

## ***Definition of a Child Care Provider***

Child Care Provider (chīld' cār prō vī' dēr): n chef, baker, janitor, sock and shoe finder, coat buttoner, boot fitter, bottle washer, grocery shopper, diaper changer, protector, dish washer, nose wiper, vegetable pusher, floor sweeper, waiter, story teller, playground attendant, PE teacher, activity director, driver, zoo keeper, inspector, aerobics instructor, tutor, entertainer, therapist, manager, derby instructor, performer, bookkeeper, self-esteem builder, teacher, helper, well wisher, nurse, traffic controller, noise controller, life saver, thinker, problem solver, engineer, designer, counselor, safety instructor, arbitrator, creator, inventor, companion, musician, historian, technician, dietitian, athlete, beautician, fire marshal, analyst, artist, dentist, scientist, biologist, technologist, accountant, manicurist, receptionist, environmentalist, pharmacist, hygienist, speech therapist, reader, builder, informer, composer, supervisor, author, navigator, peacemaker, friend.....

## ***Goals***

At Amazing Stars Academy, our goal is to design each student's developmental and educational program based on your child's strengths, weaknesses and needs. The program is delivered to them through an integrated team approach involving the teachers, parents and school professionals.

## ***View of Human Growth and Development***

We believe that all children grow and develop at their own varying rates and learn in different ways. As Maslo's theory states, there is a hierarchy of needs. Basic needs must be met for a child to be able to learn and grow. Eric Erikson's psychosocial theory of different stages also explains how the child goes through social-emotional stages in their environment. An example of the "Basic Trust versus Mistrust" stage is when the child has to learn to trust that they can depend on adults for love, a safe place in which to live and their needs being met.

## ***View on Early Childhood Education***

Not only do we very strongly believe in Early Childhood Education, but we try to be the best advocate we can for it. We believe children ages birth through 5 years have a crucial window of opportunity for learning. Children are like sponges at this stage, and just waiting for you to teach them. We think that giving young children the opportunities to learn in a variety of ways will help them not only to succeed in school, but to succeed in life.

### ***Role of the Child***

We believe the role of the child is to be willing to try. The child should learn how to act in a social situation and how to express the way he or she is thinking in an appropriate way. The child should also be able to listen not only to his or her teacher, but to classmates, parents, and other adults.

### ***Role of Parent***

Most importantly, we believe that parents should be involved in their child's life. Parents need to communicate with their child's teacher, not only to let the teacher know what is going on at home, but for the teacher to inform them what their child is learning about at the present time. This is called "teamwork"! This is also where the parent can find out what areas their child needs help with. We are a firm believer that parents must follow through and continue the education for their child.

### ***Role of the Teacher***

We believe it is very important for the Early Childhood Education teachers to be able to listen to the children, and take what they say and see, and apply it to how they teach the children. The teacher needs to behave in a professional manner and be a good role model. The teacher needs to be able to introduce topics in many ways that appeal to all kinds of learners. So, we would say we believe in teaching a mixture of what Piaget and Vygotsky thought. We think that the teacher needs to introduce and teach a topic to the children, but also provide the right kind of environment for the child: lots of hands-on experience and plenty of time to explore and create things on their own to gain a better understanding of the topic. Good teachers always continue to further their education to incorporate new ideas for teaching their students. Most of all, we believe in the "importance of play"!

### ***View of the Environment***

We believe that children learn best in a safe, loving, comfortable, and intriguing environment. As Maria Montessori believed, we also believe the environment needs to be child-sized, stimulating and inviting. There should be things in the child's environment that remain the same to provide a stable environment. However, things that are new should also be brought in to keep the children interested in the environment. The environment should be inviting to all races, cultures, and religions, not to exclude anyone. Finally, the environment should be well thought out, so it will provide the children the ability to develop self-help techniques and an understanding of routines and transitions.