Principle 4: THE SECRET

The secret to good teaching is learning how to control the environment, not the little people in it. The “no-no’s” have been removed. Consequently the child has freedom to explore within the environment that the adult has set up.

Principle 5: FACILITATING

Teachers are serving as facilitators within this space, deepening the child’s investigations and providing activities and materials that reflect the needs and interests of the children in the room. Their role is much deeper than “the keeper of keys to the cupboard”.

Principle 6: ARTICULATION

Teachers must be in the present moment and as such, be able to articulate their rationale for activities presented. Teachers are able to articulate WHY they do what they do, and these reasons go deeper than “because it’s so cute”.

Principle 7: THEORISTS

Teachers are committed to understanding the history and theory of child development and are aware of the professionals and researchers who have “paved the way” for us in our commitment to a play based, hands-on, childcare environment.

Principle 8: KEEPING IT REAL

Children are provided with engaging experiences that are (literally) *real*. Children are provided with active, relevant, hands-in and hands-on investigations on a daily basis. We seek to activate the five senses each and every day – not just during “My Five Senses” week. You will see children exploring real objects. Not coloring dittos of them.

Principle 9: THE SEVEN THINGS

Children are provided time each day to: create, move, sing, discuss, observe, read and play.



Lisa Murphy Contact Information and Helpful Web Links

Ooey Gooley®
A silly name....
A serious message!

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REMEMBER YOU CAN FOLLOW LISA AND OOEY GOOEY, INC. ON:



*I saw a man pursuing the horizon;
Round and round they sped.
I was disturbed at this;
I accosted the man.
"It is futile," I said,
"You can never - -"

"You lie," he cried,
And ran on.*

-Stephen Crane