

## **AppleSeed International School Preschool Program**

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### **I. Get to know our school and teachers**

AppleSeed International School uses an early childhood education program inspired by Montessori philosophy. Each child is a “spiritual embryo”, in need of an environment warm with love and rich in nourishment, in which the child will be protected and can grow and develop his/her unique and whole personality.

### **II. Get to know our classroom: A Typical Day**

#### **A. Receiving and greeting children**

If your child needs to be dropped off before 8:45 or 9:00 a.m. please take him/her to the designated daycare room – Auditorium; the teacher there will greet your child. Otherwise we'll greet you and your child in their own classroom. (Sign-in sheets will be at the front table before 9:00 am. After 9:00 a.m. it will be in your child's classroom.)

Please don't forget to sign your child in daily.

#### **B. Circle**

Attendance, calendar date, days of the week, number of days we have been in school, weather, and Montessori demonstration.

#### **C. Individual Work Time**

During the Work Time, your child has the freedom to choose and work with “jobs” in different areas. Our classrooms are divided into six different areas, which are Practical Life, Sensorial, Language, Math, Science and Geography, and Art.

#### **D. Curriculum Areas**

##### **1. Practical Life Area**

In the Practical Life Area, your child has a chance to work with familiar objects: Buttons, brushes, dishes, pitchers, water and many other things which the child recognizes from his/her home experience. Each “job” has a meaningful design, which will work in perfecting your child's coordination and help him gain confidence. Through the constant repetition of motions the child is strengthening the muscles that he will need to be able to work later with the more intricate academic materials. As the child becomes absorbed in an activity, he gradually lengthens his span of concentration. Through repetitive use, these hands-on materials will also help your child to develop a sense of order and help him to be more independent.

##### **2. Sensorial**

Each of the Sensorial Materials isolates one defining quality such as color, weight, shape, texture, size, sound, smell, etc. The equipment emphasizes this one particular quality by eliminating or minimizing other differences. Using the Sensorial Materials helps develop and refine a child's sense perceptions and enables him to understand the many impressions he receives through his/her senses.

##### **3. Language**

We will prepare your child for language by working on the pre-language activities such as matching picture cards, sequencing cards, puzzles, etc. We will introduce the phonetic sounds by using the sandpaper letters, symbols matching objects, songs, etc. By tracing the Sandpaper letters, your child sees the shape, feels the shape, and he hears the sound of the letter, which the teacher repeats when introducing it. This is an important step in learning to write. The

repetition of this exercise fixes the path of each of the letters in the child's muscular memory. In our classroom, your child will learn the phonetic sounds of the letters before he learns the alphabetical names. The phonetic sounds are given first because these are the sounds he hears in words. After the child has learned the Sandpaper letters, he is ready to make words with the Movable Alphabet. Your child can start by selecting an object or an object card. Then he can select the letter to represent the first sound, then, the vowel and the letter for the ending sound. Your child will be working by following this order: Phonetic sound – beginning sound, ending sound, three letter words (cat, fan, bed, etc.), four letter words (consonant blending, and long vowels), sentences, and so on.

4. Math

Math is everywhere in our classroom. We count the children, the calendar days, snacks, etc. A child can learn basic concepts of mathematics by using concrete materials during the years in which he/she enjoys manipulating equipment. Dr. Montessori demonstrated that if a child has access to mathematical equipment in his early years, he could easily and joyfully assimilate many facts and skills of arithmetic. In a Montessori environment, a child not only sees the symbol for 1 or 1000 he can also hold each of the corresponding quantities in his hand.

5. Science and Geography

We introduce science and geography by looking at a big picture then dividing it into smaller parts. First we start by looking at the world we live in. Then gradually we will look into each continent, etc.

6. Art

We expose your child to the following materials: finger paint, water paint, sponge paint, easel paint, cutting, pasting, stencil tracing. Your child will experience different techniques and color through the use of our art area and various craft projects.

### **III. Music**

Each classroom teacher provides music instruction through music and movement exercises, finger plays, puppet shows, and flannel stories.

### **IV. Sharing Day**

Every Monday is our "Sharing Day". Your child is encouraged to bring one item for sharing which is related to our "Sound of the Week," color, shape, number or monthly theme. Books with the letter in the title are an excellent choice. Please ask a teacher if you have any questions. (Please do not bring any toys.)