

Sun and Stars Montessori School

Stars Class 2-3 year old program

*“Never help a child with a task at which he feels he can succeed.”
-Maria Montessori*

The first few years of life are the most crucial in the life of an individual. The Stars class (2-3 year old program) is designed to allow children to master the exploration needed as they move toward establishing self-confidence, self-discipline, self-motivation, ability to concentrate, inner contentment, thoughtfulness, compassion and understanding.

The Stars class serves children who are comfortably walking, ages 2 through 3 years old in a small and intimate group setting with a low teacher-child ratio. We have two school day options, either half-day (9:00am - 12:00 noon) or full-day (9:00am – 3:00pm).

The environment conforms to the physical needs of the children, both in the size of the furnishings and in the opportunities for motor development. There is minimal furniture, tiled and carpeted flooring, maximum natural light, selected art placed low on the walls, toilets sized for very small children, and defined spaces to challenge coordination of movement.

One important focus of our program is to help the children develop basic trust, allowing a transfer of trust to occur from parent/primary caregiver to teacher. This is the first step toward creating trustworthy relationships and bonds as they grow and experience more and more of their environment outside of the home.

At this stage, toddlers are on a quest of self-discovery with the challenge of wanting everything at the same time. We help to balance spontaneity and structure; guidance and independence; freedom and limits.

Our program also incorporates well rounded, multi-faceted development, which for 2-3year olds, includes

- Sensory development
- Individual (self-help) skills
- Gross motor development

- Social and emotional skills and opportunities
- Language development

Children work at tables, choosing materials and manipulatives independently. They enjoy circle time, snack time and outdoor activities.

The practical life area includes materials necessary for caring for plants and animals, hand washing, polishing, pouring, spooning, folding, lacing, flower arranging, and so on.

The language area includes miniature objects, language nomenclature cards (parts of the body, family members, and pets, components of the neighborhood, the school, and the home), books (fiction, poetry, and nonfiction), spoken vocabulary enrichment exercises, and other activities including art and music experiences.