

## **MONTESSORI IN BRIEF**

The Montessori Method has been tested and proven successful throughout the world for more than 100 years.

### **CONCERNING YOUR CHILD**

- Children are taught individually and work at their own pace and level.
- Children of varying ages work together in the same classroom stimulating both academic and social growth.
- The child confidently develops socially, mentally, and physically.
- The child becomes independent and secure. Skills developed in a Montessori classroom remain for life. It is the child's natural aptitude for learning that is tapped and cultivated.

### **THE CLASSROOM**

- The Montessori classroom is a joyous place to be. It is geared to the child's natural development and the child has the unique opportunity to fulfill his potential.
- There is no limit to what your child can learn. The Montessori classroom offers the child over five hundred unique educational materials.

### **THE MATERIALS**

- Individual materials permit a varied pace and accommodate many levels of ability. The materials isolate the difficulty for the child so he can focus and develop his ability to discriminate.
- Each exercise has a control of error that allows the child to correct his own errors.
- The exercises perfect the tools of learning and make abstract ideas concrete.
- Through the use of the materials, the child will develop his coordination, attention to detail, and good work habits.

### **THE FOCUS**

- Though much has been said about the academic achievements of Montessori children, the value lies in the self-discipline, self-mastery, and love of learning that children develop.

## **PREPARING FOR SCHOOL**

Your child needs to be as independent as possible at school. One way to help your child be independent is to provide clothing that can be managed by the child. Coats or jackets should have large zippers that slide easily. Children are expected to go to the toilet by themselves at a certain point in the school year. Initially support staff and older students will help the young children in the bathroom. Pants with elastic waistbands are much easier for them to manage than buttons, zippers or snaps. The children will learn how to zip, button and snap in the classroom using the dressing frames, but if your child does not know how to do this please dress them so they can use the bathroom with ease.

You will be asked to send a labeled zip lock bag with an extra set of clothing (underpants, socks, pants, shirt or blouse) in case of an accident. The teacher will keep that at school and in the event your child has an accident, the soiled clothes can be sent home in a plastic bag.

If your child is going to bed late, slowly but surely move his or her bedtime up so they will get at least 10 hours of sleep a night. Plan ahead so that your child will get a good night's sleep before the first day of school. Bedtime routines are very important and should be consistent. A bedtime snack followed by teeth brushing and a bedtime story is a great way to establish these routines. If your child arrives overtired in the morning, it makes it very difficult for them to have a successful school day.

Another good way to help your child be successful in school is to tell your child that you know he or she is going to do well in school. What you believe about your child is exactly what your child will believe about him or herself. What your child believes about their abilities is more important for success in school than IQ.

We hope these simple tips will help your child have a successful school experience.

### **NORMAL EMOTIONS WHEN ENTERING SCHOOL**

Children feel three basic emotions when they enter school for the first time. These emotions are:

***fear*** - of the new, unfamiliar situation

***sadness*** - missing mom, family members and home

***anger*** - for having been separated from mom (etc.) and having been put into the new, unfamiliar situation. To some extent we all feel these same emotions whenever we make a major change in our lives. It is important to acknowledge the children's feelings, to let them know that they are normal feelings that everyone has, and to give them respectful attention while they feel those emotions. It is also important to make statements which show your belief in the child's ability to make the adjustment to school and to succeed in school. Some sentences that may be helpful are listed below:

- Everyone feels some upset when they first start school.
- It's OK to feel that way.
- I felt that way myself when I first started school.
- It all seems strange now, but in time it will become familiar and then you will feel more comfortable about coming to school.
- I know it's hard to be missing mom, but you'll see her again soon when you go home.
- I can see that it all feels difficult now, but I know that you are going to do just fine in school.