



HAPPENINGS



18323 Kuykendahl Rd, Spring TX 77379

Telephone (281) 370-6100

www.cypresswoodmontessori.com

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Individual Lessons

A basic principle in the Montessori classroom is the completely individualized curriculum. Its so second nature to those of us in the field that we forget how foreign it is to people who only know conventional education. A parent whose last classroom experience was a class of 150 finds the Montessori system incomprehensible. A class of less than 30 three to six years olds can hum quietly with children choosing work on their own, completing their work. How do they do that?

At the beginning is the routine. The children have a social time on the playground before class to connect with the people they will be spending the day with. When its time for class, the routine is orderly and calming. Perhaps they start with a song or a discussion about the date and day in a circle. There may be a short group lesson or sharing time. Then the children are released one by one to begin their work. This may be work they choose themselves or work assigned by their teacher.

The room will begin to settle into a busy-ness. The level of focus ebbs and flows. As the class settles, the teacher or her assistant might invite one child or a small group for a lesson that best suits their progress in the Montessori cycle. She knows how to present the work in a way that is best suited to the child's particular learning style. If a child shows no attraction for any work, but just cruises. It may be that this child is an observational learning, absorbing lessons by watching other children manipulate that material. Children have been known to observe at the school over several weeks and every night goes home to practice.

Holiday Picture day

This year, we are doing the pictures through Life touch portraits. There is no obligation to buy .You pay for what you want. Picture Day is on **November 9th @ 8:00 AM**. We normally start with the Infants and work thru the older classes. If your child is "dressed up", please send a change of comfortable clothes for after.

Infants

Our dear infants are the Best! They try and socialize with everyone who walks in! We would like to welcome Violet Eleson & Dae'jon Hawkins to the Infant room. Anjali graduates to the Tods I class next month!

Toddler I

Toddler I are learning to communicate in sign language. Our friends now use sign language when they want to eat more, change their diaper, drink water, and to sleep. This is proven to be the best way to converse with young toddlers who are not yet able to talk. It takes away the frustration for the child and for the parents.

Toddler II

Thank you for the beautiful family pictures. They make our classroom so "homely" We wanted to welcome our new friends, Ashleigh and Natalia to Tods II and Amy and Alex who graduated from Tods I. We need our parents to work with us on getting away from Sippy cups altogether. PLEASE send their milk, juice, water in little containers. We use regular child- size glasses to drink from - just like little adults! We shall be making paper pumpkins soon!

Classroom Happenings

Pre-Primary II

We would like to welcome Chani from California and Avelon from Thailand to our class.

The primary classes acted out some potentially dangerous situations with strangers. They acted out some real emergencies and learned out to dial 911 on a cell phone.

Our kinder group made some beautiful hats out of the plastic gallon milk container. There are two uses of that craft, one they can wear it as a hat; second they can play ball. The pictures are posted outside the classroom for the parents to view.

Pre-Primary I Show and Tell

Thank You to all of our parents for their great help and support for the Show and Tell day!! We now have a separate box in our class for the convenience. Please make sure to put your child's name on the show and tell.

We are very happy to announce that we are in the process of adding several water exercises to our practical life shelves. Child will be introduced to spooning, water transferring, and wet pouring. Practical life helps build up confidence, independence, concentration, and hand coordination. It is essential for the parents to facilitate their children's independence at home, by allowing them to put on their own socks, shoes, and other clothing all by themselves. As parents, we are always in a hurry and we tend to forget and do for them what they can do for themselves!

Tuition and Lunch Checks

Could we please ask that you kindly keep these two checks separate as of now. It will help us with the accounting software that we have. Also, next year, for 2008, we will only be recording the tuition and not lunches, etc for the year-end statements.

Halloween Safety/ Clothing Guidelines

Halloween can be a recipe for disaster. For the safety of our children we like parents to dress their child in costumes that are safe. No masks please! Also they should have a change of regular clothes for the later part of the day. Keeping our children's safety in our mind is imperative.

Candied Bugs and Slugs Mix - Halloween Recipe

A Halloween trail mix of chocolate and yogurt covered icky bug things.

INGREDIENTS:

- Yogurt covered fruit snacks or nuts
- Chocolate covered raisons
- Chocolate covered peanuts
- Candy corn

PREPARATION:

Mix equal amounts of each ingredient together in a large bowl. Keeps (covered) for a week, which makes it a wonderful after-school snack Halloween week. Tip: Add pretzels to make it more filling

"Small Hands" Montessori Fund Raising

We would like to thank all the parents for supporting us to enrich the classroom resources by granting our teachers wish list thru the Montessori "Small Hands" catalogue. The 10 % credit we receive will be used in getting some more resources for the classrooms! And thank you for all those parents who are constantly donating cards, clothes, toys to help the school! We appreciate your help and we know that without our parent's support we will not be able to do it all!

Look Out for our next Fund Raising with Midland - "Holiday Wishes" catalogue. These funds will be used to buy a better playground surface!! We would be grateful if you could reach out to friends, family and coworkers to raise the maximum dollar amount possible!