

# Stepping With The Stones

## *Preschool for the First Steps in Learning*

### Basic Curriculum Guide

### Year A: Goals & Mission through Themes

At Stepping With The Stones new materials & activities, along with basic academic, social, & peace skills occur around the following themes & topics. This is a general guide for SWTS & parents. SWTS prides itself on providing a strong cognitive learning program. Each child is given individual & group instruction at his/her point of learning need. During Activity Time teachers choose a few daily activities that help foster academic growth & children, too, make many choices. This multi-level education is based on each child's innate abilities & giftedness, basic knowledge, genuine interests, & desire to learn. The overall objective of SWTS preschool is to enrich & enliven each child's appreciation & understanding of self, others, & the larger world. We work toward a partnership between school & home. Parents help provide child objectives during Fall & Spring Parent-Teacher Conferences. We grow self-esteem & self-confidence, risk taking, resiliency, & interdependence while having lots of fun, celebrating life, creating community, growing friendships among peers & staff, & providing strong, solid cognition –basics & more– while growing & enjoying varied social experiences. Music, poetry, art, dance, We dab in Spanish, French, & sign language throughout the preschool year. We offer our preschoolers a holistic learning experience. *Revised 1.06.16*

#### ***September & October*** (Celebrating Family & Self)

##### *Botany / Zoology*

- a. Autumn: apples, trees, leaves & foliage, pumpkins
- b. Metamorphosis (monarch butterfly)

##### *Geography*

- a. Air/land/water
- b. World map (continents)

##### *Math / Language* (worked on throughout Year A)

- a. Months, days, year, seasons
- b. Linear counting
- c. Letters & sounds recognition
- d. Units, 10's, 100's, 1000's
- e. Number formation & recognition
- f. 1-5; 1-10; 11-20; up to 100 & 1000's

##### *Cultural Studies*

- a. American flag, pledge, patriotic songs, other countries' nationalism
- b. Halloween (bats)

##### *Sensorial*

- a. Celebrating shapes & colors
- b. Introducing primary & secondary colors

##### *Nutrition*

- a. Harvest time (apples, pumpkins & jack-o-lanterns)

##### *Value Education* (ongoing throughout year)

- a. Self-awareness & community along with self, others, & family
- b. School as community & family (caring & taking care of each other)
- c. Peace skills (body awareness: "my space" & respecting space of others)
- d. Yoga

## **November & December** (Celebrating Others)

### *Zoology*

- a. Introducing living & non-living
- b. Introducing plants & animals
- c. Hibernation of winter mammals
- d. Arctic polar regions

### *Cultural Studies*

- a. Veteran's Day
- b. Pilgrims & Thanksgiving
- c. Hanukah, Christmas, & Kwanza

### *Nutrition*

- a. Holiday foods

## **January & February** (Celebrating New Beginnings)

### *Geography*

- a. Animals of the continents
- b. Snow, snowflakes, and snowmen
- c. Africa

### *Cultural Studies*

- a. Celebrating a new year
- b. Peacemakers: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day & Rosa Parks
- c. Lincoln & Washington's birthdays
- d. Valentine's Day (love & giving)

### *Time*

- a. 100<sup>th</sup> day of school celebration

### *Health & Nutrition*

- a. Study of the body
- b. Healthy hearts & lungs

## **March & April** (Celebrating Earth's New Life)

### *Zoology*

- a. Amphibians & reptiles
- b. Introducing vertebrates and invertebrates
- c. Arachnids

### *Botany & Zoology*

- a. Maple sugar season
- b. Spring

### *Cultural Studies*

- a. St. Patrick's Day
- b. Passover & Easter
- c. Earth Day

## **May & June** (Celebrating Passages)

### *Botany*

- a. Photosynthesis
- b. Gardening & flowers
- c. Seeds & bulbs
- d. Spring & summer

### *Cultural Studies*

- a. Memorial Day
- b. Farm life (visiting a farm)
- c. Final celebration, preschool graduation & passage