



HAPPENINGS

18323 Kuykendahl Rd, Spring TX 77379

Telephone (281) 370-6100

www.cypresswoodmontessori.com

Volume 4

November 2006

Encouraging Independence

"A servant does things for a child, while a parent should be an educator." Quote from **Maria Montessori** You can continue the Montessori experience for your child at home by helping him learn to take care of his own body, learn the joys of an orderly life, and learn to be a contributor to the family. By doing this, you engender a confident feeling of "I can do it myself!"

To encourage independence, always let your child do things for him/her whenever she shows an interest. If your child wants to help you cook, take the time to show him how to beat eggs, or tear the lettuce. Explain the reason for the process. It is always important when showing a task to explain what the end result, the accomplishment will be. Then enjoy the wonderful experience of working with your child at common task.

Letting young children do things for themselves- making their own breakfast, putting their clothes on, brushing their teeth- always takes more time and can be difficult in busy families. The payoff is that they learn self- reliance and self- confidence, just as they do in a Montessori school. Of course you always have to be aware of your child's age, size and stage of development. With this in mind, you can adjust your child's room so they can access things like drawers and hangers without help.

As Summarized by Dr. Maria Montessori's student and colleague: Young children prefer to work without compulsion; spontaneous and repetition is the key for retaining work.

Holiday Calendar: The school will be closed the following days:

Thursday, November 22nd - Thanksgiving Day

Friday, November 23rd - The day after

Monday, December 24th - Christmas Eve

Tuesday, December 25th - Christmas day

Tuesday, January 1st - New Year's Day

School's 5th anniversary & Holiday celebration
Wednesday, December 12th Songs! Magic show!

Parent/ Teacher Conferences: Sign up sheet on the classroom doors. Phone conferences available.

Week of November 26th - Pre-Primary II conferences

Week of December 3rd - Pre-Primary I conferences

Week of December 3rd - Toddlers conferences

Pediatrician Problem?

Up to 17 percent of pediatricians are not certified by the American Board of Pediatrics (ABP), according to new research in *The journal of Pediatrics*. Though not mandatory, ABP certification is important because it requires physicians to pass an exam every seven years and keep up-to-date on medical advances. The study revealed another scary statistic: Twelve percent of doctors who call themselves pediatricians never completed three-years of residency training in pediatrics. To see whether your child's pediatrician is certified, log on to abp.org.

Pre-Primary II: Yes, the Fall Semester is almost over and it is time for conferences and progress reports. All students are doing great with our dedicated teachers.

Curriculum for Pre-Primaries: Thanksgiving: Native Americans

The children will learn at their age-appropriate level

Native Americans:

- Different tribes
- Wild foods
- Buffalo
- Different dwellings
- Horses
- American Indian folktale and Mother Nature's gifts

The first Harvest Feast of 1621

- Table manners
- Facts about Pilgrim children
- Turkey facts and parts of a turkey - caruncle, snood, wattle etc.
- The Mayflower

We will play some thankful games:

- Circle of praise
- Gratitude grab bag

Pre-Primary I We are very excited to be working with our new water work exercises. Kids are doing a great job remembering to wear an apron every time they work with the water exercise.

Children are very happy to practice our holiday songs for our holiday celebration and our school's anniversary. Jingle bells have become their favourite holiday song. Please practice the songs with your child at home as well, so they can retain the songs.

Toddlers

We are encouraging our children to use words like "my work", "my body", and "gentle touch" to promote self-respect and also respect for others. Our groundrules are "be safe", "be clean", and "be gentle". All this helps them use their words to communicate with their friends and teachers.

Infants

A warm welcome for our new infant enrollment- Gweneth Hill - seven weeks old!

Friendly Reminder

Please remember to send a sweater or jacket with your child each day. It is chilly outside. We don't stay inside due to cold weather! We bundle up and go outside to get some large motor exercise and fresh air. It is extremely helpful if you label every piece of clothing with your child's name, especially the pieces that are removable (i.e. jackets, hats, scarves, etc..). This way, you will not lose expensive items. Our lost/ found box is already getting full!

Importance of outside play

Outside time is an important time for each child. The child is able to use his/her gross motor skills. Outside light triggers the synthesis of vitamin D. A number of studies have demonstrated that it increases academic learning and productivity. Also, the outside light stimulates the pineal gland, which is part of the brain that regulates our immune system, and make us feel happier. We provide outdoor activities such as jumping, climbing, sliding, as well as learning to take turns. We have a nice sand area where the children can learn to build, create, and play dramatically.

A Personal note from the Director:

Have a Great Thanksgiving , enjoy your families , be safe and eat right!!

We are thankful for having wonderful families like you all in our school!

Peace: Mrs. Nasser