



A Developmental/Constructivist Approach

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Children learn by doing! Projects and hands-on experiences are essential parts of our program that stimulate students' desire to learn. Third graders participate enthusiastically in meaningful work.

Helping children learn to think is as important as teaching any specific subject matter. As third graders acquire knowledge and skills, they strengthen their ability to use those resources effectively. Students are prepared to be self-reliant problem-solvers in every facet of their lives.

Learning occurs in ways unique to each child. Each third grader is accepted as an individual, respecting his/her learning style. Thoughtful observation of the children as they learn serves to shape and strengthen teaching.

Children's curiosity and initiative are integral to their education! Planned instruction is augmented by opportunities for students to pursue their own interests. They have time to explore, discover, dream and create.

Independence is a vital part of every child's development. Guidance and support is provided as third graders apply their skills within expanding boundaries. With increasing freedom comes greater demand for self-discipline and responsibility; meeting that expectation promotes self-confidence.

Working with others enhances children's growth in every domain. Collaboration is valued and encouraged in the classroom and at play. Diversity of ideas, ability and culture are welcomed. When conflicts arise, third graders receive "coaching" to develop mediation skills and to increase their understanding of themselves and others.

Every person is a thinker, creator and contributor! A community is maintained in which each third grader can find his/her place as respected members.

The natural world is a place to learn. The environment is treasured at Friends School Haverford! As part of a lesson or a source of playtime revelation, nature weaves its way into every child's experience.

Childhood should be fun, and children should find joy in learning! That joy comes from an inquisitive wonder at the universe children inhabit and confidence in their capacity to understand it. At Friends School Haverford we believe these attitudes will extend beyond students' years of schooling and the campus boundaries.