

At Goosehill Primary School, we create a supportive and nurturing environment so that our students feel competent and secure as learners. While it is okay for children to feel challenged, it is important that they experience success early on in the learning process so that school is an enjoyable experience. We provide support as soon as we feel a child can benefit from extra attention in a particular area to avoid having him/her feel frustrated. The kinds of support vary. For example, we provide extra help for many kindergarten students to strengthen their phonological skills---the ability to rhyme and hear the sounds and syllables in words. We provide extra support for many first graders who need to develop a bigger bank of sight words or learn the proper formation of letters. We also provide support in the development of social-emotional skills, such as the ability to regulate emotions and interact positively with peers.

All children develop at different rates and in different ways. Our teachers are experts at assessing a child's needs and designing instruction that will provide just the right balance of challenge and success. We also have teachers and teacher assistants whose specific role is to work with the classroom teacher to provide supplementary instruction and support when a "boost" will help a child reach the next level in his/her development. Throughout the process, we emphasize that everyone has areas of strength and areas in which they need some extra help. No one is ever expected to be perfect! We want children to develop a "**growth mindset**"---the belief that they can learn and grow by working hard, accepting help, and being "okay" with making mistakes. We hope that you will reinforce these ideas at home so that our students know they are not expected to know how to do everything on the first try, learn to persevere, and ultimately experience the joy that comes from learning.

To our families celebrating Rosh Hashanah, we wish you a Sweet and Happy New Year!

Enjoy your families this weekend,

Lynn Herschlein