

Highlights of the Week

All of the children receive individual and small group lessons in Language, Mathematics Practical Life, Sensorial, Science, and Geography. The children learn from choosing their own work many of the children are self directed and independent but may need guidance.

The child's Interest: One of Montessori's most significant discoveries was that children have a tremendous ability to choose appropriate work for themselves. Children gravitate to certain activities at certain times and are able to concentrate on those particular things to a very profound degree. When children are given the ability to choose their work based on their interest they are much more likely to learn from it and concentrate on it. Developing concentration and independence is key to all academic learning.

Sensorial:

This week I reviewed some of the Sensorial materials and presented extensions with the Pink Tower and Brown Stair, the Red Rods and the Constructive triangles. The children are able to combine the materials to build patterns and intricate designs. The Constructive triangles are used to demonstrate that all plane geometric figures can be constructed from triangles. The Children learn to form a triangle, rhombus, trapezoid, hexagon and parallelogram.

Mathematics:

The Kindergarten students are amazing ! They are all using the advanced Montessori materials to master addition and subtraction ! They are currently working on Multiplication and I will be presenting division soon! All of the children are learning to identify coins and dollar bills by value and name. After learning names of coins using a three-period lesson, they are learning to count 1-10, number association to the golden beads, identifying the presidents, and polishing pennies with vinegar and salt in Practical Life. Next, The children will use the store game to learn the denominations and older children will learn to make change.

Dr. Maria Montessori's

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"Free Choice is one of the highest of all mental processes"

Maria Montessori

Reminders:

- February 12th Curriculum night phase 2
- February 16th Family Ball at Troy Community center 6pm to 7:30pm
- February 19th & 20th Mid-Winter Break NO SCHOOL

Home/School Connection

When my son was a toddler, I began teaching about money by being very upfront about how I was spending money. When we went grocery shopping, I would tell him, "Today, we are only buying milk, bread, and peanut butter. That is all the money we have today." Then, when he saw something he wanted, I would tell him, "Remember, today we are only buying milk, bread, and peanut butter." Not only did this help him learn how money was spent, but it helped alleviate some of those moments when the candy or toy aisle was too tempting. I also started doing this on our trips to the mall: "Yes, we can go in the train store and you may play with the train table. But we are not buying any trains today." Once I set up the guidelines, shopping trips were much more enjoyable as we both knew what to expect. learning about money is an important aspect of mathematics and economics. And economic and financial integrity is part of learning to be a responsible and productive member of society. For these reasons, presentations related to the concept of money are often presented in the Montessori classroom.