

Topic for discussion:

Preparing at home:

- Begin a morning routine if you have not already. Keep it simple. Give your child some “power of choice” in the process. Keep this routine daily so your child knows what to expect. Children thrive on stability and routine. Use a picture chart if needed or wanted.

Example: Wake up

Use the bathroom

Get dressed (give 2 choices of what to wear and allow your child to do what they can themselves)

Breakfast (sitting at the table)

Teeth Brushing/Handwashing etc.

If a school day, check to make sure they have everything.

Your child should be a part of this.

Play if there is time before heading out the door.

- Begin giving 2 minute warnings when it’s time to leave or eat etc. An auditory reminder works as well if more direction is needed.
- Begin giving your child responsibility for themselves at home. This will differ among families.

Example: Hanging their school bag and coat.

Cleaning places after meals

Putting their toys away when done

Putting dirty clothes in a hamper

*Begin talking about school. Children identify with adults and are very perceptive.

Acknowledge their anxieties and fears but reassure them that they are going to have fun and begin telling them when you will pick them up. (after storytime)

*Practice putting on and taking off shoes before school starts. Practice putting coats on. (Flip Flop over the top)

Clothing:

*We will not judge!! Please choose clothing that is easily pulled on and off for independence. If you choose belts, buttons etc., please practice at home before sending to school on your child.

*No flip flops please. Something with a rubber sole they don’t slide in the classroom. Shoes that can easily be taken on and off are best. Velcro or slip on are great for the younger students. As they become more proficient we can begin adding tie shoes etc. For outside play something snug, but not tight, so the the shoes don’t fall off while they are running.

*Please label everything. We have many many duplicates of similar sizes every year and it can be difficult to keep track of 32 children's things each day. Occasionally items are left behind, and we'd like them to find their homes.

Lunch:

*We are a PEANUT FREE school. If your child comes to school with peanut products they will not be permitted to eat it. (We will give them an alternative if necessary)

*Every lunch should include a drink and a placemat for your child to put their food on as well as their meal. The placemat should be roughly the size of a kitchen towel folded in half.

Rule of Thumb: Many ask how much to pack them. If their food does not fit on the placemat it is too much.

*We don't always have extra staff at lunch time to heat and retrieve lunches from the kitchen. There are many great thermos and cold pack options to keep food ready to eat.

*When sending liquids to school please make sure lids are tight.

*Make sure to include all that is needed for your child to be successful. Straws, utensils, napkins etc.

*Children should be able to open and close their lunchbox independently. Please keep this in mind when purchasing.

*Begin practicing opening and closing containers at home. This is often times of frustration for children.

Items for School:

- School Bags generally should fit a standard sized folder (we will supply)
- Full day students may want a bit bigger bag so it can fit their lunchboxes and water bottles as well
- Open top is best and highly recommended for independence
- Allow your child to pick out their bag or choose a blank canvas and let them decorate it!
- Check their folders everyday. Even the tiniest piece of paper could be very important to your child. Allow them to show you with pride their accomplishments.
- Always send the folder back to school. Some students are very upset when they look and their folders are not in the folder holders with their peers'

Snack:

*Food is a big part of our day. It is a social time and one where we emphasize grace and courtesy.

*Parents are asked to provide weekly snack a few times each year. Sign up is via Sign Up Genius and will be sent out in September.

*Primary snack will be as a group during the first couple of weeks of school.

*Please contact your child's teacher with any dietary restrictions.

*Toddlers and Preschool age children can be "grazers". We encourage one snack per day during each class session and children will be expected to sit while eating, until they are done.

Helpful Tidbits:

*Don't allow your child to see your apprehension or worry about school and leaving them. They need to know that Mommy and Daddy feel secure about leaving them. This will bring them comfort.

*Be on time. Arriving in the middle of circle time is difficult for some children.

*Raise your expectations of your child. Allow them to help and feel as though what they are doing is meaningful.

*Talk to your child. Give them information when they ask questions. Use real names. No baby talk. Their minds are sponges at these ages.

*No news is good news! We will try to send pictures during the first few days during class but please remember we are busy teaching during class time if we don't get back to you right away.

WHAT WE ARE NOT CONCERNED ABOUT:

:During the first couple of weeks of school we will be assessing your child and the skills they have. We are not concerned with or have expectations of your child entering preschool being able to count, write their name or know the alphabet.

Helpful Montessori Terms and activities to be familiar with:

In the classroom we work (children love for their activities to be meaningful)

We have floormats (for the floor) placemats (for the table) and art mats (for messier activities)
These define work spaces for the students

Lessons are given to introduce new skills and materials in the classroom

Kind Words Of No Words is our motto

We uses snack necklaces to indicate when the snack area is open or occupies

Work first play second.

We encourage good choices in behavior and work