

Stepping With The Stones

Preschool for the First Steps in Learning

Basic Curriculum Guide

Year B: Goals & Mission through Themes

At Stepping With The Stones new materials and activities, along with basic academic, social, and peace skills occur around the following themes and topics. This is a general guide for you and us. Each child is given individual and group instruction at his/her point of need in learning. Teachers choose a few daily activities that help foster academic growth. Too, children make many choices. This multi-level education is based on each child's innate abilities and giftedness, genuine interests, and desire to learn. The overall objective of SWTS preschool is to enrich and enliven each child's appreciation and understanding of self, others, and the larger world. SWTS prides itself on providing a strong cognitive learning program. We work toward a partnership between school and home. We foster self-confidence, risk-taking, and interdependence while having lots of fun, celebrating life, creating community, and providing strong, solid academics –basics and more– and enjoying varied social experiences. Music, poetry, art, dance, theater, and storytelling help enrich learning.. At SWTS math is developmental and thus ongoing, as is true for language. Some Spanish (colors & numbers) and some sign language are explored throughout the preschool year. We offer our preschoolers a holistic learning experience. *Revised 10-10-08*

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. 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. Shapes & colors
- b. Introducing primary & secondary colors

Self & Community (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 self, others, & environment (begins in October)
- d. Yoga (begins in October)

November & December (Celebrating Others)

Zoology

- a. Introducing living & non-living
- b. Introducing plants & animals
- c. Hibernation of winter mammals & animal tracks

Cultural Studies

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

Sensorial

- a. Re-introducing primary & secondary colors

January & February (Celebrating New Beginnings)

Geography

- a. Africa or Australia
- b. Rainforests

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. Celebrating a new year
- b. Snow, snowflakes, & snowman

Science

- a. Volcanoes

March & April (Celebrating Earth's New Life)

Botany & Zoology

- a. Maple sugar season
- b. Introducing vertebrates and invertebrates

Geography

- a. North American or South America

Cultural Studies / Time

- a. St. Patrick's Day
- b. Passover & Easter
- c. Earth Day (beings stewards of the earth)
- d. 100th Day Celebration

May & June (Celebrating Passages)

Botany & Zoology

- a. Photosynthesis
- b. Gardening (seeds, bulbs, & flowers)
- c. Arachnids

Cultural Studies

- a. Memorial Day
- b. Final celebration & passage

We encourage parents/grandparents to share their unique knowledge, talents, gifts, special abilities, hobbies, & arts and crafts throughout the preschool year.

Contact teaching staff with your interests and desire to share.

Thank you.