

Why Stay for K?

A three year Montessori journey

 **The Walden School**

Reasoning behind the three year cycle

- Children in a Montessori classroom begin as novice learners but leave as leaders when they stay for the third year
- They return to the same familiar classroom, students and teachers for three consecutive years
- They are given the opportunity to mature and synthesize all the skills they've built in the classroom since starting at Walden
- They have the ability to explore the full scope of the Montessori curriculum for 3-6 year-olds while tuning into their interests and specific skill sets

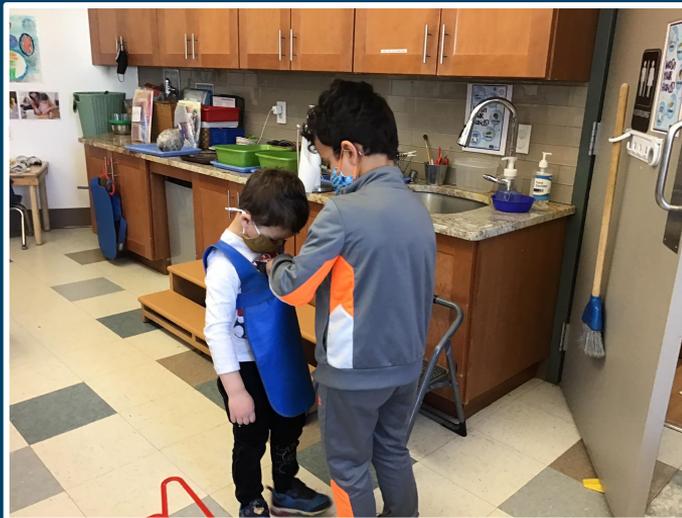
First Year: Novice

The child enters as a three year old and practices simple exercises aimed at developing fine motor and self-help skills, phonemic awareness, and extending their concentration.



Second Year: Apprentice

The child practices more sustained activities, masters letter sounds, writes and decodes words, and dives into the math curriculum. They are active and engaged members of the classroom.



Third Year: Leader

The child is very capable and has the world of the classroom at their fingertips: a world of reading, large math exercises, and knowledge of themselves and their space. They possess the confidence to conquer the work for which they have prepared themselves for the last two years.



Thoughts on pedagogy from Maria Montessori



“Education begins at birth and never ends. If the children’s developmental needs are met, children will be able to maximize their potentials, whatever they may be.”

“Our care of the child should be governed, not by the desire to make him learn things, but by the endeavor always to keep burning within him that light which is called intelligence.”

“This is education, understood as a help to life; an education from birth, which feeds a peaceful revolution and unites all in a common aim, attracting them as to a single center.”

“The greatest gifts we can give our children are the roots of responsibility and the wings of independence.”

In the classroom, kindergarteners are teachers and sources of inspiration for younger students. They are organized and inventive.





They are responsible and confident of their skills. They are reliable helpers and caregivers.



After two years in their group, they've had extensive practice with cooperation, communication, teamwork and problem solving with their peers.

Repetition is key in a Montessori classroom. Students have many opportunities to practice their interests organically until they master the concept.



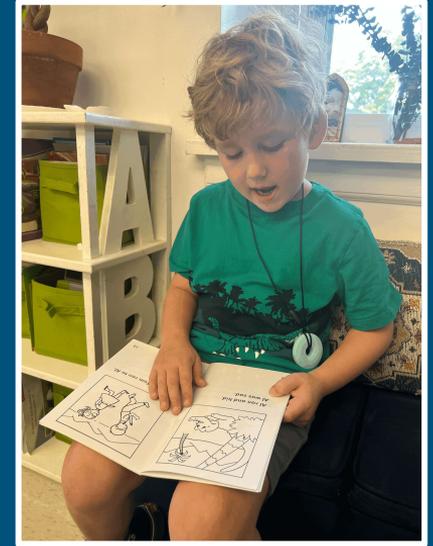
Language - Phonemic Awareness to Fluency



1st year

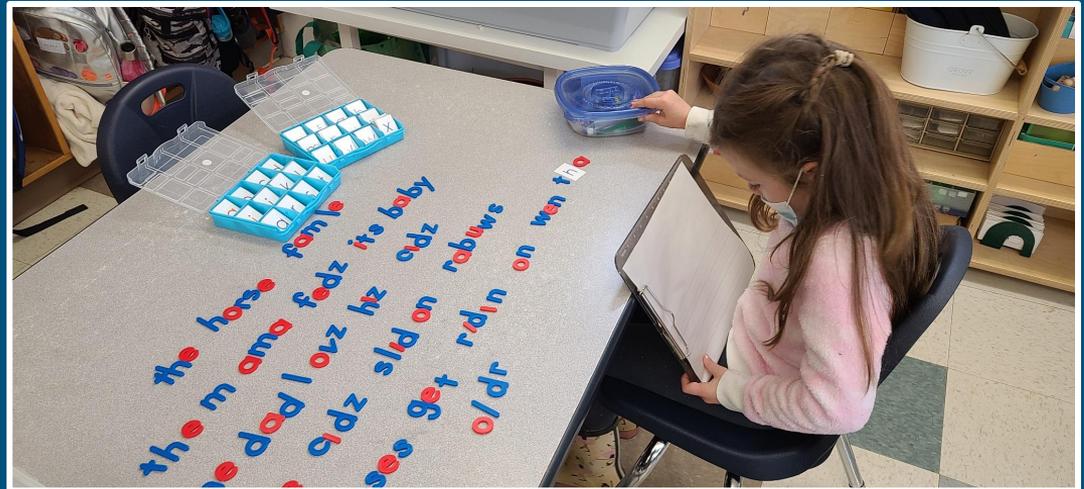
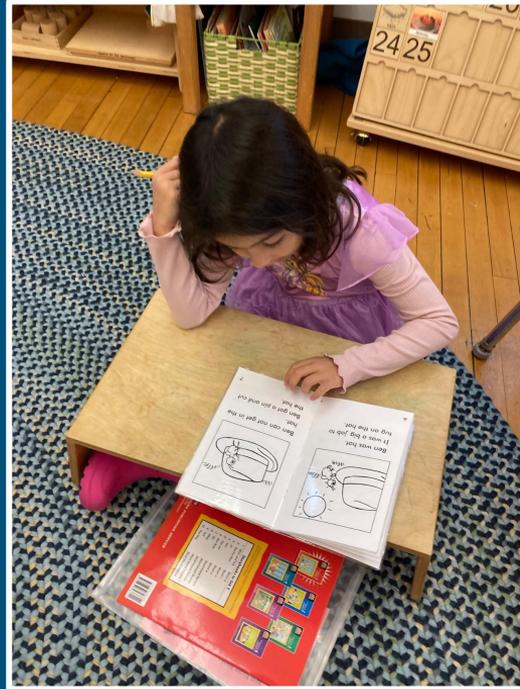


2nd year



3rd year

Language



Mathematics - Big Kids, Big Numbers



Geography



Botany/Zoology



Practical Life - Self-help to Stewardship



Peace Education



"Preventing conflicts is the work of politics;
establishing peace is the work of education."
-Maria Montessori, *Education and Peace*

Co-curriculars



At this stage, children have matured enough to venture outside the classroom community and actively engage with their kindergarten peers (from other classrooms) in a broader range of activities.

They participate in physical education, art classes, and other elementary grade events, such as service learning collaboration, team building projects, and academic and cultural diversity presentations.

This expansion of their learning environment demonstrates the trust their teachers have in them, while it encourages independence, socialization, and a deeper understanding of the world around them.



And, for three years, they have the same teachers!!!

Established relationships with teachers mean....



- No additional time is spent creating a trusting bond
 - Child possesses complete familiarity with the environment
 - Consistent goals and expectations exist for each child
 - Teachers are invested in the success of each child and their respective journey
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Question and Answer Portion

