



Stepping Stones in the Butterfly Class (age 2 ½ - 3 years old)

The Stepping Stones classroom is a transitional class where our youngest students can spend anywhere from 4-9 months working on skills to prepare them for the rigors of the Primary class in our Children's House program. The timeframe that your child spends in the Butterfly class will depend on their readiness and availability in the Primary classrooms.

A Stepping Stones student begins to see themselves as part of a bigger whole, looking beyond oneself and family. In a classroom with a small class size, they learn to be part of a community and develop social and emotional skills – from parallel play to cooperative play, from being helped to becoming more independent to care for their own needs and eventually fulfilling that desire to help and care for others. They also start making meaningful connections with their own lives and school life. Language development takes off during this time from receptive to expressive language and using these skills to understand their feelings, process math and language concepts. The Butterfly class is an excellent environment to introduce a child to the Montessori Method.

How do I know if my 2 ½ year old is ready to join the Butterfly class?

- Your child has to be 2 years and 6 months old when they join the class
- Your child should be nearly potty trained and exhibit almost complete independence in using the restroom. They should be out of diapers and only need a pullup on special occasions (nap, overnight, illness, etc.). A teacher can help with fastening pants, wiping a BM, but not much more. Accidents will happen, but should be minimal, not daily.
- Your child has the beginning of self-care: dressing oneself, pulling up/down pants, etc. They may need support with buttons, wet/soiled clothing, and the sequence of changing clothes.
- Your child responds to redirection regarding bodily control in the classroom within 3 prompts from an adult.
- Your child shows interest in sitting for group lessons; potentially joins for a duration of 5 minutes.
- Your child can follow simple directions with 3 prompts or fewer.
- Your child has separated from the parent/caregiver before. Calms down within 45 minutes, if upset during the transition.
- Your child is practicing communicating their needs and wants. With some prompting, they can share a need. The child accepts help from an adult and is practicing to accept help from another child.

In order to evaluate readiness, your child will be invited to the class for a one-on-one child visit with the Butterfly teacher or a group pop-in and play with 3-4 other prospective students. Approval to enroll in this class is needed by the Children's House Coordinator.