



Parent Handbook

350 Rike Drive
Millstone Township, New Jersey 08535
Montessori Family School Policy Handbook for Parents

Welcome to Montessori Family School. My staff and I would like to extend our appreciation for your selection of this learning center. We are proud to serve you and hope this handbook will provide the necessary guidelines for a successful communications process.

Our mutual goal is to provide the best possible education for the children. In order to do this, the rules and regulations in this handbook will be strictly enforced. All parents agree to abide by the stated rules and regulations in this handbook.

Montessori Family School accepts children between the ages of two and a half to twelve years of age. We accept children regardless of race, religion or ethnic background. All parents and children will be interviewed before acceptance into the program.

Montessori Family School does not have a religious affiliation. Adherence to Maria Montessori's method is our commitment.

REGISTRATION AND TUITION PAYMENT

All parents agree to abide by the tuition payment policy as described below:

- a. The registration fee and tuition rates for the current year are included in the enrollment agreement, of which this Parent Handbook is a part of.
- b. Annual Tuition - The school operates on an annual budget. Our financial commitments require that we charge an annual tuition. For your convenience, a Tuition Understanding form has been implemented to facilitate your payment. These installment payments are not in payment of a monthly service. Your financial commitment is for the full tuition amount. Montessori Family School will not reimburse any tuition monies paid in the event of an early withdrawal. If you wish to withdraw your child, we require thirty days notice. Tuition will be due until the end of the thirty days.
- c. Payment must be made on the month due by the first of month. A late fee of \$30.00 will be charged for payment after the fifth of the month. The only exception is if the fifth day of the month falls on a weekend day: tuition may be paid on the following Monday.
- d. Tuition checks can be given to the school teachers. All checks are to be placed in an envelope. Checks will not be accepted after the fifth without the appropriate late payment fee.

Before & After School Hours

An application form is available from the school office for those parents requesting this service. There is a \$25 service charge for enrollment in this program. The

prearranged extended day hours will be paid at the end of each month. Such service will be at the rate of \$15.00/hr payable at the end of the month. THERE WILL BE A CHARGE OF \$10.00 PER MINUTE PAST 6:00 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

1. All primary and elementary children attending the school must attend on a five days a week basis. ONLY toddler program accepts children for less than five days a week. The school does not accept children on a monthly, weekly or part-time basis. Due to safety & insurance requirements, no visitors (children) will be allowed in the school.

2. Before Care children will be accepted at school no earlier than 8:00 A.M. Children enrolled in the standard half or full day Montessori program will be accepted at school no earlier than 9:00AM. Any parent needing an early drop-off will be required to pay the before/after care enrollment fee and hourly rate.

3. Class work begins at 9:15 A.M. for the morning session. Dismissal for the morning program will begin at 11:45 A.M. Your promptness will be appreciated. A teacher will be at the door to hand your child to you.

4. The parent must send a written note or email in advance if someone other than the parent will be picking up your child. Names of those relatives or friends who can pick up the child can be posted to all teachers and assistants, however, a note is still required. If you arrange a carpool with other parents, you must send written notification, dated and signed, listing the names of persons authorized to pick up your child.

MEDICATION AND SICK CHILD POLICY

1. A child will be admitted to school if his health records are current and on file in the office. It is the parent's responsibility to make sure that immunization records are up to date. Yearly physicals must be brought to school. Flu shots for children 5 and under are required by the Health Department and must be on their health record by December.

2. A child will not be allowed in school if a fever reducing medication has been administered that morning. A child may not come to school if the child has had a fever at any time during the previous 24 hours. A child may not come to school if there is mucous discharge from the nose.

3. All parents are encouraged to have a back up plan for the pick up of sick children. The school will require a pick up of no later than one hour after notification. A staff member will be present with an isolated child.

4. Absenteeism will not accrue make-up days for children.

5. Please notify any change in circumstances at home. Common causes for childhood distress are parents away from home, separation of parents or divorce, illness, moving, death of a pet or death in family, hospitalization of a family member or an accident involving a family member.

DRESS CODE

Ages 18 Months – 6 Years

At our Montessori school, children spend their days actively learning through movement, exploration, practical life activities, outdoor play, and independent self-care. Clothing should support independence, comfort, and concentration while allowing children to fully participate in all classroom activities.

Our goal is to create a calm, respectful learning environment with minimal distractions while encouraging children's confidence and independence.

General Dress Code Guidelines

Children should come to school dressed in:

- Comfortable, weather-appropriate clothing
- Easy-to-manage outfits that support independent dressing and toileting
- Clothing that allows freedom of movement for sitting on the floor, climbing, carrying materials, and outdoor play
- Simple, practical clothing with minimal distractions

Recommended Clothing

We encourage:

- Soft pants, leggings, joggers, or shorts with elastic waistbands
- Simple dresses or skirts that allow movement
- Plain or minimally patterned shirts and tops
- Layered clothing for changing temperatures
- Closed-toe shoes with non-slip soles that children can independently put on and remove whenever possible

Clothing to Avoid

To maintain a peaceful classroom environment and support independence, we discourage:

- Clothing featuring large caricatures, superheroes, television characters, or heavily branded graphics
- Flashing lights, sequins, sound effects, or distracting embellishments
- Tight or restrictive clothing that makes dressing, undressing, or toileting difficult

- Jeans, especially stiff or fitted styles that limit movement and independence
- Overalls, complicated buttons, belts, or difficult fasteners for younger children
- Open-toed shoes, flip-flops, or shoes that are unsafe for active play

Toileting & Independence

Children should wear clothing they can manage independently whenever developmentally appropriate. Easy-on/easy-off clothing helps foster confidence and supports success during toileting routines.

For children who are toilet learning, we especially recommend:

- Elastic waist bottoms
- Simple layers
- Extra clothing kept at school

Outdoor Play

Outdoor play is an important part of the Montessori experience and takes place daily whenever weather permits. Please send children dressed appropriately for the season, including:

- Jackets
- Hats
- Gloves
- Rain gear
- Snow gear and boots when needed

Spare Clothing

All children should keep a full change of labeled clothing at school, including:

- Shirt
- Pants/shorts
- Underwear
- Socks

Younger children may benefit from multiple changes of clothing.

A pair of soft closed-toe indoor shoes is suggested for inside the classroom. They should be slip-ons and should not have distracting features such as lights, animal heads or bells. The teacher will return any attire that does not meet this standard.

EXTENDED DAY PROGRAM

All children who stay after 12:00 noon are considered "extended day" children and all rules, regulations and procedures related to the extended day program must be

observed.

1. Parents who have children attending the extended day program must make certain that the following items are always available for your child's use:

Extended Day & Toddler Program

1 pair of underpants
1 pair of socks
1 blanket
1 crib sheet
1 pair of long pants
1 crib sheet
1 shirt or blouse all items in group
1 pair inside shoes
1 Lunchbox with lunch and afternoon snacks
1 Water Bottle

All extra clothing items must be sent in a Zip-Lock bag labeled with your child's name. Blankets and crib sheets will be sent home every Friday for weekly wash.

2. If a child does not have the necessary articles of clothing when they are needed, the parent will be called to come to the school to bring the needed items.

3. Parents who have children in the Extended Day program are responsible for keeping the above items clean and in good condition. The school is not responsible for replacing an item that is lost or misplaced.

4. ALL ITEMS MUST BE CLEARLY LABELED. This includes all clothing items; shoes, socks, hats, underpants, etc. as well as umbrellas, jackets, cot bedding, etc.

6. On rainy days or wet days please select clothing and shoes that are appropriate - children get dirty!

Nap Policy

All children enrolled full day at our school will be required to nap or rest between the time frame of 12:00-2:00 PM A period of work time in the afternoon will be scheduled around naptime. Any child that awakens from their nap will resume their work period in their designated classroom.

SCHOOL POLICY REGARDING SUBPOENAS

Parents may not subpoena teachers or the Director in cases of divorce or determination of custody. Teachers are needed in the classroom, and they cannot be with their students if they must spend one or more days waiting to be called into court. Parents must notify the Director if they need a written statement from the school regarding their child.

INCLEMENT WEATHER EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSINGS

In the event of inclement weather conditions, the voicemail system at the school's phone number will be updated with an inclement weather message. Parents will also be notified of closings or delays via e-mail. School closings due to inclement weather are an act of nature. The center will not make up any days for these. The school calendar will continue as such.

SHARING TIME

Books or other educational materials are encouraged. The children are not permitted to bring toys, jewelry, money, etc. to school.

COMPLIANCE WITH STATE AND LOCAL POLICIES

Montessori Family School complies with all state and local governing bodies, following the Civil Defense Emergency Plan; the State Fire Marshall ordinances; and Millstone Township Health Department standards.

CONTACTING TEACHERS

The teachers will schedule two parent-teacher conferences per year. Parents may request additional conferences by contacting the school. Parents may not enter the classroom and talk to the teacher while he/she is working with the children. Parents may briefly talk to the teacher after class or make an appointment for a conference or zoom meeting at another time. Parents may schedule an appointment with teacher via e-mail.

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

1. Parents must attend a minimum of two parent-teacher conferences each school year. The teacher will send sign up links a week prior to the scheduled calendar date.
2. Parent-teacher conferences are designed to stimulate a close working relationship between parent and teacher in order to best help the child reach his or her potential in all areas of development.
3. Parents should make other arrangements for their children's supervision during conference times. Conferences are a parent only event.

GRIEVANCES

From time to time a situation may arise that must be handled by the administrator. To better serve your need, please adhere to this process:

1. Contact the school: (609) 371-9300
2. Speak to the administrator. Leave a voice mail if direct contact is not possible.
3. Make an appointment.
4. Discuss matter with appropriate parties involved.
5. Develop a plan.

Parents may not take up matters individually with any child at the school that is not their own.

Parents are responsible to comply with disciplinary action required with their own child to ensure the peace and safety of all children. See expulsion policy.

ENTERING AND LEAVING SCHOOL GROUNDS

We have implemented this procedure to allow for a smooth drop-off & pick-up of your children.

1. Drive up to the second road (past Mecco drive) and turn right. Go around the school building and turn right. Stop at the front mailbox. Please turn the engine of your car off and escort your child to the front door where a teacher will greet both you and your child at the door. Return to your vehicle as soon as possible to move the car line along.
2. The teacher will greet and dismiss your child from the main entrance. Before and after care children will be admitted and dismissed from the extended care door.

Please do not park and cross through an active car line to hand deliver your child to us. This is extremely dangerous during arrival and departure time.

The first week of school and until your child's separation anxiety ceases we discourage parents from entering the school with the child.

LATE PARENTS

From time to time parents do arrive late. We are conscious of this. Please observe the following procedure when dropping-off your child:

1. Notify the school of your tardiness.
2. Park your car.
3. Bring your child to the main entrance and ring the doorbell. Wait with your child until a staff member is available to receive your child at the door.

For late pick-up:

1. Notify school.
2. Park your vehicle.
3. Sign late notebook.
4. Pay late fee: past 12:00 AM \$10.00; past 3:00PM \$10.00

Evening Pick-up:

1. Sign late notebook.
2. Pay late fee: \$10 per minute

Due to a growing incidence of tardiness our school policy has been modified. Children become extremely impatient and upset when parents are delayed. Our concern is your child. Habitual tardiness will result in a change to your dismissal time of up to half hour before the school's dismissal time to ensure your child's comfort.

OPEN DOOR POLICY

The center has an open door policy. Parents are encouraged to make an appointment to come in and observe. Please call in advance to make your appointment.

HOLIDAYS / BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Part of the learning experience of children includes holidays and celebrations accepted in their culture. However, very young children do not always understand these and at times become even frightened. The teaching of religious holidays should come from the home where the moral value of these can be established according to tradition. In addition, not all children subscribe to the same beliefs due to different heritage and customs. As a school policy, Montessori Family School will not engage in active holiday celebrations of any sort. Our activities will be limited to the recognition of these.

All dates of birth will be recognized at school. A parent may bring a special snack

that will be placed at the snack table for the day. Please make the snack manageable. Avoid birthday cakes. Parents may request a class email list provided for invitation purposes.

Montessori Family School will not be responsible for the delivery of birthday gifts.

PARENT LOG

A parent log will be prepared by the school. Names and emails will be supplied. If you wish to be excluded from this list please notify the school office.

GROUND RULES FOR STUDENTS

The purpose of these rules is to aid your child in the development of self-respect and respect for others. The ground rules for preschool children are:

1. Children are welcome to bring a pair of slippers to use in the classroom for comfort.
2. All children will walk inside the classroom.
3. All children will use a normal tone of voice when inside the classroom.
4. All children must observe classroom and playground rules and all directions provided by their teachers in order to protect the safety of all children.
5. All children must demonstrate respect for themselves, teachers and peers in the classroom and on the playground.
6. All children must demonstrate respect for the indoor and outdoor environments including all classroom materials, library books, animals and plant life both inside and outside. The parent is responsible for reimbursing the school for replacement and shipping charges if a child damages, loses or breaks a material, a piece of a material, or a book.
7. All children will respect the right of each child to work in the environment undisturbed.
8. All children will refrain from activities that are harmful or dangerous, both inside and outside. Any children who persist in intentionally hurting other children and whose parents do not cooperate with the school, will be dismissed permanently from the school. No refunds will be available.
9. All children should bring an extra set of clothes in a labeled ziploc bag to be used in the event of an accident.
10. The teachers will work with each child in a gentle but firm and consistent manner

so that they may learn and assimilate the rules of positive behavior.

DISCIPLINE POLICY

The foundation for proper behavior is carefully and strategically incorporated in the classroom during the period of orientation. This process requires time for each child to internalize. Careful and respectful guidance shall be provided to guarantee the best environment for all children attending Montessori Family School.

DISCIPLINE CODE

1. Speak softly to the child.
2. Remove the child from frustrating situation calmly.
3. Invite the child to another area where he/she can observe children working.
4. Help the child understand what is required of him.
5. Invite him/her to air his/her difference with the child who has upset him/her. Provide the words they need to be successful.
6. When a child has been hurt, involve both children in the healing process.
7. Invite the child to observe other's proper behavior. Invite the child to return when behavior is appropriate for him and others.
8. Accentuate positive behavior.
9. Address difficulties immediately - avoid threatening with parental interference.

Cut - Off Dates

The public school system has a cut-off date to limit the age of children that will enter their Kindergarten or first grade programs. Some children miss the cut-off date by as little as one day. Each school district has developed their own policy and enforces it to avoid confusion and favoritism. Please check the current policy in your school district to avoid misunderstandings.

Montessori Family School will not engage in negotiating or arguing on your behalf for the school district to change or make exceptions to their policy. Please refrain from requesting the school from engaging in such discussions.

Expulsion Policy

From time to time a situation may arise that does not allow your child to continue at our center. These circumstances include but are not limited to the following

circumstances:

1. A child who bites another and breaks open the skin.
2. A child who intentionally vandalizes the materials at the school and whose parents do not take responsibility in the repair or replacement of the material.
3. A child who despite redirection and guidance insists on violent behavior (hitting, threatening others with abusive speech, improper use of the bathroom, etc.)
4. A parent whose fees are not current and has received two notices. Services will terminate immediately.
5. A parent whose behavior is abusive to a staff member or administrator. Parents shall be notified immediately on the phone, a meeting will follow within a 24 hour period of the incident. Parents are responsible to follow through the recommendations of the school. A detailed report will be signed and filed in the student's record. Parents of children may be given up to three days to enable them to find alternate care. All other circumstances will adhere to the directives found in your parent handbook and enrollment agreement. The director reserves the right to immediately terminate services when another child has been injured. The three day period mentioned above will not apply.

