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Expectations for Casa Children

The Montessori Philosophy

The Montessori approach to education is grounded in the belief that children have a dynamic inner desire to explore and learn about their environment. All children carry within themselves the person they will become. Developing the physical, intellectual, and spiritual potential to the fullest requires freedom - freedom achieved through order and self-discipline. A prepared and stimulating classroom environment allows children to learn at their own speed, according to their own capabilities in a non-competitive atmosphere.

With this philosophy in mind the following list was created. The Montessori classroom encourages a child's independence and it is extremely important that children who are enrolled in our program are capable of caring for themselves on their own, as well as have the intrinsic motivation to want to learn on their own. This list is to be used as a guideline to determine whether or not a child is capable of succeeding in the Montessori classroom. We hope that all children will learn to master the following skills within the first few months.

Care of Self:

- Ability to dress self independently (ex. putting on own shoes and jacket).
- Ability to manage snack time independently (ex. wash hands, open snacks, etc.).
- Ability to go to the bathroom on their own (ex. doing up buttons or zippers, wiping, flushing, washing hands).
- Being responsible for cleaning up after their self (ex. snack time; cleaning placemat, putting away garbage, tucking chair in).

Classroom Expectations:

- Ability to work independently.
- Ability to be self directed (ex. choosing own activities).
- Modeling Montessori behaviours (ex. respecting others' work space, ability to wait patiently, ability to work quietly).
- Ability to focus and concentrate on a single activity or task for longer periods of time (at least 10 minutes).
- Ability to complete a task or activity thoroughly (ex. after choosing an activity, working with it until completed).

- Ability to follow classroom rules and routines (ex. walking in the classroom, quiet voices, keeping hands to their self, respecting one another, gaining teachers' attention properly (hand on the arm), not interrupting/shouting).

Overall Readiness For Full Day Casa Children

For parents who would like to register their child for the Full Day program the following needs to be considered. Age is not always the most important factor, as we all know that each child has individual needs. Where some 3½ year olds may be ready to attend a full day, some 4½ year olds may struggle with the expectations placed on them. We have high expectations for children who attend full days and they should be capable of doing the following:

- Ability to communicate needs and wants appropriately.
- Ability to physically manage attending school for 7 hours (which includes lunch time).
- Does not fall asleep in the afternoon.
- Still shows desire to learn in the afternoon.
- Ability to still be able to concentrate and focus on tasks in the afternoon.
- Ability to focus and concentrate on a task for the duration of time it takes to properly complete it (minimum 15 minutes).