

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is Montessori?

Montessori (pronounced MON-tuh-SORE-ee) is a comprehensive educational approach from *birth to adulthood* based on the observation of children's needs in a variety of cultures all around the world. Beginning her work almost a century ago, *Dr. Maria Montessori* developed this educational approach based on her understanding of children's natural learning tendencies as they unfold in "*prepared environments*" for multi-age groups (0-3, 3-6, 6-9, 9-12, and 12-14). The Montessori environment contains specially designed, manipulative "*materials for development*" that invite children to engage in learning activities of their own individual choice. Under the guidance of a *trained* teacher, children in a Montessori classroom learn by making discoveries with the materials, cultivating concentration, motivation, self-discipline, and a love of learning. Today, Montessori schools are found worldwide, serving children from birth through adolescence. In the United States, there are more than 4,000 private Montessori schools and more than 200 public schools with Montessori-styled programs.

2. What does my child need to have in Pre- Kindergarten?

- (2) Changes of Clothes
- Warm Coat/Rain Coat
- (1) Crib Sheet
- (1) Blanket
- (1) Small Pillow (Optional)

3. How can I contact the teachers with questions, concerns or suggestions?

We love to hear your questions, concerns or suggestions! You can contact us at 425-368-2444 or you can come in and have a conference with one of us.

4. How can I get involved in my child's classroom?

We love parent involvement, and your time and talents are greatly needed! If you are available to participate in our classroom or help outside of the classroom, please let us know. There truly are numerous ways that you can contribute. You will also have opportunities to join us on class fieldtrips that we take throughout the year but will need to submit a volunteer application to the administration first, if you have not done so already.

5. What can I do to help my child succeed at school?

You can help in many ways! Parents are a child's first teacher. More than anything, make time EVERY DAY to read to your child and to listen to him/her. Ask your child questions about what your child has learned or what work did they enjoy today. Encourage your child to be more independent and do things for themselves. Let your child help with cooking, put their jacket on by themselves, wash the dishes etc. Encourage responsibility! Give your child chores to complete and limit the amount of time they spend in front of the TV or video games. Lastly, give them tons of praise and allow them to make and learn from mistakes.

6. How often are progress reports sent home?

In Pre-K 2 we send home a "behavior" progress report in November and educational progress reports in January and May!

7. How can I celebrate my child's birthday at school?

Each child's birthday is a special occasion and is observed with a special ceremony at our school. This is done in what we call a "Birthday Circle"! This involves the child making one "orbit" around the sun for each year of his/her life, while carrying the classroom world. As they walk, the teacher sings a traditional song and/or narrates special activities that highlight the child's life. This helps the child visualize the timeline. We ask that you bring in one or two pictures from each year on a poster board. If you wish you can write a short biography for the teacher to use or for yourself to read. Parents are always welcome to join us for the celebration. Some people like to bring in something special for the occasion. Ideas include party napkins or donate a book to the classroom library. Please save birthday treats/food for your celebration at home. This ensure that are children with life-threatening allergies are not put at risk. Thanks for your cooperation!