



A Focus on Math

Recent research is increasingly pointing out the importance of early learning in a child's development and the long-range impact on future school success. In particular, it is becoming clear that early math learning experiences have a profound influence on not only later math success, but also later success in reading. Unfortunately, research tells us children who are behind early in math tend to stay behind.

It is for these reasons that we created our 3-to-3rd program to provide high quality math learning experiences for children from age 3 to grade 3.



STAR School Three-to-Third Project

STAR's approach to education for age 3 to grade 3 has proven successful as evidenced by our years of data on student achievement. Because of the incredible effectiveness of this model, we have developed a series of workshops for educators demonstrating the core elements of our program for other schools serving similar communities. This model has already been successfully adopted at our sister schools in Hawaii and New Mexico. Please contact us for more information and to schedule a workshop.

145 Leupp Rd.
Flagstaff, AZ 86004

www.starschool.org/star-3-to-3rd-project
info@starschool.org

STAR School 3-to-3rd Project

An innovative program providing high-quality, culturally responsive education for indigenous students from age 3 to grade 3.



Workshops for Educators

Topics:

A Focus on Math:

The Math Relationship
Math in Cultural Context
High Quality Materials.

Multilingual Cognition:

Navajo language
Sign Language

Adopting and Adapting:

Finding the Right Models
Blending Approaches

Supportive School Culture:

Peacemaking
The 4 R's
Developing Assets.

Place-Based Education

The Prepared Environment



"The data from our 3-to-3rd Project convinces us that the enrichment of math concepts and math language in early childhood builds a strong foundation for Native American students that can be built upon for later success in all academic areas."

-Dr. Mark Sorensen, STAR School Director and Co-Founder

The STAR 3-to-3rd Project began with the recognition that children entering Kindergarten at STAR School already were well behind in their school readiness, especially in mathematics. The STAR Early Learning Center was created to address that problem. We chose to begin by adopting and adapting a Montessori approach because it has high-quality materials and has been shown to be effective with students similar to ours. We adapted the approach to incorporate our foundational core value system, which comes from Navajo Peacemaking, the 4R's – Relationship, Respect, Responsibility, and Reasoning. We integrated Navajo language and

culture into the program as well as our place-based education focus, connecting us to our place and our community. We also added curriculum elements that research has found valuable in early childhood development, such as a focus on math, make-believe play materials, and supplementing the curriculum with sign language.

STAR School is committed to K'e, the interrelatedness of all people and all nature, and to honoring other Navajo cultural and language values. Blending indigenous cultural values with Montessori pedagogy and materials provided the essential elements for this program to take root and grow in our community.

