

Things We Tried to Teach, This Year

Besides 'the usual' educational concepts of letters, numbers, colors, shapes, beginning sounds, same/different, rhythm/rhymes, positional words, and just plain having fun at school, here's a partial list of other concepts we worked on this year:

- How to enter/leave the school building and classroom, safely and appropriately
- Using 'walking feet' and 'indoor voices'
- Taking responsibility for our own possessions
- Following routines and accepting planned or unexpected changes / Flexibility and understanding the reasons for routines
- Following rules and understanding why they are necessary
- Being independent and knowing when to ask for help
- Trying new things
- Vocabulary, Languages, and Geography
- Learning and using conflict resolution skills
- Employing volume control
- Self-regulation and controlling impulsive behaviors
- Patience and waiting in a variety of situations
- Logical consequences for actions / Accepting discipline and re-direction
- Creativity in work and play
- Engaging in imaginative play
- Learning the difference between real and fantasy
- Joining others in work and play
- How to handle extended play / Not 'flitting' from one activity to another
- Decision-making and making good choices
- Taking turns and sharing
- Good manners
- How to handle excitement, as well as disappointment
- Good sportsmanship and empathy, whether things go your way or not
- Developing and using good listening skills in a group setting, as well as in one-on-one conversations
- Using the 'two-handed rule' for a turn to talk in a group setting (a raised hand indicates you want a turn; the other hand covers your mouth reminding you to stay quiet until called upon)
- Sitting with a group without distracting yourself or others
- Listening to and following directions
- Handling our own disinterest in the activity/environment (how not to be 'bored', yet not disrupt or get into mischief, either)
- Using and respecting STOP signs and other signals that deliver a message
- Using timers and clocks in a variety of ways
- Understanding the passage of time, using clocks, timers, and calendars
- Using ordinal numbers (ex: first, second, twenty-fifth, etc)
- Respect for self, others, property, and the environment



- Body movements / Moving conscientiously (being aware of our body space)
- Walking conscientiously (without stepping into or onto people or objects)
- Problem-solving (examples include: building blocks, doing a puzzle; what to do next when you're done with your work; figuring out if something is garbage or recycling)
- Understanding and respecting personal space for self and others
- Accountability for putting away items of use / cleaning up own messes
- Volunteerism: what it is, when it's helpful (and not), and doing it with/without recognition
- Cooperation/working together with others
- Observing, estimating, guesstimating, predicting, hypothesizing, charting, graphing, experimenting, comparing, and approximating in all sorts of situations
- Sorting and using Venn diagrams
- Reflection and calming techniques, including the benefits of taking a deep breath now and then.
- Greetings and conversational skills (one example is looking at the teacher and saying 'good morning')
- Developing a love of language and books/reading
- Using our imagination / Sharing our ideas with others
- Encouraging curiosity, awareness and interest in the world around us
- Standing/walking in line
- Making a circle by holding hands with others
- Controlling behaviors/understanding expectations before, during, and after transitions between activities
- Building positive self-esteem in ourselves and others
- Doing/saying nice things for self and others (these are the 'Heartprints' we leave behind)
- Smiling for the camera ☺
- **School is a place to have fun!**

