

## **PROGRAM CURRICULUM**

The GUSD State Preschool Program utilizes a variety of strategies that incorporate developmentally appropriate practices to ensure that when students leave our program they are ready to start kindergarten with a sound beginning in the California Preschool Learning Foundations. Kindergarten teachers continually praise the academic and social/emotional readiness of our students. Ultimately this good start improves young children's learning and developmental outcomes so that they may be successful throughout their school years.

The Desired Results Developmental Profile– Preschool (DRDP-PS) assessment is administered twice yearly. Teachers refer to the individual developmental profiles and the summary of all of the developmental profiles for the classroom as a guide for planning. Staff integrates developmentally appropriate activities into lesson plans that meet all student's needs based on the California Preschool Learning Foundations. These activities provide opportunities for the children to progress to the next level of development and understanding. Included are varied opportunities throughout the day to develop and improve academic, large and fine motor skills, oral language development, and social/emotional skills.

### **DUAL LANGUAGE LEARNING STRATEGIES**

We use the Guided Language Acquisition Design strategies to develop English language acquisition, academic achievement and cross-cultural skills.

The Guided Language Acquisition Design (GLAD) provides an organizational structure for an integrated, balanced literacy approach. The integration, of listening, speaking, reading, and writing into all content areas and the interrelating of science, social studies, and literature with each other are strategies that are easily incorporated into our Houghton Mifflin curriculum. These strategies foster a risk-free, cross-culturally sensitive environment where students are able to acquire academic language and concepts. Although, this model is for dual language learners it is valuable for acquisition of language for all students. The structure, strategies, and classroom implications, are invaluable in a multilingual setting.

GLAD is a United State Department of Education, OBEMLA, Project of Academic Excellence; a California Department of Education Exemplary Program. It is also highlighted as a California Department of Education "Best Practices" program.

In addition to GLAD, the preschool also incorporates the Sobrato Early Academic Language (SEAL) model. This program is being implemented in PK-3<sup>rd</sup> grade classrooms in GUSD. SEAL starts English Learners with a language-rich preschool program that prepares them for kindergarten. The kinder program builds seamlessly from this preschool experience, developing the skills and language foundation needed for academic success in grades 1-3 and beyond. It is an articulated approach that knits together the preschool and primary grades in a coherent pathway to academic success.