

Air Force Family Member Programs

Child Development Philosophy & Goals

Philosophy

The practices of the Air Force Child Development Programs are based on current knowledge of child development and early childhood education. We are responsible for supporting the development of the whole child, meaning all areas of development are considered inter-related and equally important. Our program acknowledges that children learn through active, hands-on involvement with their environment, peers, and caring adults. We respect each child's unique interest, experiences, abilities and needs, thus allowing us to be responsive to and appropriate with each child. Children are valued as individuals, as well as part of a group. Likewise, our program respects and support the ideals, cultures, and values of families in their task of nurturing children. We advocate for children, families, and the early childhood professionals within our programs.

Goals

- ❖ Foster positive identity and sense of emotional well-being
- ❖ Enhance social skills
- ❖ Encourage children to think, reason, question, and experiment
- ❖ Promote language and literacy development
- ❖ Build physical development skills
- ❖ Support sound health, safety, and nutritional practices
- ❖ Advance creative expression, representation, and appreciation for the arts
- ❖ Appreciate and respect cultural diversity
- ❖ Develop initiative and decision-making skills