



# Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Marilyn Day

SCHOOL: Head Start (at Blue Ridge)

Position: Preschool teacher

YEARS IN DISTRICT: 23 years

Q. Why is February a good month to work on being kind to others?

A. We try to use Valentine's Day as a time to do special projects with our students about being kind to others. These skills will help them throughout their lives. We have many academic areas we teach, but if they can't learn the social skills of getting along, then they'll always have troubles no matter how smart they are.

Q. How does this program help prepare students for kindergarten?

A. A lot of our students would not be in preschool without this program because they come from low income families. Many of our students do not have the opportunity for enrichment experiences as do children from families with more means. Here they get a chance to experience so much more.

Q. What type of academic and social growth do you see in your students?

A. Oh, it's amazing! They really have changed. We can hardly believe it when we look at their pictures. They've grown physically, but they've also grown in how they get along with others and follow directions. Academically they continue to make gains. They are learning how to write, learning the names of the letters, and how to count. We are so proud of how much they are learning.

Q. What is the key to keeping students excited about school as they get older?

A. We have to remember where they came from and let them know we love them. We do home visits in this program and other teachers don't always have the luxury of doing this. It's a very humbling experience for our teachers. Many of our students come from very little and they need to know we care. Their parents love them and want the best for their children, but many are working full-time or going back to school. It's so important to know the children and their families and let them know they are important.

Over

MOMENTS & MEMORIES FROM  
MARILYN DAY'S CLASS:



COMMENTS FROM MARILYN...

I work hard to make connections with the parents. Many of our parents are so young, I often feel motherly with them. It's an important relationship. We also have a family advocate to develop relationships with parents.

We would love to have an indoor activity room for indoor play when we can't go outside due to weather. The students could ride tricycles and do more dance and movement activities.



We have aligned our assessments with kindergarten readiness expectations. This alignment helps us understand their needs to prepare them for a successful transition.