



Bunker Hill Nursery School

A Parent Participation Cooperative

Information on Emergent Curriculum

Bunker Hill's Emergent Curriculum is a way of planning based on the student's interest and **passions** as well as the teachers and parents. Planning an emergent curriculum requires observation, documentation, creative brainstorming, flexibility and patience. Rather than starting with a lesson plan which requires a "hook" to get the children interested, emergent curriculum starts with the children's interests. This is not to say that the teacher has no input, in fact teachers may well have a general topic they think is important for children to study and they may purposely include certain materials or experiences related to it as **jumping off points**

We are the **stage directors**; curriculum is teacher's responsibility, not children's. People who hear the words emergent curriculum may wrongly assume that everything simply emerges from the children. The children's ideas are an important source of curriculum but only one of many possible sources that reflect the complex ecology of their lives.

This **process** requires a great deal of flexibility and creativity on the part of the teacher and parents here at Bunker Hill. The teachers honestly do not know where the group will end up. Although this openness adds a dimension of difficulty to their work, it also makes it more exciting.

Once teachers and parents see an interest "emerging" they brainstorm ways to study the topic in depth. **Webbing** is used because of its playful and flexible nature. A web doesn't show everything that will be learned, it shows many things that could be learned. However it is important to use the webbing as a tool to open the teacher to possibilities not a "plan." Teachers brainstorm many possibilities for study sparked from the particular interest, not as a plan but more as a 'road map'. This map is dependent on parent participation projects that bring family values/ideas into our classroom. To get a plan, we chose an idea and brainstorm ways that children could play it – hands-on activities we could provide. Putting all the activities on a web gives you a **road map** full of possible journeys.

Located in the Crystal Springs United Methodist Church

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