



The Well-Trained Mind Montessori

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[www.welltrainedmindmontessori.com](http://www.welltrainedmindmontessori.com)

Enrollment Form:

### Philosophy

The Montessori Philosophy is committed to providing a prepared and structured environment wherein the child is free to explore and develop according to his/her inner developmental needs. The teacher in the Montessori classroom is often a guide and a facilitator, observing a child's strengths, interests, and attitudes and then "setting the stage" to help each child reach his or her own potential at their own pace. Products of a Montessori education are life-long passion for learning, a willingness to discover and investigate, and a respect for the individual.

The Montessori classroom is full of concrete, hands on learning experiences, in every subject from math to geography. This physical approach is aimed at the developmental stages of a child's growth, the "sensitive periods" when his or her brain is geared for maximum absorption. In particular, the focus that comes with the uninterrupted discovery, and the subsequent abstract thinking that follows at a later age.

There are three major Montessori areas of learning in this concrete to abstract approach; Practical Life, Sensorial and Language. The same concepts are also an integral part of the other units; Geography, Math, Science, Music, etc.

#### Practical Life

In this area the child is practicing care of the person and the environment. Here the child can sweep, dust, scrub table, wash dishes, water plants, sew, pour, fold, button, tie, hook, etc... In the Montessori classroom, the three year old who announces "I want to do it!", certainly may, over and over and over, learning to master those skills so dear to his or her heart.

#### Sensorial

The sensorial work builds upon the child's natural desire and ability to learn through his or her senses. Here the child will sort, classify, grade, and sequence through touch, sight, smell, sound, and sometimes taste. This helps the child organize his or her perceptions and will be particularly beneficial as the child learns mathematical concepts.

## Language

The Montessori approach to language and reading is phonetically based. The child learns and applies the sound a letter makes, rather than the name of the letter only. As the child traces letters made from sandpaper, he or she is not only learning the sound that letter makes but is literally learning the shape of the letter, and the correct way to form the letter when writing. Much attention is given to the initial sound of a word ("What's the first sound you hear when I say, ssssnake?"), then gradually the last sound of a word, and the sounds in between. As the child hears and recognizes these sounds, he or she will begin building words with the moveable alphabet, beginning with simple three letter phonetic words and objects in the classroom. As this work progresses, the child is gradually introduced to non-phonetic words and the rules for deciphering them. Throughout, the child is encouraged to write his or her own stories and words.

When a child asks, "How do you spell \_\_\_\_\_?" He or She is answered, "What do you hear when you say that word?" Thus the child learns to hear and decode the sounds of which a word consists, and gains confidence in his/ her own ability to write and interpret words and ideas.

Stories and books are an integral part of our classroom. Reading to children, encouraging them to act out stories and plays, making rhymes and poems with them will encourage a life-long love of books and language.

Children are encouraged to bring an object from home to share that begins with our "sound of the week". They will share that at circle time.

## Philosophy

Our approach to teaching includes integrating areas of study in the classroom. For instance, if our sound of the week is S, we may bake snickerdoodles in Practical Life, make a seed collage in art, study snakes in science, do great things with the numbers 6 and 7 all week long. Or if our sound is A, we may make applesauce, paint pictures of apple blossoms, and read about Johnny Appleseed.

Often our units of study will revolve around the seasons, months or holidays. In the winter we may learn about animals that hibernate; in springtime of course plant seeds, learn about the needs of a plant, the purpose of roots, leaves, blossoms, dissect flowers, etc..

Comings and goings between home and school are important transition times, not just in physical space, but in the transition between caretakers, parent and

teachers. Communication between parents and teachers, and a positive attitude on the adults' part will help the child at these transition times. In order for your child to feel optimally secure and comfortable at our school, and to achieve the best possible pre/K experience; please do the following;

Leave your child at school without feeling guilty. Long drawn-out goodbyes on the parent's part make the child wonder why the parent is nervous: is school a safe place after all? Children coming to school feel many things: excitement, curiosity, nervousness, sorrow at separation from parents - pretty much the same thing that parents feel. They need to know that it is ok with you for them to develop other attachments and create new bonds. We can acknowledge the child's feelings and remind them (and yourself) that the teachers will help them feel comfortable. You are welcome to call the school any time to get a report on how your child is adjusting.

If your child is having a truly difficult time and cannot let you go, please let us know when you are ready to hand them over, and do so. We will hold and comfort them, and help them integrate into the life of the classroom. Conversely, when it is the end of the class, and your child does not want to leave, please let them know clearly when it is time to go, give them an adequate amount of time to clean up, say goodbye to the teacher, and head out the door.

#### Have your child here on time

It is hard for the child who is consistently late or absent to fit into the classroom. Our 9:15am circle time is a very important part of the day, when we greet each other, the children eagerly await their turn to be calendar helper, or the line leader, or snack helper, etc.. And it is the time when the teacher demonstrates new lessons. It is a special time that sets the tone for the rest of the class period. Also by being on time it is a powerful tool in developing a child's sense of ownership toward the school. Parents who work hard to get their child to school on time are affirming to their child that they value their child's school experience. It is one of many important ways for parents to help their child have a positive school experience.

That said, I must reflect, as a former young parent of three children under the age of 6, that some mornings just getting out the door requires acts of heroic proportions, and sometimes all the preparation in the world won't save us from the flat tire, the baby's ear infection, the three year old's tantrum. We just get through those times with as much grace as possible. We appreciate and empathize with all the juggling, planning, and effort required of parents who are doing their best for their children.

## Sound of the week

Our progression through the alphabet will begin in September. We teach the sound that the letter makes. If the letter is a vowel, we teach the short sound first. When we are reading we do not sound out the names of the letters, but the sounds the letters make. This is a multi-layered exercise, as the child who already knows both phonetic sound and letter name can compile lists containing both long and short vowel formations of that letter; the child just learning it learns to physically form the letter with the sandpaper letters and by tracing the shape in sand; learns to tune his or her mind to hearing the sound at the beginning of a word; learns to recognize it as distinct from the other 25 letters.

## Meals and snacks

Nutritious snacks will be offered daily. Snack is available during the entire school day. There are 3 snack spots available. If the table is full, then the other children may wait their turn. Or go find something to do until the snack table is available. Each week one child will be snack leader and will bring a snack to share with his or her friends. Often snack parent will bring the food prep food: Bread for bread cutting, bananas for banana cutting, string cheese for cheese cutting, apples for apple cutting, oranges for orange juicing, et... The children will be preparing their own snack, so if you bring fruit do not cut it up, because we will be teaching the children to cut it up themselves, if it is crackers and cheese, they will also prepare the snack by arranging it, and spreading cheese, or placing the cheese next to the crackers, etc... You get the idea. They will be using knives, supervised by teachers.

It is the parent's responsibility to notify teachers of any allergies.

The school does not provide lunches, if your child stays for lunchtime please bring a sack lunch. Please no TV dinners of any kind. **Please label your child's lunchbox with first and last name.** Their lunch can go in their cubby, if there are perishables, they can be put into the refrigerator. We do ask that the lunch be a healthy one with a minimum of treats to be eaten after the child eats their healthy portion.

### **Do not send in your child's lunch:**

Soda pop

Go-gurts (you can guess why ☺ squirt!)

TV dinners

Hard candy

More than two child sized snacks

Gum

Money

medicine

## Things to bring to school:

Check the supply list for beginning of the year items such as pencils, paper, tissues, glue, etc...

Please bring 2 ziplock bags with one change of clothes in each bag. Each bag must be labeled, and each item of clothing inside the bag must be labeled. These bags will remain in the bathroom for when an accident occurs.

**PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT ALL THE ITEMS OF CLOTHING ARE LABELED 😊**

Please bring a pair of boots with the child's name written on the inside. These will be kept outside.

You may sign up for cleaning rotation and for snack rotation. Look for the sign-up sheets in the school or online.

**Please do NOT bring toys to school;** Even though we understand that children like to bring their toys with them, it is too hard for the teachers to keep track of them, and if they get lost then the children become very upset. It also causes problems between children who want to play with them.



## Registration Form

I register my child \_\_\_\_\_  
By checking the tuition plan below and paying a \$100.00  
registration fee to hold my child's spot, I enroll my child in the  
class selected below;

All classes are Mon-Fri or Mon-Thurs

Morning Class: 9am - 12:00pm \_\_\_\_\_ \$3900.00 per year

Afternoon Class: 12:30pm- 3:30pm M-Th \_\_\_\_\_ \$3500.00 per year

Mon-Thurs Class: 9:00am-12:00pm \_\_\_\_\_ \$3500.00 per year  
After school care: from 3:30pm to 4:30pm \_ \$100.00 per month

I have paid for half of June: \_\_\_\_\_

I have paid my annual registration fee: \_\_\_\_\_

I will pay for September's tuition within the first week of  
August \_\_\_\_\_

An occasional extra hour is \$10.00 per hour

SUMMER SESSION; registration fee \_\_\_\_\_ \$40.00

Class times are 9am to 3:00pm

Please see the summer camp registration form. 4 week session  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$750.00

There will be Music Camp, Gymnastics Camp, Dinosaur camp,  
and Math & Reading Camp.

Payment schedule; Checks for the monthly tuition are due on  
the first Monday of that month, and may be made out to "The  
Well-Trained Mind Montessori". A \$20.00 late charge will be  
due if the tuition is not received by the 5th of the month. Please  
place payment in tuition box.



## Payment Plans:

\* Payment in full (for the whole year) you receive 3% discount  
\*10 monthly installments (1/2) of the 10<sup>th</sup> tuition payment is due August 1<sup>st</sup>, or at the time of registration. The second half is due May 25<sup>th</sup> for June. The reason for this is because, this is a school not a daycare, and we charge for the year, not per month. So to discourage "early drop-out rates"; payment for the last month is already half paid.

Registration for Fall for returning students is due within the first week of March, this allows me to make sure that your child's spot is saved for the following year. *Annual* Registration is \$100.00

The first **full** tuition payment for the beginning school year is due before the last day of summer camp, which is usually the first week of August. If this payment is not received, it will be assumed that you are withdrawing your child and your registration will be cancelled.

## School Schedule

School is in session from September through June. Summer session is scheduled for July. We follow the Kent School District Calendar for the most part. Although, our teacher work days may not be on the same day, and if the KSD has a strike we will have significantly different calendars.

## Vacation months

Christmas vacation will have two full weeks of vacation; Mid-winter break has one full week of vacation & Spring Break will have one week vacation. Months with vacation days will be fully paid tuition months. The Well-Trained Mind Montessori divides the year's tuition by 10 and charges the same monthly rates each month. Vacation days may not be made up by students who come 4 days a week. They may not add a Friday in order to get their 4 days.