

Pre-Kindergarten Enrichment Program

Pre-K children who attend another preschool program in the morning will benefit from afternoons of immersion into the Montessori Method. Montessori is a unique cycle of learning designed to take advantage of a child's sensitive years between ages three and six, when they can absorb information from an enriched environment. Children engage in guided exploration with the Montessori materials. You will find a beautiful environment Highland Park Montessori and highly experienced teachers who will further prepare your child for future success.

Our Montessori classroom is divided into 5 prepared areas:

PRACTICAL LIFE

In this area, your child will have the opportunity to practice everyday living skills such as pouring, spooning, dishwashing, as well as dressing skills such as buttoning, zipping, and tying. The overall goal of Practical Life is to have the child acquire a sense of order, concentration, coordination, and independence.

SENSORIAL

The Sensorial materials provide exercises to help children sort, match and compare objects by shape, size, touch, taste, and sound. These early sensorial impressions boost the children's powers of observation and deduction, broadens their vocabulary and contributes to their later understanding of formal educational concepts.

MATHEMATICS

By using concrete Montessori materials, the children learn to count, associate quantity and numerals and gain an impression of the full decimal system. A particular beauty of the math materials is that they are self correcting so that the children can see at a glance if they have made a mistake. The child is able to "fix" his/her own error without teacher intervention. We begin with numbers 0-10, and continue with the teens, tens, and the full decimal system. The child will be able to add, subtract, multiply, and divide using attractive and concrete materials.

LANGUAGE

"Insatiable at this age is the child's thirst for words, and inexhaustible his capacity for learning them." – Maria Montessori

This is perhaps a favorite area at Highland Park Montessori, and greatly valued by children, parents, and teachers. A phonic approach to writing and reading, the children begin by tracing the sandpaper letter and listening to the sound. Knowledge is gained, often quickly, of the letter sounds and is followed by building words using the moveable alphabet. Blending occurs quite naturally and all of a sudden...BOOM! The child reads their first word! Confidence ensues and soon a joyful reader has blossomed.

At HPM, we use the SRA Basic Reading Series, a phonetic based system which also introduces numerous sight words. This system contains 6 levels, perfect for beginner readers while offering continual growth and development in the language area.

CULTURAL STUDIES

Children use globes, puzzle maps and flags, which help them to build their understanding of other countries, cultures and people. Guests often visit our classes and give a live presentation of their family culture. Our school population is very diverse and the sharing of cultures enriches the hearts and minds of all.

In all areas of the Montessori classroom, each child progresses at their own rate. The teacher is always there to support and encourage the development of all students.

Some highlights of the program include:

- ❖ Fall Family Luncheon
- ❖ Parent Visiting Days
- ❖ Monthly Newsletter
- ❖ Spring Sing

Social Skill Development/Daily Group Sharing and Discussion

Pre-Kindergarten Enrichment is being offered on Tuesday and Thursday from 12:15pm-3:00pm. Upon arrival, the children will be served a delicious and nutritious lunch prepared by Chef Don, owner of Taste for Kids.