



Guiding Principles



Responsive Classroom approach is informed by the work of educational theorists and the experiences of exemplary classroom teachers.

Seven principles guide this approach:

- 1. The social curriculum is as important as the academic curriculum.**
- 2. How children learn is as important as what they learn: Process and content go hand in hand.**
- 3. The greatest cognitive growth occurs through social interaction.**
- 4. To be successful academically and socially, children need a set of social skills: cooperation, assertion, responsibility, empathy, and self-control.**
- 5. Knowing the children we teach—individually, culturally, and developmentally—is as important as knowing the content we teach.**
- 6. Knowing the families of the children we teach and working with them as partners is essential to children's education.**
- 7. How the adults at school work together is as important as their individual competence: Lasting change begins with the adult community.**