

Learn, Grow, Explore & Thrive!



President's Report 2005

SILVERTON
Family Learning Center



A new building



In a single year, we have funded, designed, constructed, and will occupy a brand new 2,400 sq. ft facility. Its healthy environment will be a learning place for up to 30 kids from newborn to 6 years old.

A new philosophy

We officially adopted the Reggio Emilia philosophy to guide our programs this year. We will move toward 'emergent' curricula that honor the many languages children use to express themselves and their learning. The approach, which places teachers in the role of learner and researcher alongside the children, is considered innovative for many reasons. There is less focus on lesson planning and more on learning documentation, allowing teachers to explore children's spontaneous interests. Parents will find that they know more about their child's daily activities. This approach also fits ideally with the Expeditionary Learning curriculum at Silverton Public School.



An evolving identity



Giving children a safe, loving and delightful environment comes easy at SFLC. This year, our center has been filled with children of many different backgrounds with a myriad of personalities, languages, and expressions. It is these very children who have inspired us to look deeper for ways to improve our programs, provide more opportunities for exploration, and find an better alchemy between learning and play. Qualified and motivated staff are the heart and soul of our program, and without excellent staff dedicated to learning and exploration, we cannot thrive!

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A set of lofty goals



Imagine a child wearing clothes that are too big. That's pretty much us.

As an organization, we have always been a few steps ahead of ourselves, seeking perfection and finding humility. It is no small task to run a program that has a small number of

children, but faces all the compliance requirements of a large program.

Our biggest challenges for the next 6-12 months will be to 'grow into our clothes'. We need to:

- nurture the new staff, new environment and new programs to achieve better fidelity between our vision and the actual day to day programs.
- help each staff and Board member find expression for their strengths and support for their weaknesses.
- be tolerant of the need for dissention, disagreement and discussion, for they drive progress.
- always place the interests of the organization above any personal or factional interests.
- Think big! Even in this small town, we are capable of improving the whole world of early childhood education. We can become leaders.

A growing budget

In 2006, we will increase the number of staff from 1.5 to 4, the capacity for kids from 14 to 30, and will likely double the size of our budget. Thank goodness we have created an excellent and detailed bookkeeping system that has even been praised by the federal government (wow!) Good tools will make growth easier.

A solid fiscal foundation

We ended our 04-05 school year with a budget surplus of about \$5,000, in spite of a 2/3rds reduction in our CPP funding. Each of our 4 main programs (preschool, extended care, evening care and community learning) all operated with a positive bottom line. We managed to build a \$25,000 fund for equipment acquisitions for the new preschool and put away \$9,000 of CPP funds to fund future eligible students. When our enrollment dipped in August, we had contingency funds to cover our costs. Overall, I feel that our organization's fiscal foundation is diverse and stable. We will continue to monitor the details closely in the coming year, and to evolve our 'financial dashboard' to give us better budget vs. actual tracking tools.

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