



The Montessori Third Year

The Primary Classrooms are specifically designed to educate children in a three year cycle. During the first and second years (ages 3-4 & 4-5), the children in the Primary Classrooms are building their foundation in the classroom. They are being introduced to math materials, new language concepts, and are learning new practical life skills each day. They are also learning how to navigate the classroom and build their relationships and social skills through the many interactions that they have with peers and teachers throughout their first two years.

The third year (age 5-6), or Kindergarten Year, is the most important year in the three year cycle. The third year students become the leaders in the classroom and are seeing the hard work of their first two years begin to open up new possibilities in the classroom. They are now able to demonstrate their mastery of the materials and of the environment through demonstration to their younger peers. The students become the teachers in their third year. They navigate the classroom with ease and see possibilities open up to them both in the ways that they use the materials and the in-depth lessons they can explore.

The third year is a blossoming of the potential of the child. It is essential and empowering for the student and helps them develop a love of learning that will last them throughout their educational career.

Our expectation is that students entering the Primary Classrooms will be attending for their third year. Third year students enrich the classrooms and are a vital piece of the Montessori learning cycle for all students in the classroom.

The [American Montessori Society](#) has a wonderful short video and some reading specifically about the Kindergarten Year. We would encourage you to read, watch, and formulate some questions. You can discuss your plans for your child's third year

during your Student Visit or set up a time to discuss over the phone with Jaden or Satomi. They will be happy to talk to you about the three year cycle more in depth and can answer any lingering questions you might have.