

Welcome to the Montessori Method articles. Our hope is that these writings will give you more information on the materials, curricula and daily occurrences in our Primary classrooms. As always don't ever hesitate to contact us with any questions that you have over the year.

The first six to eight weeks in the Montessori environment are referred to as a "normalization period." What this means for the children is that they are getting to know their environment, making new friends, learning the guidelines of the classroom, getting used to being left by mom and dad, and having many new experiences. You will begin to see changes in your child during this time also. Some parents report that their children are more independent, others state that verbal skills have expanded, and some tell us of challenges with separation anxiety. Whatever you observe your child doing, the most important thing for you to do is stay consistent.

It is through our consistency that our children understand that school is a safe place to be. Children thrive on routine and consistency, and changing a routine may be difficult, so listen to your child and offer support if he or she is sharing fears and worries with you. Make a point to ask specific questions such as "What were you most proud of today?" or "What lesson did you like working with today?" vs. "How was your day?" or "What did you do today?". We have to remember that by the time you pick up your child, many things have taken place, they have received lessons, chosen work, had fun on the playground, enjoyed lunchtime with friends, had quiet time, and much more. Asking the child a few specific questions pulls them back into the classroom, to when they were working on the materials, and makes them remember what they enjoyed about the day.

One thing Janice Mattina, our Director, reminds us of regularly is that communication is a miracle. We strive to communicate with our parents throughout the year, via phone calls, email and face to face meetings. Please know that if you are having any problems or concerns it is so important to contact your teacher directly. It is through communication that we all develop confidence and trust. As adults we know that this is essential to an ongoing relationship.

We are looking forward to a wonderful year with your children and your family.