



Stepping With The Stones
Preschool for the First Steps In Learning™

2017-18 SWTS

What's the best preschool setting for my child?

by Jerry Stone, SWTS founder & administrator

First of all, any parent embarking upon a private preschool search has sometimes wondered: *Does it really matter where my child goes to preschool?* Certainly, it does. Preschool specialists say that *poor early schooling can affect children later on*, but I believe midcoast ME private preschools are, on the whole, quite capable places.

Most researchers plainly say *the differences among early childhood settings can affect a child's happiness*, most especially including her/his self-esteem, resiliency, & motivation. Too, researchers say, *"Certain children in certain environments can be turned off to learning & socialization."* **So, preschool search is of great importance!**

In all this, who knows best their child than do parents! An important question is: *"In what preschool would my child best flourish?"* or restated, *"Would my child be happier in this particular preschool because it values self-worth & dignity?"* Here then is my suggested search question: ***"What quality of relationship do teachers bring to the child in this preschool setting, that is, the warmth & responsiveness of the teacher toward the child?"*** Or, *"Do those in this early childhood setting receive the giftedness & energy of children? Do they listen to under-stand their questions & their wisdom? Do they respond to children's need to be loved & nurtured as they grow?"* After almost 50 years in education, of child advocacy, & being in endless, varied settings with children & youth, to me, answering these questions is hugely critical, as parents search for a quality preschool.

When searching for a preschool to make a match for your child, keep in mind what comes to mind for many these last 16 years, for those who really know Stepping With The Stones Preschool: *FAMILY LOVE & CARE, QUALITY, ENERGY, WARM RESPECT, GENUINE, FUN, PEACEFUL PLACE, DISCOVERY & IMAGINATION, BOY & GIRL FRIENDLY.* We believe it *does* matter where your child goes, especially if seeking something more challenging as well as friendly & fun-filled. Take a "look-see" here. Accept the complimentary visit & tour at SWTS. It costs nothing financially for such a search but can make the significant choice difference for your child.

DEFINING SWTS PRESCHOOL & K PROGRAM

Stepping With The Stones, located at 12 Lions Lane in Camden, ME, is a 21st century preschool for the first steps in learning (*now in its 16th year*). SWTS is an early childhood learning center for ages 2 to 6. We also offer kindergarten & Early Care & After Care programs. It was founded & is administrated by Jerry Stone, an award-winning public school educator (*now in his 46th year*), ordained minister (*now 40 years*), & lifelong child advocate.

SWTS is a warm, caring, family business, a holistic, fun, safe learning environment that honors children as persons of inestimable worth! Our focus is on affective & cognitive development, nonviolence & peace, & diversity & resiliency. **SWTS is a happy place where hugs, humor, & healthy respect are honored & developed. It's a place of peace**, teaching invaluable relational skills at an early age that help create close friends among staff & preschoolers. **Our focus on family & center on the child is well known!** SWTS moves far from developmental education to lots of choices while differentiating learning & promoting social skills development! We offer a dynamic 3-year curriculum with introductory languages, storytelling, dance, art, music, relaxation yoga, relational skills development, & more – all under the capable direction & leadership of engaging, vibrant male & female teachers.

SWTS is a boy- & girl-friendly place where building friendships & having fun are valued as are exploring, discovering, & growing! Here children laugh, play, sing, dance, make mistakes, risk & try again. At SWTS we celebrate, grow, & learn together to the very rhythms of life!

Once again, SWTS is a 21st Century preschool, defined by its incredible energy, engaging relationships, powerful vision, & long-held respect & dignity for the child & family!

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