

Observation Guidelines

I am glad to have this opportunity to invite you to observe in my classroom. Observations do not need to be scheduled, but I would like to ask you to consider the following suggestions:

1. Drop-off (8:30) and pick-up (12:30) can be chaotic, and, after 11:00, we will probably be having snack or we will soon be outside. If you want to see the children doing their “work”, that would be between 8:45 and 11:00.

2. There is an adage that says that you can never really “observe” anything in its natural state; simply the fact that you are there observing it, changes it. If you really want to see what goes on in a Montessori classroom, try to be “invisible”!

Feel free to move around, using stools scattered about, or sitting on the floor, so that you can see what you want to see, but try to let the children continue their work. If a child walks up to you and tries to engage you in conversation, remind them that you are there to watch what they do at their school.

I will give you a clipboard, where you can let me know what you are considering for your child and any questions you have. This will have an application as well.

3. If your child (2 years or up) is with you, try to simply observe them as well. If we need your help with communication or supervision, we will ask you. A younger child will need to be held.

4. We will pretty much ignore you, so that you can get a sense of the culture of the school, and because we are, of course, focusing on the children. An interview will be scheduled for later, when I am not teaching, if you are interested in applying.

5. Twenty to thirty minutes is usually a good amount of time to “get a feel for the classroom”, observe, and take notes (without putting undo stress on the children or the teachers).

6. With an application and fee, we will put your child(ren) on the waiting list. Children on the waiting list will be considered by age, sex and the needs of the classroom, and the “fit” of our values to yours as a parent, in addition to the date of the application.