

Social-Emotional Learning from Infancy through Pre-K

Social-emotional skills acquired in the preschool years pave the way for children to form lasting friendships, develop empathy, and understand different situations. Our teachers encourage social-emotional development, first and foremost, by creating a safe and supportive environment where every child feels good about coming to school.

Below are specific examples on how we facilitate this learning in each of our classrooms.



Mixed Age (3-6 years)

Primary teachers encourage students to generate some of their own rules and routines, even silly ones! This promotes ownership over their own behaviors and allows students to feel respected within the classroom community. Teachers also provide students with words to describe why they feel a particular way if they can't express it themselves. They may say, "I think you're angry because your face is red and you yelled. I would be angry too if someone took my toy." They then guide students through brief exercises to help self-calm and reduce stress, such as taking slow, deep breaths.

Teachers in our Primary classroom inspire students to plan and engage in challenging tasks by modeling correct methods, techniques, and goals. Examples of this include using blocks to create a ramp for cars or assisting in searching for letters in a sensory bin to spell sight words. During work cycle, students direct their learning with supervision from their teachers, which creates opportunities to initiate and solve their own problems.