



Butterfly Room

Orientation Information

The child can only develop by means of experience in his environment. We call such experience “work”.
Dr. Maria Montessori¹

Our goal is to provide a safe and nurturing environment that promotes the child’s independence in daily activities.

What to bring to school:

- 7 pull ups every Monday and large container of unscented wipes for the first two weeks. Thereafter, wipes will be included on the snack list as needed. A minimum of 5 cotton panties/underwear if your child has started or is toilet trained.
- Two changes of clothing in a large, **named**, zip-lock bag including a pair of shoes. **Please label everything with your child’s name!**
- 1 family photograph and completed “Our Big Book All About Us” questionnaire.
- In the spring we will be re-planting our butterfly garden which the children will tend. Each family will be asked to make a small contribution to our gardening fund.

How to dress your child

Dress your child in comfortable play clothes with an elasticated waist for toilet training, and closed toed, preferably Velcro gym shoes with socks. We want to help the children be as independent as possible.

Commercial Character Policy

We do not allow clothing, bedding or lunch boxes that contain pictures of non-real characters. Solid colors, patterns and pictures of animals, real people and “things that go” are appropriate.

Snack

Food is an important part of life. Being able to feed ourselves is a step towards independence and being able to prepare our own food is so much fun! In our classroom we will prepare snack together everyday and cook something special once a week. Two to three times a year you will be given grocery bags and a shopping list on Friday. Please purchase the items on the list and bring them to the school on Monday. Eating healthy is a habit best taught young. In accordance with the USDA MyPlate Kid’s Place guidelines, we do not permit sugary foods, soda and candy for snack. We enjoy celebrating the children’s birthdays and parents can feel free to bring in a healthy treat to share with classmates if desired. We ask that, where possible, this be homemade and something that your child has had a hand in making!

Arrivals

The “morning drop off procedure” begins at 8:40 a.m. and ends at 8:59 a.m. If you wish to walk your child in to school during morning drop off, for the first week, you may do so as far as the door to the classroom. There your child will be greeted by their teacher. Alternatively parents can stay in their car and your child will be greeted by a teacher and escorted to the classroom. If you arrive after 8:59 a.m. your child will be officially “tardy”. The tardy policy is listed in your parent handbook and is highly discouraged. Observation of this drop-off protocol will greatly help the separation process for both parent and child.

Dismissals/Pick up

Dismissals will be from the main building entrance. Students will be brought out to your car by their teacher from 11:45 a.m. to 12:00 Noon.

Volunteer Opportunities

Montessori World School asks each family to contribute 12 hours of volunteer time. There are several ways to complete your volunteer hours that are appropriate and outside the classroom for pre-primary students; such as book fair assistants, material making, gardening etc. The PTO offers many volunteer opportunities throughout the year and you are encouraged to volunteer for school wide, community events where possible.

Separation Anxiety - Getting your Toddler off to a Good Start!

You have made a great choice by enrolling your child in our Montessori Pre-Primary Program. Toddlers are developing their sense of independence and benefit from time away from the family to interact with other children and develop social skills.

Some Suggestions:

- Examine your attitude about dropping your child off for school. This is the biggest road block to separation. Children are very intuitive and can read and imitate parent’s reactions to events. If your child senses that you are feeling apprehensive about him/her going to school, he/she is likely to exhibit the same feelings.
- Communicate with confidence that your child will be fine and that you are happy and excited that he/she is going to school because you know how much fun he/she will have.
- Sometimes parents are not ready to “let go” and have a more difficult time separating than the child.
- A quick good bye with a clear point of departure outside the classroom or from the car is best. Let him/her be drawn into the classroom by intriguing activities and his/her day will get off to a great start.
- Tell your child how you are going to be spending your day and that you will be back to pick them up after school. Allowing him/her to leave you from the car or the classroom door allows the child to feel empowered as opposed to feeling left behind.
- Your child is safe with us and we are going to take great care of him/her. We know each child is different and we want to work with you to make his/her first school experience as smooth as possible. Let us know how we can help!

Butterfly Room 2015-16

Daily Schedule

8:40 a.m. - 8:59 a.m.	Arrivals
9:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.	Indoor Work Cycle
10:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	Group Circle Time
10:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.	Group Snack Time
10:45 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.	Outdoor Gross Motor Development
11:20 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Story Time
11:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.	Yoga/Music and Movement
11:45 a.m. - 12:00 noon	Dismissals

Monthly Themes

<u>Month</u>	<u>Theme</u>
August	Grace and Courtesy
September	All About Me
October	Colors
November	Shapes and Sizes
December	Winter/Holidays
January	Transportation
February	Five Senses
March	Ocean Life
April	Fruits and Vegetables
May	Animals
June	Water