

## Cape Fear Center for Inquiry

### Our Mission

The Cape Fear Center for Inquiry is committed to promoting students' abilities to think and create in personally meaningful ways through an inquiry-based, integrated curriculum in a nurturing environment.

### Our Vision *(Adopted by the Board of Directors 11/20/2001)*

Our school exists because we love and value children. Children and learning are the heart of what our school is all about. We base our purpose and daily decisions on our greatest priority--the well-being of our students.

At CFCI, we believe that the whole child is more important than any single factor. We recognize physical, intellectual, emotional, and social development as integral parts of each child's growth and learning process.

Therefore, we:

- focus on student inquiry because we believe that all children have an innate sense of wonder.
- design and provide hands-on, integrated, and exciting learning experiences--through both classroom and field experiences-- because children learn best when they are actively engaged in making personally meaningful connections.
- are committed to a small classroom setting with a low student-teacher ratio because this is the best way to create communities of learners.
- nurture our students to be independent, lifelong learners by increasing responsibility for their learning.
- appreciate diversity among learners because we value the uniqueness of each child.
- aggressively prepare our students to become effective communicators, critical thinkers, and creative problem solvers because problems are a natural part of everyday life.
- implement a comprehensive social curriculum currently based on Teaching Children to Care because children learn best in a safe and caring environment where every child is respected and valued.
- rely on mutual support of home, school, and community. Communication and family involvement are vital to ensuring student growth. We agree that nurturing and educating children are monumental tasks, which require the collaborative efforts of the entire school community.