



You may be wondering... Why choose 2s?

Some people think ‘My child is only 2; isn’t he too young to learn anything at school?’ Others may think ‘My child is so ready to learn, why are her teachers just letting her play all day?’ The answer to both questions is the same—**children learn through play.**

2-year-olds are capable of more than most people realize, but they don’t learn it by sitting at a desk or listening to someone lecture at them. Children learn best through guided experiences and interactions.

When our daily schedule says ‘free play’ that’s actually when most of the classroom learning occurs! During our morning meeting we introduce topics and ask the children to share what they already know. We then help them expand their knowledge by encouraging them to question and wonder. We present materials and objects to engage children and inspire them to find the answers. Instead of handing them the information, we provide the means to obtain that knowledge on their own through inquiry.

When our students play in the classroom, they find toys and materials designed to help them learn about and experiment with the topics we discuss during morning meetings.

The teachers are there to guide them by asking questions like 'I wonder how you could make that car go faster?' Or 'I wonder where apples come from?' The children are engaged in the learning because it's fun and meaningful to build a ramp out of blocks or cut open an apple and plant the seeds.

One of the most important aspects of a 2-year-old classroom is the social-emotional learning that is constantly occurring. Most 2-year-olds have never had to share their toys with other kids their age, and learning how to handle this is not easy! When playing with their peers the children are constantly being put into situations that can produce strong emotions and the teachers are there to help them label their feelings and learn how to manage them. They also learn how to notice and identify the emotions of their classmates and how to respond to them appropriately.

We teach the children empathy and kindness by encouraging them to help their friends with tasks like fastening their smocks or to offer a hug to a child who is crying. This not only teaches them to be kind to others but also gives the children a sense of pride in themselves for being a good friend.

Another important focus in our 2-year-old class is on independence and self-help skills. When you are at home with your child it can be very time-consuming and messy to let your child do things on their own. At school, taking time to teach each child how to put on their own jacket is part of our daily schedule. We work hard to empower our students by helping them be independent in as many ways as possible, from washing their hands, to putting on their shoes, to cleaning up after lunch time.

By focusing on learning through experiences and inquiry this year in school, your child will gain the valuable skills necessary to learn and accomplish academically, socially and emotionally as they continue their preschool journey!