

Kindergarten is For Building Childhood Memories: Welcome to the “Chicka Boom Classroom”



Kindergarten is truly a celebration of the imagination in mentor teacher Diane Bonica’s classroom. She understands that **building a joyful learning community and creating wonderful memories are the foundation for high academic standards.** Diane Bonica explains, “We highlight “Chicka Chicka Boom Boom” (book by Bill Martin, Jr.) for an entire week in September and then on Friday, we have a celebration. We act out the story: I am the tree and the kiddos are the alphabet letters. We also crack open a coconut and “discover” it in science. Every child makes a chicka boom hat and we smile all day...”

The class mascot - giraffes (in all sizes) fill the room and are woven into classroom rituals and celebrations. **“ARRRGH” said the Pirate Bonica (who dresses like this all week) and her giraffe friend.** “We study methods of transportation for the entire month of March and we highlight our interest during student-led parent conferences. **The families come to conferences and they do everything pirate together:** they play pirate games, walk the plank to paint blindfolded and go on a real live treasure hunt.”



Years later children will fondly recall,
“I still remember the fun I had in Kindergarten.”

See  video clips of engaging teaching strategies with Diane Bonica. To learn more about her program, see her website at <http://www.ttsd.k12.or.us/Members/dbonica> or access it easily from www.nelliedge.com Literacy Award Sites.