

## Three Tiers of Specificity

### Somewhat Specific:

We know children to be creative, competent and active participants in their learning. They are curious explorers, experimenters and discoverers within their world. They experience their world through hands-on interaction with all their senses and learn through these experiences.

### More Specific:

Independent and cooperative learning are fostered through learning centers that include materials for: dramatic play, sensory exploration, block and manipulative play, science discovery, math, art, reading and writing. Materials change regularly to reflect children's interests and promote inquiry and experimentation. Our playground occupies a woodland setting with a bridge over a small stream. There are swings, slides, climbers and a sandbox for outdoor daily play.

### Most Specific:

Our space changes and evolves throughout the year to reflect the interests and explorations of the students. The block corner offers a multitude of blocks and lots of space where children can build: perhaps a forest for woodland creatures, a castle for a king and queen, or a barn for farm animals.... The sensory table is a popular place where children can be found sifting through sand or rice, sorting through pompoms, or finding hidden treasures under fabric or logs. A cozy reading corner offers soft pillows, a futon and a rug. Here students are invited to take time to curl up with a book alone, with a teacher, or with a friend. The room feels connected to the natural world with its large, low windows. Students can observe the dappled sunlight of fall, the first winter snowflakes, a spring shower, or watch with curiosity as the squirrels and birds help themselves to the feeders.