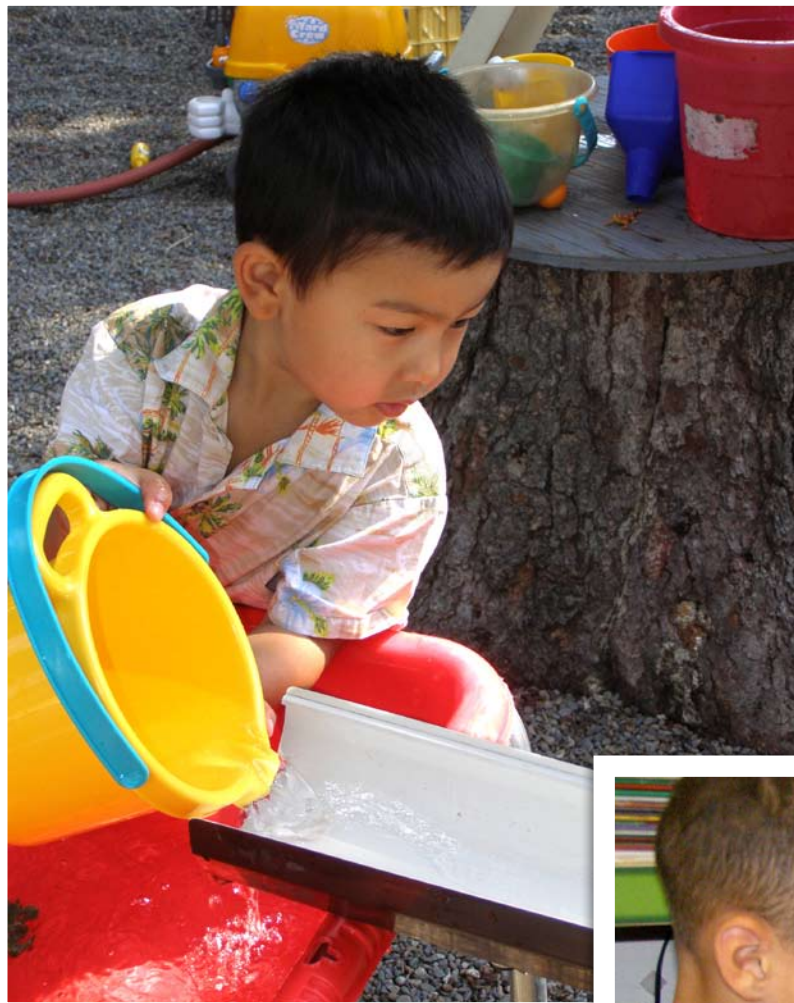


Using Photographs

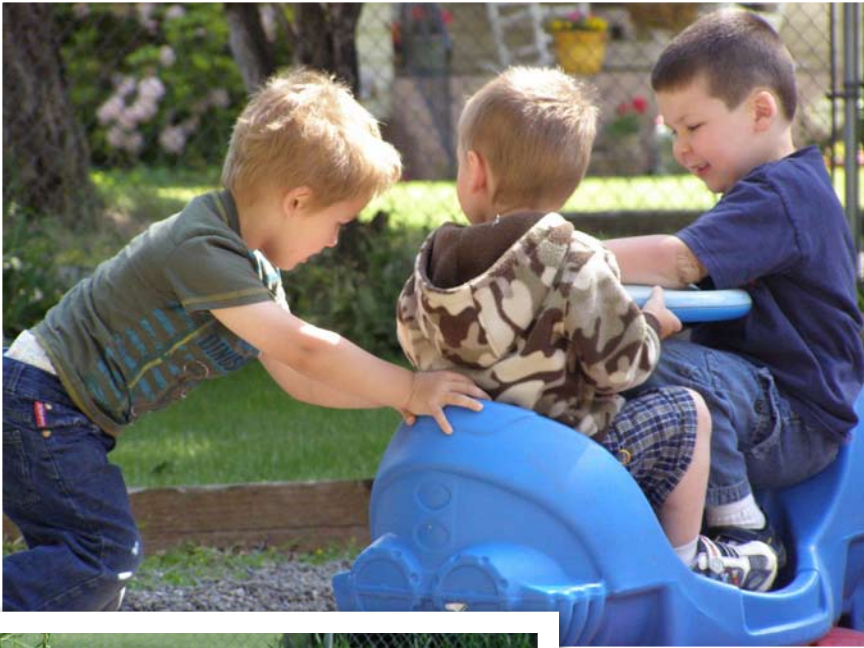
In our program we use photographs to illustrate books about field trips, to show our accomplishments, and to document our projects, work, and activities. We use them to create posters of hand washing, sharing, and being a friend. We also use them to label children's sign-in sheets, cubbies, and clothing bins. We share pictures with children, then invite them to write stories, describe what they were doing, or plan next steps. We share photographs with families through displays, posters, books, e-mail, Facebook, and CDs.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE AUTHOR



Nancy Gerber is a family child care provider who runs the Little House for Little People in Spokane, Washington. She was featured in the February/March 2011 issue of *Teaching Young Children*. Gerber has been a family child care provider for 35 years and is an active member of the Eastern Washington Association for the Education of Young Children. She also serves as the president of the family child care chapter of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU).



I've learned a lot from using photography. When you take a picture of a child, you validate the child and the importance of their work or play. Even though you watch the children each day, when you take a photo and look at it later, you often discover something entirely new that you missed. Parents can use photos to help children remember their experiences at the program. Photos are a wonderful way to share with families the daily lives of the children and to build community.