

The Importance of the Third Year in the Three Year Montessori Cycle:
Why to Keep your Child at The Kiva for the Kindergarten Year

Dear Kiva Families,

It is understandable that many families will consider pulling their children out of The Children's Kiva for the Kindergarten year, as the public school option is now available to your school-aged child, free of cost. Here are some important reasons why the choice to remain at The Kiva for the Kindergarten year is the best one for most children. *When children are able to remain at The Kiva for Kindergarten, we see them make leaps and bounds in the Kindergarten year, cognitively, socially, and emotionally. We believe this time is crucial for solidifying the values they have been learning during the first years.*

What they gain:

1. Increased Leadership Skills, Empathy and Self Confidence

Kindergarteners are given a special and very important role in their final year at our school. They are now "The Big Kids," with more experience and knowledge, which they now regularly get the opportunity to share with their younger classmates. They serve as **leaders**, helping to guide the younger children, as older students once did for them. This encourages empathy, increased self-confidence and a deeper understanding of their roles as *future leaders in their communities*.

2. Individualized attention and lessons just for Kindergarteners

Kindergarteners at The Kiva are in a singular group, and they receive special lessons and guidance from the teachers during this year. The kindergarteners receive small group lessons designed specifically for them. The individual interests of the child are fostered as each one works with the materials in preparation for first grade. The kindergarteners work at their own pace, enabling them to not tire of the academic environment. There isn't pressure to "keep up" nor are they bored with having to wait as they are free to develop and fulfill their individual needs. This is an empowering process that develops a love of learning.

3. Setting them up for success as life long learners

Montessori education is fundamentally about increasing self confidence, and learning to approach one's education with a sense of intellectual wonder, excitement, and curiosity. *The kindergarten curriculum will encourage and deepen these fundamental learning skills which will serve them in their educational pursuits throughout their lives.*

"Will your child's education be guaranteed more by the fact that he/she becomes interested and excited by learning? Or by the fact that you have money in the bank for later years of learning? If a child becomes bored or 'disinterested' in learning, he or she may decide against further education long before the college years. A strong foundation allows for a more sturdy structure."

The Children's Garden, 1994

Please contact me or your child's Teacher for more information on the specifics of the curriculum, and how your child can best be served in their third year at The Kiva.

Thank you for sharing your beautiful children with us!

Kristin Croker,
Head of School