



Tensie Lovejoy

Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Tensie Lovejoy

SCHOOL: Green Park Elementary

Position: Preschool Teacher

Years in District: 24 years

Q. What are students in your preschool class at Green Park working on?

A. We have been working with seeds and plants. We have been covering a lot of science concepts, including studying which animals come from eggs and which ones are born alive. We have been focusing on math through the use of shapes and geometry. The Picture Lady recently visited to talk about famous artists and the use of colors. We keep our students busy.

Q. Why do you spend so much time on the fundamentals of good behavior?

A. Social and emotional skills are our biggest focus all year long. Students must be able to follow instructions and get along with each other in order to be successful in school. This time of the year students start showing us they are ready for kindergarten. We see more name writing, an emphasis on counting and an increased vocabulary as we get closer to the end of the school year.

Q. Why is a preschool program so important?

A. Most of the students in our program are living in poverty so they don't always get structure and routines at home. This program helps make sure they get the extra support needed to be ready for kindergarten. Our kindergarten teachers tell us they know which students have been in our program. It gives them the boost they need.

Q. Why is parent involvement a key component of the Head Start/ECEAP program?

A. Parents are the primary educators of their children. We go on two home visits a year and have two conferences at school. We look at different ways the parents can be involved at home. We have students check out books to take home to read. We encourage parents to help out in the classroom and come on field trips with us. Parent involvement is crucial to our program.

Over

MOMENTS & MEMORIES FROM
TENSIE LOVEJOY'S CLASS:



COMMENTS FROM TENSIE...

It's really something to celebrate when I see my former students do well in school. I feel a real sense of pride when I read their names in the newspaper for one of their accomplishments. Words can't explain how that makes me feel.

We incorporate elements of math, reading, science and other skills into our fun activities so the students are learning as they play.



We try to make our program feel like home. We have family-style meals and talk about the importance of treating others the way we like to be treated. It's a great setting to learn.