

Stepping With The Stones

Preschool for the First Steps in Learning

Basic Curriculum Guide Year C

Basic 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, leaves & foliage, pumpkins
- b. Metamorphosis (monarch butterfly)
- c. Study of Eric Carle, especially The Very Hungry Caterpillar
- d. Sun / "solar prints" (experiment)

Geography/Science

- a. Air/water/wind (science experiments)
- b. Landforms & water forms (air, land & water activity)
- c. World map (continents)
- d. Sun/"solar prints" experiment

Time

- a. Concept of a day & introduction of days of the week
- b. Introduction of the week and months of the year
- c. All seasons
- d. The monthly calendar

Math / Language (done each month at point of child's need)

- a. Linear counting
- b. Letters & sounds recognition
- c. Number formation & recognition

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Cultural Studies

- a. American flag, pledge, patriotic songs (throughout the year)
- b. Halloween (bats; bones; skeletons)

Sensorial

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

Self & Community

- a. Self-awareness & community
- b. Self, others, & family
- c. Peace skills (begins in October with body awareness: "my space" & respecting space of others & "Stop, please!")
- d. Yoga (begins in October)

November (Celebrating Community)

Zoology

- a. Introducing living & non-living
- b. Introducing plants & animals

Geography

- a. Europe or Asia
- b. Thanksgiving, Pilgrims, & Native Americans

December (Celebrations of Life)

Zoology

- a. Hibernation of mammals

Cultural Studies

- a. Hanukah, Christmas, & Kwanza

Science

- a. Science experiments – "Grow a Crystal Garden" & "Edible Crystals"

January (Celebrating New Beginnings)

Zoology

- a. Reptiles & dinosaurs

Cultural Studies

- a. Peacemakers: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day & "Get on the Bus, Rosa Parks"
- b. American sign language

Time

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

Science

- a. Echo & echo location (science experiments: making an echo; megaphone; string telephones; seashell resonance; speaking tubes)

February (Celebrating with Heart)

Geography

- a. Antarctica
- b. Birds – penguins, etc

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Cultural Studies

- a. Groundhog Day
- b. Lincoln & Washington & the president
- c. Valentine's Day (love & giving)

Nutrition

- a. The four food groups
- b. Science experiment (food & taste)

March (Celebrating Earth's New Life)

Science

- a. Our amazing planet: Earth
- b. Stars & comets – moon, sun

Time

- a. 100th Day celebration

Geography

- a. China or India or Mexico

Cultural Studies

- a. St. Patrick's Day
- b. Dr. Seuss Birthday Celebration

April (Celebrating Life Anew)

Botany

- a. Spring
- b. Flowers & seeds

Zoology

- a. Insects
- b. Pollination

Geography/Science

- a. Taking care of Mother Earth, Earth Day (recycle and reuse) & environmental art
- b. Physics science – airplanes, parachutes, kites (paper airplane & helicopters)

Cultural Studies

- a. Passover & Easter

May/June (Celebrating Passages)

Science

- a. Amphibians
- b. Pond life
- c. Science experiment – “Underwater Viewers” (bugs & tadpoles)
- d. Planting the garden
- e. A day at the beach – science experiments & a shore visit
- f. Gases: Making a bubble mix

Cultural Studies

- a. Celebration & Passage
- b. Transitioning from preschool and to summer