The first grade program at Snoqualmie Elementary School is based on a developmental approach to early childhood. I believe that the child becomes a whole person through growth in the social, emotional, intellectual, sensorial, language and motor areas. All are equally important and are treated as such. If any one area is emphasized before the child is ready, the child becomes stressed and learning is inhibited. Exploration and discovery, with guidance and facilitation, allow children to create firm foundations in all realms and increase success.

My classroom environment is based on the philosophy that:

* All children are equal and are treated as such
* Children are individuals with variances in development and who represent a wide spectrum of potentials and needs
* Schools exist for all children

My approach to instruction and classroom management is designed so that children can work and explore and thus develop and grow in all the ways that will enhance their future home and school experiences. Since I believe the young child constructs his/her own learning, the environment is organized as an individualized and collaborated program with emphasis on development of basic academic skills, literacy, positive self-concepts and independence (decision making). All concepts and skills introduced and practiced are aligned with Washington State’s newly adopted Common Core State Standards.

Young children thrive on a flexible schedule. They learn best in a creative, pleasantly relaxed, and busy atmosphere where there is much to do. I will have a balanced program of quiet and active work and exploration, as well as individual and cooperative learning activities. I plan to have a schedule and routine, but will allow for flexibility within it.

Outdoor and indoor activities, literacy, mathematics, social studies, science, writing, art and music are all part of a well-balanced curriculum. I will plan on implementing them consistently throughout the year in a naturally progressive way. Since I follow a regular schedule, the children can plan on enjoying each part of the school day to the fullest.

With the support and guidance of ourselves as the teachers, and our volunteers, children have the opportunity to learn, make decisions, solve problems, share, create, investigate, explore, discover others and above all, to like themselves. *Adapted from Melanie Beck*