



H O M E S T E A D
Montessori Farm School



Handbook for Parents

2024-25 School Year

"We discovered that education is not something which the teacher does, but that it is a natural process which develops spontaneously in the human being..." Maria Montessori

Important Information

- Hours of operation are: 8:00am to 3:30 pm.
- We will do our best to accommodate the needs of children with an IEP.
- Homestead Montessori Farm School Lead Directresses are certificate holders of the American Montessori Society, Montessori Education for Peace International or Association Montessori Internationale.
- Homestead Montessori Farm School carries the appropriate insurance.
- Federal Tax ID # 84-2140611
- Homestead Montessori Farm School admits students of any race, color, religion, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, and other school-administered programs.

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Introduction

It is our goal to partner and work with the parent in their child's education. Our vision is to create a safe, loving atmosphere where children are at ease and able to explore and absorb all the knowledge that they can. Using Montessori methods and materials we will allow our students the room to grow and investigate the world around them in hands-on practical applications. In a small hobby farm environment, our students will learn to care for living things, learn about their world and learn a strong work ethic.

A Parent's Guide to the Montessori Classroom by Aline Wolf is an excellent overview of Montessori philosophy and explanation of classroom materials.

Montessori: A Modern Approach by Paula Polk Lillard is a more in-depth explanation of the Montessori Method.

Parenting with Love and Logic by Jim Fay.

Goals of a Montessori School

The main purpose of a Montessori school is to provide a carefully planned, stimulating environment which will help the child develop an excellent foundation for creative learning. The specific goals for the children who attend Montessori schools are presented below.

Developing a positive attitude toward school

Most of the learning activities are individualized: i.e., each child engages in a learning task that particularly appeals to him...because he finds the activities geared to his needs and level of readiness. Consequently, he works at his own rate, repeating the task as often as he likes, thus experiencing a series of successful achievements. In this manner, he builds a positive attitude toward learning itself.

Helping each child develop self confidence

In the Montessori school, tasks are designed so that each new step is built upon what the child has already mastered, thus removing the negative experience of frequent failure. A carefully planned series of successes builds upon inner confidence in the child assuring him that he can learn by himself. These confidence building activities likewise contribute to the child's healthy emotional development.

Assisting each child in building a habit of concentration

Effective learning presupposes the ability to listen carefully and to attend to what is said or demonstrated. Through a series of absorbing experiences, the child forms habits of extended attention, thus increasing his ability to concentrate.

Fostering an abiding curiosity

In a rapidly changing society, we will all be students at some time in our lives. A deep, persistent, and abiding curiosity is a prerequisite for creative learning. By providing the child with opportunities to discover qualities, dimensions, and relationships amidst a rich variety of stimulating learning situations, curiosity is developed and an essential element in creative learning has been established.

Developing habits of initiative and persistence

By surrounding the child with appealing materials and learning activities geared to his inner needs, he becomes accustomed to engaging in activities on his own. Gradually, this results in a habit of initiative – an essential quality in leadership. "Ground rules" call for completing a task once begun and gradually results in a habit of persistence and perseverance for replacing materials after the task is accomplished. This "completion expectation" gradually results in a habit of persistence and perseverance.

Fostering inner security and sense of order in the child

Through a well ordered, enriched but simplified environment, the child's need for order and security is intensely satisfied. This is noticed in the calming effect the environment has on the child. Since every item in the Montessori classroom has a place and the ground rules call for everything in its place, the child's inner need for order is directly satisfied.

Four Goals of Homestead Montessori Farm School

1. The cultivation within our students of a passion for excellence in everything they do and a good work ethic.
2. Instilling in the student self-respect, respect for others, and respect and care for our environment.
3. To develop love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, kindness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control as outlined in Galatians 5:22.
4. To serve and give willingly to others.

What makes Montessori education unique?

The “whole child” approach - The primary goal of a Montessori program is to help each child reach full potential in all areas of life. Activities promote the development of social skills, emotional growth, and physical coordination as well as cognitive preparation. The holistic curriculum allows the child to experience the joy of learning and to develop self-esteem and independence.

The Prepared Environment - For self-directed learning to take place, the whole learning environment-room, materials and social climate-must be supportive of the learner. The directress provides necessary resources, including opportunities for children to function in a safe and positive climate. She thus gains the children’s trust, which enables them to try new things and build self-confidence.

The Montessori Materials - Dr. Montessori’s observations of the kinds of “toys” which children enjoy and return to play with repeatedly led her to design a number of multi-sensory sequential and self-correcting materials which facilitate the learning of skills and concepts. We follow Montessori principles as they structure new activities for the classroom.

The Directress - The “Directress” functions as a facilitator of learning. She is a role model, designer of the environment, resource person, demonstrator, record-keeper and observer of each child’s growth and development. She encourages, respects, and loves each child as a special, unique individual; she also provides support for parents and joins them in a partnership to nurture the development of the child.

How does it work?

Each Montessori class, from toddlers through college, operates on the principle of freedom within limits. Every program has expectations which differ for each age level but is always based on the core Montessori belief: respect for themselves, each other, and for the environment.

Children are free to work at their own pace with materials they have chosen, either alone or with others. The teacher relies on his or her observations of the children to determine which new activities and materials may be introduced to individual children or to a group. The aim is to encourage active, self-directed learning and to strike a balance of individual mastery with small group collaboration within the whole group community.

The mixed ages of the children in a Montessori environment provides a family-like grouping where learning can take place naturally. Experienced children share what they have learned while reinforcing their own learning. Because this peer group learning is intrinsic to Montessori, there are often more conversation-language experiences in the Montessori classroom than in conventional early education settings.

Our Goals

- Provide a warm and loving environment in which each child feels secure, respected, and loved.
- Support and encourage the growth and development of the whole child.
- Develop social skills, emotional growth, physical coordination, as well as cognitive preparation.
- Help build self-confidence, self-esteem, motivation, and leadership.
- Foster the natural desire to learn.
- Develop freedom within limits.
- Develop and refine each child’s sensory motor skills.
- Lengthen each child’s attention span.
- Enable each child to move smoothly and purposefully.
- Provide a framework of discipline through which each child can develop self-discipline and personal strength.

- Provide an environment with safe limits in which each child can become an active explorer and learner.
- Provide opportunities for each child to develop social grace and courtesy.
- Develop skills in observation, questioning and listening.
- Prompt order, coordination, concentration and independence.
- Refine and develop each child's physical and mental capabilities and interests as they expand.
- Help develop respect for themselves, for others, God, nature, and for their environment.

Ground Rules

- We respect each other.
- We respect our teachers.
- We listen and follow directions.
- We respect the work of others.
- We may not misuse the materials.
- We take care of our environment.
- We walk in the classroom.
- We use inside voices in the classroom.
- We do not hurt anyone in any way.
- We are kind and loving to each other.

*The purpose of these rules is to aid the student in acquiring self-respect, respect for others, and respect for the environment.

Discipline/Peace Education

The word "discipline" is derived from "disciple", which means teacher. Therefore, the purpose of disciplining is to teach the child acceptable ways to handle various situations. Even a very young child can understand the cause and effect of his/her actions.

We at Homestead Montessori recognize the dignity and worth of every human being within the school. We want the children to develop a positive self-image and respect for themselves, others, and the environment. We believe that by treating the children with fairness and respect, they will react with kindness.

Adults in the classroom model a positive, caring attitude at all times. When problems arise with one or more children, the adult will encourage the child or children to talk about it and find solutions peacefully. If one child hurts another, that child is responsible for aiding or helping the child that was injured. i.e. getting an ice pack or band aid for the injury (if minor.)

The goal of discipline is to help a child change his/her behavior from negative to positive. Redirection is most often used to redirect their activity to help a child with this process.

If a child repeatedly does not respond to discipline used at school, the parent will be contacted and asked to come in for a conference. Parents and school will devise a consistent discipline plan for use at home and in school. A timeline of 30 days will be set at this conference, after which, parents and school will meet again to review the child's progress.

We believe that adults must be models of the behavior they wish to see in their children and others and must always show respect for the child and others. Therefore, any abuse of the child, and/or others, verbal, psychological, or physical is prohibited. It is the policy of our staff never to use or threaten to use any physical punishment. Verbal abuse is never permitted.

If the student becomes a danger to himself or other individuals at the school, we reserve the right to remove the student until the appropriate procedures can be implemented. The parent will be contacted to pick up the child.

Communication

The more accurately informed we are about your child, the better we can care for him/her. Please inform your child's teacher of any changes at home in the child's life that may have an effect at school.

- Please read all signs and posted notes.
- Please check your child's file-folder and cubbies daily
- Please check our website: www.homesteadmontessori.com weekly for updates and class notes.
- Please update Administration with any change in personal information
- Please submit all messages in writing to: homesteadschool@att.net so the message can be shared with all appropriate staff.
- Feel free to call the school to talk to the Administrator about any concerns you may have. We will return your call at their earliest convenience.
- Every week you will receive a classroom update via email or hard copy.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Informal conferences can be arranged and may be held at any time. If at any time you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact your teacher first, then if necessary the Administrator. It is distracting to the teachers to engage in lengthy conversation at pick-up and drop-off times.

Formal conferences for students are held twice a year, in October and February. These coincide with the Desoto School District. This gives parents and staff an opportunity to discuss your child's social, physical, emotional, and cognitive development. Both parents are encouraged to attend. Check the School Calendar for specific days.

Enrollment Process

Homestead Montessori Farm School accepts students 1st through 9th Grade. There are three distinct programs by age group: lower elementary (6-9) upper elementary (9-12) and Erdkinder (12-15 year olds)

We accept students in the following order:

1. Current Students
2. Siblings
3. New Enrollees

New openings are filled from the wait list with applications submitted during the Open Enrollment period. Children who are not selected during this time will be placed on a waiting list. All applications will be accepted according to the application process.

Please remit the following enrolment papers on or before the 1st day of attendance:

- Completed enrollment application that has been signed and dated.
- Current tuition contract
- Completed emergency medical forms.
- Copy of immunization records and signed physical from doctor.
- Signed parent Handbook Agreement
- Records request (when applicable)
- Any applicable fees

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- There is no discrimination made between applicants based on race, creed, national origin, or disabilities. Priority enrollment status will be given to siblings or existing students and to those enrolling in the full-time program.
- All children are accepted on a conditional basis. Parents may be asked to withdraw their child if the school determines that the program is not meeting the child's needs, or that the child's presence is having an adverse effect on the program.
- During the year, a written request must be submitted to the Administrator for any changes to enrollment. These changes will be considered based on availability. This will result in a new agreement being signed and an adjustment being made to the tuition, if needed.
- A one-time non-refundable registration fee of \$150.00 is due upon submission of the Registration Form.
- The first month's tuition is due on or before the first day of the enrollment into the program.
- Tuition is based on a 9-month school year. (Based on the number of school days.) Payments can be made on a 9 month or 12-month payment schedule.
- There are NO MAKE-UPS and tuition is not subject to adjustment because of illness, vacation, holidays or absence from school or school closings.
- Parents are responsible for paying the tuition on time. Tuition payments are due as indicated on the contract and will be considered late if not received on or before the 5th day of every month. There will be a late charge fee of \$25 if tuition is not received after the 5th.
- Please make checks payable to Homestead Montessori and place them in the Tuition box located by the front door.
- If your check is returned for any reason, there will be a \$35.00 charge.

A discount of tuition may be given as follows:

1. Full Tuition (Sept - May) with a 2% discount.
2. Family with multiple children enrolled full time, 10% discount on oldest child.
3. Refer a friend who enrolls full time and get a \$100 referral bonus on one month's tuition

Please see Enrollment Contract for tuition information for the current academic year

Observations

All parents are encouraged to visit their child's classroom throughout the year. Your visits are welcome. For your observations to be as beneficial as possible, we have found the following guidelines helpful. We ask that observations do not begin until the sixth week of school. This gives the child the opportunity to adjust to the new environment.

When to come: You are always welcome at any time, but by arranging it ahead of time you are assured of having the day you request. Mornings between 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. are best to observe the educational programs in progress.

How to Observe: An observation chair will be provided so you can view all the activities. We request that you remain seated so that the children can continue with their activities. When you arrive, please check in at the office.

How Long: The length of stay is up to you. However, most observers find that 20 to 30 minutes are enough to assess their child's well-being.

Classroom Placement

The final decision for classroom placement is made in the best interest of the child by the Administrative Team. Parents who have information relating to this decision should put their request in writing and submit it to the Administrative Team.

Normalization

The basic goal of the Montessori classroom is 'normalization' of the child so that he becomes well-balanced, spontaneous, and able to utilize his capabilities to the fullest. Some of the characteristics of such a child are the following: ability to concentrate, sense of personal dignity, independence, self-motivation, love of order, enjoyment of repetition, ability to work alone, self-discipline, desire for freedom of choice, pleasure and fulfillment in work for its own sake; no need for regard or punishment, obedience, preference for work over play and love of learning. Normalization is a slow process – a point of arrival, not of departure in the classroom.

Health and Wellness

Illnesses

If a child has a bad cold with a runny nose or cough and comes to school, the chances of a large number of children contracting the cold are obviously greatly increased. The children move freely throughout the environment as well as share and handle many materials. Germs have the potential to spread quickly.

With your cooperation, we can establish a healthier environment for all the children if, when your child is sick, he/she is cared for at home.

Please note: If we feel that your child is really not feeling well, and exhibiting one or more symptoms of illness we will call you to pick him/her up.

If your child has had any symptoms of illness, such as nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or fever (100 degrees or higher) he may not return to school until they are free from these symptoms for 24 hours.

If your child is on antibiotics, he/she must be off them for 24 hours before returning to school.

It is particularly important that you inform the school if your child has contracted any communicable diseases so we may pass that information on to the other parents. The school follows the communicable disease reporting requirement under A.P.C. AAC R9-5-515(D).

If your child becomes ill at school, he/she will be isolated, and you or an authorized person listed on the emergency form will be notified immediately in order to pick up your child.

Medications

1. Prescription medication will be administered only at the written request, with a medical consent form signed by the parent. These forms are available through the office.
 - a. Prescription medication must be in the original prescription bottle.
 - b. If a student needs to take medication at school, ask the pharmacist for a second bottle and send only the tablets/liquid needed to be taken at school.
2. All medication to be given during school hours must be labeled with the child's name, the dose and the time to be given.
3. Medication is to be brought directly to the office by an adult. It is not acceptable to send it in a child's lunchbox, backpack etc. No medication will be administered without a signed medication form. This form is given to you at the time of enrollment.
4. If a child takes medication daily, it is the responsibility of the parent to make sure that there is enough medication in the office. The school is not responsible for medicine that has run out.

Please do not send any vitamins or any other medications in lunch bags or backpacks! This is a serious health hazard to the other children on campus. If any are found, they will be taken to administration and the guardian will be phoned.

Immunization

The state immunization law requires all students to have an immunization record on file for school attendance. If your child is exempt from immunizations, he/she must have a signed exemption on file. These forms can be found in the school office. All needed immunization records must be on file prior to the child attending school. If your child does not have immunization on file, he/she will not be allowed to attend classes until the situation has been remedied. Please bring any updated immunizations records to the school office.

Exemptions

The law allows (a) parents/guardians to elect exemptions to immunization requirements based on 1) religious beliefs, 2) medical reasons, 3) laboratory evidence. If any of these exemptions apply, please complete a Request for Exemption to Immunization form.

Emergency Release

A child will not be admitted unless an emergency release is on file. Parents are asked to call the office immediately if an address or telephone number on the emergency release changes. Please keep in mind that if your child were to have an accident and the information on your emergency contact information is incorrect, we have no way to contact you.

Accidents/Incidents

All accidents/incidents will be reported immediately to the Director or Administrator. The teacher is ultimately responsible for preparing a written accident/incident report for the guardian (in child's take-home file) and the student's file.

In case of a Minor Accident:

The child will be tended by a staff member. Appropriate first aid will be administered when needed (soap and water and/or an ice pack, bandage), and the injury will be reported to the person who picks up the child.

In case of a Serious Accident:

- The parent or person responsible for the child will be notified.
- The physician listed on the Emergency Form will be phoned to ask for his/her recommendation.
- For serious injuries the Director and/or Administrator will call 911. (Parents will be expected to assume responsibility for any expenses incurred.)
- If the child needs to go to the hospital and the parents cannot be reached, he/she will be transported to Advent Hospital or the preferred Hospital listed on their emergency form.

- The Director will accompany the child to the hospital and take his/her file folder with them in case emergency care is needed. If the director is not available a designated Teacher who is aware of emergency procedures will accompany the child to the hospital.

Schedule

Arrival/Departure

Please do not arrive at Homestead Montessori more than five minutes before our scheduled time of opening, and please arrive promptly at the departure time. It is very difficult for our teachers to supervise and care for students before and after class when they have other duties to perform. When arriving with your child please give hugs and goodbyes outside the classroom entrance. Also, please help us keep our classrooms peaceful by speaking softly and removing shoes at the door.

When leaving the school please ask your child to shake hands with their teacher. Not only does this reinforce courtesy, but it also lets the teacher know that you are now in charge of his safety. Children must be accompanied by an adult during arrival and departure. During registration a Pick-up Authorization List is filled out by parents who list those persons other than parents who have permission to pick up the child. Release of your child to anyone not authorized by you will require written permission.

* Children may be invited to wash their hands upon arrival and departure to avoid spreading germs, especially during the flu seasons.

Attendance

Parents are requested to see to it that their child(ren) arrive(s) on time. It is important that your child arrives on time to have the full benefit of the Montessori environment. If children arrive late, they are missing out on valuable class time. If the child arrives after class time has begun, please check with the front desk for assistance.

Regular attendance and punctual arrival at school are two habits that dramatically impact student achievement. Absences and tardiness are disturbing to students, disrupt their schedules, require readjustment to the class routine, and slow down learning. Parents are urged to make every effort to schedule doctor, dentist, and other appointments for students at times outside the school day. This will reinforce the importance of school and will prevent the student from getting behind in his work.

In case of absence these procedures should be followed:

- A call to the school office to inform the school of the child's absence should be made as soon as possible. Please call 816-820-7005.

Tardiness

The school day starts at 8:00 am. A student is considered late if they are not signed in at the start of the school day. Late arrival is not only upsetting to our children but to the other children whose parents have made the effort to get their children to school on time. It also is taking away from the other children's quality of learning.

No School Days

- In order to do building repairs and maintenance and classroom development, the school will be closed on various days throughout the year.
- See annual school calendar for No School Days.
- See website for school closing. If the De Soto school district is closed, we will close. We do not close for cold days.

Sign-In and Sign-Out Procedure

- Signing your child in and out of Homestead Montessori is required by the State of Kansas for educational records.
- Please put the time and your initials in the appropriate box next to your child's name.
- Children should go to a teacher to say hello and/or good-bye. This is a good lesson in manners and courtesy. The staff is then able to take note of which children have arrived or left for the day.
- Remember to check with a teacher if you have recommendations or concerns.

Pick-up Policy

Occasionally you may wish to arrange for someone other than yourself to pick up your son and/or daughter from school. We ask for your cooperation in ensuring smooth pick-up of your child when this occurs by notifying the office via email or by phone.

Please:

- Notify the staff in writing or by phone that a different person will be picking up your child.
- Give written notice to the Administration.
- Prepare your child, if at all possible, ahead of time by letting them know that someone else will be picking them up.
- Have an authorized person be prepared to show a picture I.D.

Parking

Please park on the cul-de-sac and use steps to sidewalk for front door entry.

General Information

Animals

Our animal program is an important part of our school. Our children help in the care and feeding of the animals. We also have bees and bee suits for the children to wear and observe the bees. Children will be taught proper care and feeding of animals and how to approach the bee yard. Very few stings occur when people are taught how to respond to bee presence. This is a part of learning how to observe and interact with the world around us. There will be a liability waiver for children to participate in the different activities and all care will be taken to ensure their safety. Any bee allergies should be in the student file to alert staff and an epi-pen should be on-site.

Birthdays

Birthdays are an important celebration for our children. During the traditional Montessori celebration of life, the child walks around a candle which represents the sun. Each trip around the "sun" represents one year of life. As the child circles the "sun" the teacher or parent says something special about events that occurred in the child's life during that year. The parent and child should write a sentence describing an event for each year of life. This should be accompanied by a photograph for each year as well.

Please do not bring treats. Instead, your child will make his own cake with assistance and serve it for the afternoon snack. Also, please visit your teacher and ask what they would like for the classroom. Your child will un-wrap the gift, present it to the class and place it on the shelf. Birthdays at school are not intended as the child's primary celebration, so please no party favors, balloons, hats, etc. Any birthday invitations should be mailed to the family home to avoid hurt feelings.

Homestead Montessori T-Shirts

T-shirts are always for sale. Check at the front office for price and size availability. Buy one yourself and show your support!

Clothing

To promote safety, we encourage all students to wear closed toe shoes. Tennis shoes are recommended. Sandals, slip-ons and stacked heels are extremely distracting and often dangerous.

Please bring outdoor or rain boots for muddy days and label them.

Cubby/ file folders

Each child has a cubby and file folder located near the entrance to the classroom. It is for storing personal items such as extra clothing, or perhaps an item brought from home such as a book or show-and-tell.

Gifts and Giving at Homestead

Homestead Montessori Farm School is funded by tuition and donations. We are dependent on your gifts of time, talent and treasure to provide an outstanding educational experience for our children. We ask families for their financial support because together we can build a program comparable to the finest Montessori schools in the world.

Every year, our families and friends are invited to participate in the annual fundraisers. As paid, these monies go directly into the operating budget. Participation does not impact enrollment. However, Homestead must conduct a successful fundraising campaign to operate at its current budget. We try to limit fundraisers to one in the fall and one in the spring.

Field Trips

The school encourages "goings out" to augment classroom studies several times a year and during the summer. The amount and extent of the field trip depends on the age of the children. Notification in advance will be given to parents so they may sign a permission slip allowing the child to attend. If for any reason you do not wish your child to attend, please inform the teacher as soon as possible and alternate arrangements will be made for the child the day of the trip.

Footwear

Slippers – are worn in the classrooms. Because we use our floor as a work surface, it is important to keep it as sanitary as possible. The slippers should be simple and functional, easy to put on and small enough to fit in our cabinets. Please put your child's name on each slipper so that mix-ups do not occur. (Unnamed articles are automatically put in the lost and found at the end of the day.)

Shoes – which are easy for the child to put on and take off and which offer good support for the child's growing feet.

Rain Boots - are a necessity during wet and/or snowy weather. Please fit your child with boots that he can easily put on and pull off. You may also bring rubber boots, labeled with your child's name, to leave at school.

Lost and Found

Please check these containers regularly especially during the winter months. Unclaimed articles are given to Savers.

Lunch/ Snack

Lunch is a quiet, social time when good manners and polite conversation are encouraged. The children participate in setting the table, preparing for lunch, and tidying up after lunch. We do not serve a hot lunch. Please send a healthy lunch daily with your child.

Each month the snack menu will be posted on the board at each entrance of the classroom and on the website.

We offer a nutritional snack of two food groups. Most often they include fresh fruits and vegetables. We only offer simple carbohydrates two times a week.

****Please make sure if you bring breakfast for your child, it is a healthy option. Donuts and sugary foods first thing in the morning do not set the child up for a successful morning in the classroom.***

In Case of FIRE

- The signal to leave the building is a continuous blast by the alarm for several minutes.
- Children will follow the teacher out of the classroom to the back fence of playground.
- The Administrator will check all rooms, then follow the classes out, and check the roll sheet, accounting for every person.
- The signal to return is given verbally to all groups.
- When safety has been established, the class returns.

A fire drill is given each month.

In Case of TORNADO

- Wyandotte County tornado drills are the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 11:30 am. At that time, we will have a tornado drill.
- All children will be escorted to the basement until the all-clear siren is given.

A tornado drill is given three times a year.

If we cannot reenter our building after a disaster, we will call parents immediately for a pick-up.

Non-School Related Items at School

Experience has shown that toys are best left at home. There is always the possibility of a treasured toy being lost and/or broken at school. Encourage your child to bring an educational book or objects from nature.

Parent Meetings

Parent meetings are held throughout the school year. Our first gathering of the year is Back to School Night. All parents are encouraged to attend as many as possible throughout the year to get to know other families and their children. When parents participate in these meetings, they have a better understanding of the Montessori Method.

Homestead Montessori would love to have parent volunteers to help with holiday parties, events and workdays. Please notify the office if you would like to volunteer.

Outdoor Play

We go outside every day unless it is raining, snowing or extremely hot or cold. Children need outdoor exercise and the opportunity to expend energy. It is a good idea in the cooler months to leave a jacket, or dress in layers at school because it is usually a few degrees cooler on the playground than in town.

Outside Rules

- No rough physical contact.
- Gardening and yard tools are placed back in the shed when they are finished.
- Be respectful of nature.
- All outdoor play equipment will be put away at the end of recess.

Parent Participation/Volunteers

Parents are required to participate in our program in a variety of ways. They are invited to help in the classroom on a regular basis or to come in and share a special interest or skill. Parents are often needed to go with students on field trips. Several times a year we have 'Family Workdays' to help spruce up the grounds as well as inside the classroom. We also welcome parents to share family cultural traditions throughout the year. Please contact your child's teacher or Administration with your level of interest. Families are required to do at least 20 volunteer hours per semester.

Sharing

We do conduct a 'show and tell' session at our group times on Thursday and Fridays. This item should go along with the sound of the week.

Suggestion Box

Please email and let us know your suggestions or drop a note in the tuition box.

Workdays

Parents are encouraged to participate in at least one or two workdays throughout the year to help improve the school environment. These dates will be posted on the webpage and a sign-up will be available.

Tobacco Policy

By state law no person is allowed to possess any form of tobacco on school grounds, or in any vehicle while transporting children.

Visitor Regulations

All visitors must check in at the office. All parents visiting campus during school hours must check in at the office.

'The greatest sign of success for a teacher... is to be able to say, 'The children are now working as if I did not exist.'

Maria Montessori