



Smaller Scholars MONTESSORI Academy

We welcome you to observe our classrooms.

Montessori works. It is universally acclaimed in the educational community. The Montessori environment is a caring, peaceful and unhurried place. Multi-age groupings promote an atmosphere where children can help and learn from each other. Given the Montessori advantage, your child can become more confident, more creative and better able to make independent choices, qualities which will help him to succeed in life.

Please take a few minutes to look over this sheet of suggested observations, designed to be meaningful while causing the least disruption to the learning environment. The Director will be happy to answer any questions you have after your visit in the classroom.

(Please turn off your cell phone before entering the room.)

Observer

- Take notes to remind you later of your observations and any questions that arise.
- When approached by a child, simply smile and quietly say, "I'm just watching today." This encourages the child to continue with his/her normal routine.

Classroom Environment

- Is the atmosphere pleasant and inviting?
Active yet orderly?
- Is the environment fully equipped with materials? Variety of opportunities?
- Are the materials in good condition?
Accessible to the children? Orderly and cared for?
- Is the room neat, free of clutter and arranged for ease of mobility?
- Is the atmosphere free of distraction?
- Are the bathrooms easily accessible?

Students

- Do the children seem content and happy?
- Are the children engaged in work?
- Are the children interacting with each other?
- Are the children able to choose work independently?
- Do the children seem to respect the ground rules?
- Are the materials being handled with respect?

Teacher

- Is the teacher approachable to the students?
- Is the teacher's attention focused on the students?
- Does the teacher maintain good classroom management? Are any disruptions handled promptly?
- Is the teacher helpful without creating dependence?
- Does the teacher's movements and words make a good model for the children, i.e. speaks softly and moves carefully around the children's work?
- Are the lessons or materials clearly presented?

Facility

- Was the entrance clean and inviting?
- Were the doors and gates secured against improper entry?
- Was the outdoor area child friendly with many activities?

Administration

- Are the administrators friendly and knowledgeable?
- Did they listen carefully to my needs and concerns?
- Was I given appropriate information to make an informed decision regarding entry into the school?