



Our Mission and Philosophy

We will promote an environment for success and create a partnership with parents and the community. Students will realize their full potential as lifelong learners and responsible and productive citizens capable of competing in a global information-based society.

Philosophy

We Believe that every child should be given an opportunity to learn at a developmentally appropriate level.

We Believe that education is the shared responsibility of the student, home, school and community.

We Believe that every child should understand and practice the Lifelong Guidelines of Truth, Trust, Personal Best, Active Listening and No Put Downs.

We Believe that every child should be provided with an enriched and integrated core of knowledge.

We Believe that every child should experience the joy of learning.

Integrated Thematic Instruction

- **Provides** an organizational strategy designed to maximize current research on learning and allows our classroom teachers to plan their curriculum, teaching all content and skills through a coordinated year-long theme. The

theme acts as a pattern for organizing ideas, materials and actions for both teachers and students

- **Strengthens** the relevance of skills and content thereby encouraging greater application by the student
- **Encourages** active participation of children through themes, projects and learning centers
- **Utilizes** authentic assessment and holistic evaluation
- **Provides** flexible grouping strategies
- **Promotes** challenging, fun, rewarding and meaningful learning



The Diagnostic Center

The Diagnostic Center is a part of Performance Learning Academy (PLA). PLA, established in 2000, is a PreK through 8th grade school for children of all learning styles. The Diagnostic Center provides psycho-educational evaluations to children who wish to attend or do attend Performance Learning Academy.

The Diagnostic Center partners with parents, professionals, and educators. We view assessments as tools enabling parents and teachers to better understand a student's learning profile. The Diagnostic Center is a team of professionals with a wealth of experience and knowledge in child development as well as test administration and interpretation. They adapt both the test protocol and evaluation process to the individual needs of the child.

“Every child contains the seeds for mastery and gratification in life; none of them needs to fail.”

Dr. Mel Levine, M.D.

Director of the Center for Learning
University of North Carolina

A psycho-educational evaluation is an in-depth process that utilizes standardized tests and measurements to develop a comprehensive profile of a child's learning, behavioral, and social-emotional and cognitive functioning. This profile aids in the identification of strengths and needs across many areas of functioning. The information gathered from this process guides the development of interventions and strategies that will enhance a child's quality of life, both at SPA and at home.

Multi-Grade Grouping

Multi-grade grouping allows for children to participate at their own level of learning and social interaction. Our developmentally appropriate

educational program is flexible in expectations for timing of children's achievement, rather than expecting all children to progress at a uniform rate. Children progress along the continuum from easier to more difficult material at their own rates. Some of the benefits of multi-grade grouping are:

- allows for flexibility for students who need less or sometimes more time to complete the curriculum
- continuous progress rather than being “promoted” once per year
- students remain with a teacher for one or two years to provide more consistency
- provides opportunities for children to challenge themselves and others
- creates an atmosphere of collaboration and cooperation
- builds self-confidence and leadership qualities
- encourages children to respect one another's individuality

