



The Kindergarten/3rd Year Montessori Experience Rochester Montessori School



The kindergarten or 3rd year is a special time in a child's Montessori education. During this year, children make impressive academic progress, build confidence and self-esteem, take on leadership roles, and further their enthusiasm for learning. This occurs because we have set high expectations, and our instructional approaches are designed to further children's cognitive, emotional, and social development.

A Year of Deeper Learning

Our kindergarten curriculum is designed for the 3rd year child to integrate the activities and experiences they enjoyed as toddlers, three- or four-year-olds. When they were younger, for example, they combined and sequenced a variety of objects based on shape, color, and size. They related counted quantities to numerals. They were also taught the phonetic sounds of letters. The 3rd year is a time when children engage in deeper learning and further their abilities to read, write, and think mathematically. Because they are older, they more fully understand scientific concepts, recognize geographical locations, and explore cultural traditions.

Additional Classes

Kindergartners also take classes in art, music, physical education, and Spanish. 3rd year children combine and blend phonetic sounds, read and write words, sentences, and even entire books. 3rd year children enjoy writing the names of animals, plants, insects, and the names of nations or states. They like to classifying pictures of animals or insects based on habitat. The children will also investigate the process of arithmetic. They are interested in knowing addition math facts such as $5 + 3$. They are also drawn to study place value using materials. They may, for example, add $5,621 + 3,945$ or subtract $5,462 - 3,913$. The children use other materials for multiplication and skip count (*ten, twenty, thirty...*) to 1,000.

Equivalence: A New Way of Thinking

As five-year-olds mature, they begin to understand the concept of equivalence; two scalene right triangles, for example, are equivalent to a rectangle. As they discern equivalence, the children enjoy comparing the many different ways cultures satisfy human needs for food, shelter, transportation, and clothing. They also investigate a variety of land forms including archipelagoes, peninsulas, and isthmuses. These are but a few of the many challenging learning activities found in the Children's House classrooms at RMS.

Personalized Learning: A Spiral Curriculum

Children are introduced to the materials and activities as they are ready. Many of these learning materials and activities, often introduced for sensorial exploration during the Children's House years, are used again, but for different purposes, during the elementary years. Information about our elementary curriculum can be found on our website at www.rmschool.org.

The following pages outline the kindergarten or 3rd year learning experiences that occur in the curricular areas of leadership, mathematics, geometry, reading, writing, geography, and science.

<i>Area</i>	<i>Studies</i>	<i>Materials/Activities</i>
Leadership	Personal Care; Care of the Environment	A variety of leadership and personal care activities
Mathematics	Reading, writing, and understanding numeration from 0 to 100	Red and Blue Rods Spindle Boxes Cards and Counters Short Bead Stair Teen Boards Tens Boards Hundred Board Golden Bead Material Square Bead Chains
	Reading, writing, and understanding numeration from 101 to 9,999	Golden Bead Material Cube Bead Chains Numeral Cards 1 – 9,999
	Addition with single digit addends Addition with up to 4-digit addends Addition with regrouping Addition facts – sums to 18	Red and Blue Rods Short Bead Stair Bank Game Stamp Game Addition Strip Board Addition Charts Positive “Snake” Game
	Subtraction with single digit subtrahend Subtraction with up to 4-digit subtrahends Subtraction with regrouping	Red and Blue Rods Short Bead Stair Bank Game Stamp Game Subtraction Strip Board
	Multiplication with single digit multiplier	Bank Game Stamp Game Bead Bar Multiplication Multiplication Board
	Introduction to division	Bank Game Stamp Game Division Board
	Introduction to fractions	Fraction Insets
Plane Geometry	Nomenclature and identification: cube, cylinder, cone, sphere, ovoid, ellipsoid, rectangular prism, triangular prism, square-based pyramid	Geometric Solids
	Nomenclature and identification of Euclidean Triangles (equilateral, scalene acute, scalene right, scalene obtuse, isosceles acute, isosceles right, isosceles obtuse)	Geometric Cabinet Triangle Box Rectangle Box Small and Large Hexagon Boxes
	Nomenclature and identification of Quadrilaterals (trapezoid, parallelogram, rectangle, rhombus, square)	Geometric Cabinet Triangle Boxes

<i>Area</i>	<i>Studies</i>	<i>Materials/Activities</i>
Plane Geometry	First studies of equivalence (for example, two scalene right triangles are equivalent to a rectangle)	Triangle Box Rectangle Box Small and Large Hexagon Boxes
	Nomenclature and identification of polygons (pentagon, hexagon, heptagon, nonagon, decagon)	Geometric Cabinet
Reading	Initial phonetic sounds (for example, "c," "a," "t"; "s," "a," "t")	Sandpaper Letters Moveable Alphabet Object Boxes
	Blending and reading three letter phonetic words (for example, "cat," "sat," "bat")	Moveable Alphabet Object Boxes A variety of labeled picture cards A variety of word flip books
	Puzzle words; for example, "the"	Moveable Alphabet Object Boxes Phonetic Books
	Introduction to consonant blends	Moveable Alphabet Object Boxes A variety of labeled picture cards Blends booklets
	Introduction to phonograms and silent "e"	Moveable Alphabet Object boxes A variety of labeled picture cards Phonogram booklets
	Vocabulary building	A variety of three-part cards sets
	Independent reading	A variety of books
	Alphabetizing	A variety of word lists Moveable Alphabet
	Reading classification	A variety of materials – the Farm, picture/word sets
	Introduction to genres	A variety of print materials for stories, poetry, songs, plays, nonfiction
	Interpretive reading	A variety of printed materials for children to read and act out
	Literal interpretation (reading for information)	A variety of stories for children to read and summarize
	Reading comprehension	S.R.A.s and a variety of printed materials
Introduction to functions of words (for example nouns and verbs)	Grammar objects and symbols	
Writing	Preparatory exercises	The Metal Insets Chalk boards – unlined and lined Copying letters on paper – unlined and lined Letter tracing cards

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Writing	Practice exercises	Copying Moveable Alphabet words on lined paper; Tracing and copying sheets; Labeling drawings and maps;
	Writing personal names	Cards with the child's written name
	Composition	Copying Moveable Alphabet words on lined paper; Invented spelling with phrases and stories First punctuation lessons
	Capitalization	Lower case Sandpaper letters
	Introduction to Punctuation	A variety of print materials Punctuation marks and the Moveable Alphabet
Geography	Parts of Earth Climates Habitats Locations of the continents Locations of nations The United States Cultural expressions	Air/land/water Land and water forms Puzzle maps of the continents, nations, and the United States A variety of artifacts, pictures, and print materials depicting cultural traditions
Science	An introduction to time	Timeline of the seasons Names of the months Calendars Names of the days The clock
	Botany	The story of plants and animals Dissection of a flower Botany cabinet and cards Needs of a plant Plants give off water Roots grow down Parts of a flower Parts of a tree Parts of a leaf Plants from around the world
	Zoology	The story of animals Language cards of animals Animal riddles Life cycle of a frog, butterfly, bird, chicken Studies of the human skeleton, body systems, and senses

<i>Area</i>	<i>Studies</i>	<i>Materials/Activities</i>
Science	Classification	Magnetic/non-magnetic Living and non-living Plants and animals Sink and float Vertebrates and invertebrates Parts of a flower, tree, leaf Collections
	Exploration and discovery; chemical reactions; astronomy; meteorology	A variety of materials and activities; for example simple machines, conservation, recycling
	Astronomy	Sun, moon, earth The solar system
	The Environment	Recycling activities Conservation Composting