



Developmental Learning in Grade III

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A curriculum based on developmental theory will have certain characteristics. Although actual classroom activities will vary based on developmental readiness, previous learning and the topics being studied, there are certain elements that will be found in Grade III at Friends School Haverford.

- Students are given time each day to explore their environment.
- The classroom environment is designed to allow students the opportunity to discover, make fruitful mistakes and construct new knowledge through a process of exploration and creation.
- The teacher will facilitate learning, asking open-ended questions that encourage students to problem-solve and search for knowledge.
- Students are empowered to make decisions about their learning everyday.
- Students' thoughts, creations and discoveries are valued and proudly exhibited in the classroom and around the school.
- The emotional climate of the classroom reinforces the idea that kind, caring and respectful interactions are crucial to learning and to life.
- The teacher observes students as they work and interact, knowing that students' learning processes help to clarify their true academic, social and emotional progress.
- Students' progress is assessed and evaluated by noting when they reach developmental milestones.
- The classroom is comfortable and inviting: a place where students can learn by conversing, drawing, and building as well as by reading, writing and computing. The classroom is a place where it is safe to share beliefs, feelings and ideas.