



The year -long theme for our class is "**Hand in Hand**". We begin the year by discussing rules and procedures that we have at home and at school. We will focus on how procedures help us to work in an orderly, safe, and organized way. By working "**Hand in Hand**" from the first day we will become a Community of Learners.

During the first quarter, especially, we are **Building Community** within our classroom. We begin each day with a Morning Meeting. Our Morning Meeting has 4 components:

**Greeting**

**Sharing**

**Group Activity**

**News and Announcements**

Show Desktop.scf The **Greeting** sets a positive tone for our day. It provides a sense of recognition and belonging as each child is greeted by a classmate or teacher by name. The greeting gives practice in offering hospitality. It lets each person know that we are glad they are here today.

**Sharing** allows us to get to know each other and our families. As we share, we learn about each other we build a bridge between home and school. This is a time for your child to share something important that is happening in their lives. It is not "Show and Tell" with toys or telling about a shopping trip. Instead, I encourage the children to talk about their families and things that are happening in their lives. This sharing builds a sense of trust and learning about each other also helps us to work cooperatively.

**Group Activities** contributes to the sense of community by building a call collection of favorite songs, games, chants, and poems. These activities encourage active participation, cooperation and inclusion of all students

**News and Announcements** give information about our day through a message written on a chart each day. This information eases the transition into the classroom day and makes children feel excited about what they'll be learning. Our message reinforces language, math and other skills in a meaningful and interactive way.

The goal of **Building Community** is creating a classroom where the children feel comfortable and safe. I want them to be "risk takers" and not to feel afraid to try when learning a new skill. I stress to the children that it is OK to make a mistake and show them "regularly" that adults make mistakes too! We learn all from our mistakes.

I do have very HIGH expectations for the children in my classroom. I know that they can ALL learn and it is my responsibility to provided them with the various strategies to help them learn. I recognize that children learn in many different ways and so I try to provide them with many strategies which will help them to do

their work.