

YOUR CHILD'S DAY

DOWNSTAIRS A.R.T.S.

Children in the Downstairs ARTS program are divided by age into 2 groups with blue being the older and green being the younger. Generally, the age range within a group is around 6 months.

There are 2 classrooms downstairs. Studio 1 is used for Music and Movement. The green group starts here each day. Studio III is the Art, Music and Montessori room where the blue group begins each day. Children spend about an hour in each room.

Music and Movement classes work on basic motor and dance skills, as well as on problem solving using movement in space through time. Props can include rhythm instruments, puppets, scarves, and beanbags.

The Art, Music, Montessori classroom offers a variety of different activities. There is a book corner, shelf work, imaginative play area, pre-writing table, construction table and a blue circle with a variety of building materials to share. Children generally participate in art projects on Monday and Tuesday. Wednesday and Thursday generally incorporate special projects and practical life exercises. The hour of activities concludes with circle time.

During the course of the year, we work on thematic units that usually last about 3 weeks. Items in our blue circle, imaginative play area, books, puzzles, shelf work, art and music vary with each theme.

A water break is given halfway through the morning. Before water break children wash their hands and change classrooms.

There is one teacher and one aide in each classroom and one or two “floating aides” who assist children with hand washing and bathroom needs. The aides also help in classrooms and are actively involved in greeting and dismissal procedures.

Children 3 ½ (by September 1) and older are eligible to participate in our Friday STEM class that is held in our large open upstairs classroom.