Dara Feldman

Garrett Park Elementary, Garrett Park, MD

Early Childhood Elementary Education

Kindergarten

"**Technology is an amazing tool** that I use creatively to help me differentiate my instruction as well as keep track of the data on my students. Creating electronic books during shared writing provides authentic leveled texts for my students to use during guided reading. The books are about my students and things that are relevant and meaningful to them. We print books out so students can take them home as well as keep a copy at school in their individual book baskets. Children also record themselves reading the books, which provides additional scaffolding for early emergent readers. For my students (ELL) whose native language is not English, other classmates and I create individual books and movies with and about our ELL students to help them learn vocabulary, concepts about print and a variety of content specific concepts and skills. It is amazing how quickly they learn when they are part of the subject! It is wonderful to see how other students in my class are so excited when their classmates start speaking a little English! They feel as though they are directly responsible and they were!"

"About 10 years ago....my school got 25 Machintosh computers. At that time, I didn't even know how to turn one on so I went to a 3-hour training. It was during that 3 hours that I saw the possibilities that technology possessed for my kinders. As a result, I was the first teacher in the computer lab with 25 kinders. I was a 1/2 step in front of them, but not for long. I was amazed as I watched the dynamics of my class change. Students who were normally very quiet would go over to another student and show them how to do something. Technology was a tool that allowed my non-English speaking students to show me what they knew." – *Dara Feldman*

"**Mrs. Feldman constantly strives** for new and different ways to meet the needs of her diverse students as they work to master rigorous curricular goals. Her kindergarten students come to her with a huge variance in their background knowledge, previous education, English language proficiency, and home support systems. Rather than looking at these differences as obstacles to teaching and learning, Mrs. Feldman sees them as challenges that she, her students, and their families will face together, meeting students where they are and then taking them further."
– *Lee Derby, principal, Garrett Park Elementary School*

Other Highlights:

National Board Teacher Certification, Early Childhood Generalist (2004)

Computerworld Smithsonian Education and Academia Award Recipient (2000)

National Education Technology Standards Writing Team Member (2000)

Maryland Business Roundtable, Best Practice Recipient (1999)

Apple Distinguished Educator (1999)

President, NAEYC Technology Special Interest Forum (1999-2002)

Co-leader, 21st Century Teachers Network Early Childhood Chapter

National Teacher Training Institute Master Teacher (1998)

Created and maintains class and resource Web site: homepage.mac.com/dara_feldman

Years Teaching: 20	**Average Class Size:** 25	**Classes Taught Per Day:** 1
School's Percent of ESL Students: 25	**School Type:** Public, Suburban	**Type of Class:** Self-contained