

## From the Owner

People often ask me why I chose to become involved in child care and the answer really is quite simple. I love children. I respect them and I want to provide care for them. I want to give back what was given to me as a child. Both my parents worked when I was growing up and there were adults in my young life who gave to me generously—teachers who came to my weekend track meets, neighbors who shared their pets, their love, their kindness—all in addition to the love, caring, and good values that my own parents instilled in me.

I first became a part of The Rainbow School in 1987 when I purchased the original “downtown” campus. Working with children had been a long-held dream for me. I had wanted to return to school to earn a masters degree in psychology and education. When the opportunity to purchase The Rainbow School arose—there was no other consideration to be made—it simply made sense with my long-term goals.

As the years have passed, the School has changed. I opened our Klahanie Campus in 1991 after working with the developers of the Summerwalk Apartment complex. And although I haven't made it back to grad school just yet—it's still in my plans. I've been busy with my own family in recent years—son, Colton, born in Jan. '93, and daughter, Savanna born in May '95.

Please know that it is my express desire to work in partnership with you to provide your child with a happy and rewarding first school experience. I greatly appreciate all input from the families we serve and consider it a great honor to be entrusted with the care of your child.

Sincerely,



Mary Fraser



# The Rainbow School



**Infants  
Preschool \* Child Care  
Before & After School Care  
Summer Day Camp**

**Monday thru Friday  
6:30 am until 6:20 pm**

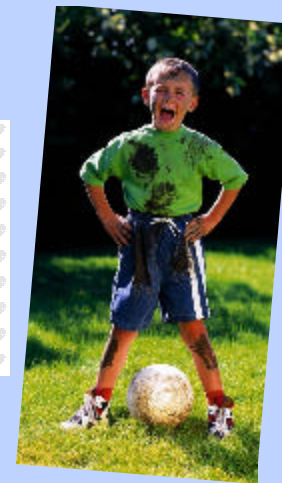
**Encouragement  
& Education  
In a Caring  
Atmosphere**

**Klahanie Campus  
at Summerwalk  
425-557-9040**

## Quality & Commitment

*What makes The Rainbow School different from the rest?*

- Lowest student:teacher ratios of all local schools
- Stable, emotionally mature, adult caregivers
- Employment stability and longevity of staff
- Consulting Psychologist to support staff and children
- Cheerful, clean, safe, and secure environment
- Located in the family neighborhood of Klahanie
- Large, developmentally appropriate equipment-filled playground
- Full size gymnasium for rainy day activities
- Home Rooms where children can settle in and relax with a minimum of transitions (i.e. moving from one room to the next to eat, participate in art projects, reading, or music)
- Stable class groups—the majority of children being enrolled full days. Why?
  - \* Provides stable “family” environment
  - \* Reduces communicable illness
  - \* Lessens stress on children and teachers



## Philosophy

We believe **self-esteem is everything!** Our program is designed to foster self-esteem, self-confidence, success and creativity through a combination of play and structured pre-academics. Music, art, crafts, drama, science and mathematical concepts are introduced in a hands-on approach.



## Curriculum

From bibs to books our teachers prepare weekly lesson plans which build upon the children's current stage of development. Whether it's a matter of engaging an infant's attention and eye focus or planning number and letter recognition into science, music, health or social science projects for preschoolers, our teachers prepare lesson plans to stimulate the child's natural curiosity.

Interest centers appropriate to each stage of a child's life are planned into our classrooms. The block area, dramatic play props, table toys, sensory materials, and even the books in our library corners are all carefully selected to build upon a theme. Every aspect of the child's day which simply might "look like play" has a method to it. Songs, dances, puzzles, art, and science projects are chosen to further encourage exploration and open-ended conversation.

## Classroom Assignment

Classroom assignment at The Rainbow School is determined by placing the child with his or her peer age-group—meaning those children with whom the child will likely attend kindergarten. As children progress through our classrooms increasingly more sophisticated concepts are introduced in our lesson plans. In order to prepare children for entrance into kindergarten we work with our local elementary schools to ensure a smooth transition.

## Before & After School Childcare Program

Children, Grades K-3, thrive in our Before & After School Program. Our program for school-age children is recreational in nature. Time is divided between a mix of free play and structured activity. We want to provide a "fun place to be" rather than somewhere the children feel they "have to be". Regularly planned activities include: cooking, arts & crafts, theatre arts, various sports including fencing, field trips and movie days. Three computers are available for the children's use and time is scheduled for the completion of homework each day.



*"Wait a minute . . . Why doesn't Rainbow serve children Grades 4—6?"*

While we recognize that these older children still need care, we've discovered over the years that somewhere along the way, usually starting around 3rd grade, children start to resent Rainbow School. It doesn't matter that we may have been their home-away-from-home for the majority of their lifetime—suddenly Rainbow School becomes a glaring reminder to them of the awkwardness of their age. It is a time when many children long for the independence that they simply do not yet have the life skills to handle.

When this happens—Rainbow School can do nothing to console these children. They become "bored". Their "teachers are mean". There's "nothing to do", etc. It's really quite a painful time for everyone involved when this happens—so rather than have our children leave us on a bitter note after so many years being their second home, we ask our parents to make other arrangements for their children. At this point in a child's life—it's simply amazing what a change of scenery can do! In some cases, of course, we'll consider working with a child beyond 3rd grade but the bottom line is—it has to be right for the child.

## Summer Day Camp

Rainbow Days and summer magic. Our summer program is designed to further explore dramatic arts, arts & crafts, nature and our local surrounding resources. It's a relaxed time when educational opportunities are presented in a camp-like atmosphere and all the children know is that they are having fun!



Our school-age children head out almost daily to explore our great outdoors and Issaquah's Big Backyard. Swimming, hiking and sports fill our days along with trips to the Library and local museums.

## Licensing

Our school is fully licensed with the State of WA Dept. of Social & Health Services (DSHS). We're inspected annually by the WA State Fire Marshal and the Health Services Child Care Licensors. We are in compliance with all regulations.

## Non-Discrimination

The Rainbow School does not discriminate in the enrollment or hiring practices or in the care of children because of race, color, creed, ethnicity, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, age, social-economic status, religion, differing physical or mental abilities, or communication and learning styles.

## Special Events



- **Salmon Days Grand Parade:** A yearly event where our children make decorations for our float and then ride with their parents through the cheering crowd-packed streets.
- **Annual Pageant:** After weeks of practice and anticipation, the children perform skits, songs, and dances on the local elementary school stage for proud parents, friends, and neighbors.
- **Family Picnic:** Our way of saying "Thanks for a great year!" We gather for a picnic dinner at Beaver Lake park, enjoy family sports, and local entertainment.
- **Parent Education Nights:** Assorted evenings throughout the year when we invite local professionals to discuss matters of nutrition, parenting, self-esteem, and other topics of interest to parents and staff.
- **Freedom Fridays:** Occasional nights throughout the year when we remain open until 10:30 pm for babysitting.