



# Round Top Family Library

*This is a Library for people of all ages. It has been created to enrich the lives, and serve the needs of the children and families of our regional community.*

*In that way, it is a special place, and all patrons, staff and volunteers assume special obligations when they enter the environment.*

## **Basic Academic and Environmental Principles**

- 1.** Every child is unique, with unique talents, interests and abilities, and grows in his or her own way, and in his or her own time and sequence. Each child's individual developmental path must be nurtured and respected.
- 2.** Children of all ages and cultures can learn from and teach one another. Each child has the right to be respected for his or her own unique experience of life.
- 3.** A child learns in partnership with his or her family. A child's family is his first and greatest teacher.
- 4.** Children learn alone, and with the help of others. Children learn most effectively when they teach and learn from one another in an environment that is interesting and inspiring to them.
- 5.** The best teacher listens to, and learns from, the student. Children learn respect for others by experiencing the sincere respect of their teachers.
- 6.** All aspects of a child are important; the mind, the heart, the body and the soul. Every child needs to develop an ability to deal effectively with the world around them, to appreciate beauty, to experience physical, mental and emotional well-being, and to find peace.
- 7.** Children first learn through their senses, and by discovering how the world works with their hands. These early experiences and skills lead to a later understanding of ideas.
- 8.** A wide array of materials, media, and activities in the learning environment offers children of different ages and interests the chance to learn useful skills and information they can use and understand.
- 9.** Children need time and attention to explore how things are connected, to work out problems, and to create new solutions.
- 10.** Positive limits and models teach children respect for themselves and others, for their environment, and for life itself.
- 11.** Reading skills are the gateway to all human knowledge; to practical skills, to social and cultural wisdom, and to an understanding of our living and material environment. For every child, reading is a critical building block in achieving success and well-being.
- 12.** These basic principles are also true for children who have grown into adolescents and adults.