

## Guiding Principles of the Responsive Classroom<sup>®</sup> Approach

- The social curriculum is as important as the academic curriculum.
- How children learn is as important as what they learn; process and content go hand in hand.
- The greatest cognitive growth occurs through social interaction.
- There is a set of social skills that children need to learn and practice to be successful academically and socially: cooperation, assertion, responsibility, empathy, and self-control.
- Knowing the children we teach—individually, culturally and developmentally—is as important as knowing the content we teach.
- Knowing the families of the children we teach and inviting participation is essential to children's education.
- How the adults at school work together is as important as individual competence; lasting change begins with the adult community.