



Welcome!

Welcome to Rocklin Montessori Preschool. We look forward to getting to know your family and are privileged to be sharing in your child's preschool experience. Following is some basic information to know from the start:

- Children must have all completed paperwork on file prior to being left in our care.
- When signing in and out every day, please use your *full signature* and indicate the time.
- Each child has a cubby (some may share, depending on enrollment). Please bring a 2"x2" photo of your child for the cubby. Cubbies should be emptied daily.
- Our morning program begins at 8:45 a.m. The children will go directly to work for approximately ½-hour, at which time we will come together for circle. Of course, it is ideal for your child to arrive on time, so as to receive the full benefit of the program.
- Separation anxiety is a common occurrence, especially initially. In our experience, it is easier for the child if parents give a hug and kiss, say, "I love you. I'll be back soon," and then leave with a positive demeanor. Usually, children are not upset for long. Our staff is well-versed in offering a pleasant distraction in the form of work in the classroom, reading a story and offering words of comfort. If your child is inconsolable, we will call you. With consistent support from parents and staff, children usually gain self-confidence rather quickly.
- We play outside for 45 minutes each day. Please have your child wear weather-appropriate clothing and outerwear, and sturdy play shoes for safety and comfort. Consider applying sunscreen, as well.
- We ask that children be potty-trained. If your child needs a reminder, let us know. Also, please bring a complete, weather-appropriate change of clothing in a 1 gallon baggie marked with your child's name. We keep these in the children's bathroom for a variety of accidents.
- Snack is provided by the children on a rotating basis. You may sign-up for your child to bring snack approximately once a month on the snack calendar in the cubby room. When a child brings snack, s/he is the "Helper of the Day" and has a few special "duties," which they enjoy. We serve only healthy snacks and appreciate your help in avoiding products with hydrogenated fats and high fructose corn syrup. Please see the Parent Handbook for details.
- When picking up your child at 11:45 (or 3:30 for the extended or afternoon programs), please sign out and wait outside for the staff to dismiss and bring your child to you. This way, we can maintain the integrity of the final circle and finish our activity. If you are in a hurry, knock gently on the inner door and we will bring your child to you.
- Above all, *be safe* by closing the gate to the parking lot as you enter and exit the school. Do not be "considerate" by leaving it open for someone headed that way. It is possible that they run back for something, causing the gate to remain open and unattended. Always hold your child by the hand in the parking lot, as it is difficult to see small children behind cars.



- each child is a unique individual and we must realize, respect and appreciate his differences.
- our prime duty is to prepare and protect an environment that will provide the means of learning through exploration and discovery on a level of success for each child.
- learning should be an enjoyable and rewarding experience and should not place pressure on the child. This is why we have chosen the Montessori Method and materials for our program. In addition, we may use other materials and methods or combinations of both that will result in success for the child.
- we must have the confidence, trust, and help of each child's parents in order to meet the child's needs successfully.
- in children's innate desire and drive to explore, discover and learn!

FOUNDATIONAL RULES OF A MONTESSORI CLASSROOM

Role of the Teacher:

- To facilitate the children's learning by preparing the environment, by observing the children and listening to them to better understand their needs, and by acting as a model for children.
- To respect the child's individuality, personality, rate of learning, rights and needs.
- To reinforce classroom etiquette and thereby protect the rights of the child.
- The adult would intervene if:
 - One child is disturbing the activities of another.
 - One child is dangerous to himself/herself or another.
 - A child is destructive to the learning materials.
 - To offer a lesson or presentation on a material new to the child.

Rights of the child:

- To work alone or with friends.
- To freely choose work during the work period.
- To choose the same activities repeatedly.
- To not choose any activities and simply observe others.
- To make mistakes without intervention, allowing for self-correction.
- To have individual lessons and guidance as needed from an adult or another child.

Responsibilities of the child:

- Being respectful to adults, other children, and the classroom.
- Choosing and using jobs respectfully.
- Returning all the jobs used during the work period.
- Cleaning up any spills or messes he/she makes as demonstrated by an adult.

The Montessori Method

The Montessori Method of education, developed by Dr. Maria Montessori, is a child-centered educational approach based on scientific observations of children from birth to adulthood. Dr. Montessori's Method has been time tested, with over 100 years of success in diverse cultures throughout the world.

It is a view of the child as one who is naturally eager for knowledge and capable of initiating learning in a supportive, thoughtfully prepared learning environment. It is an approach that values the human spirit and the development of the whole child—physical, social, emotional, cognitive.

Key Components of the Montessori Classroom

Components necessary for a program to be considered authentically Montessori include:

- multiage groupings that foster peer learning
- uninterrupted blocks of work time
- guided choice of work activity

In addition, a full complement of specially-designed Montessori learning materials is meticulously arranged and available for use in an aesthetically pleasing environment.

The teacher, child, and environment create a learning triangle. The classroom is prepared by the teacher to encourage independence, freedom within limits, and a sense of order. The child, through individual choice, makes use of what the environment offers to develop himself, interacting with the teacher when support and/or guidance is needed.

Multiage groupings are a hallmark of the Montessori Method: younger children learn from older children; older children reinforce their learning by teaching concepts they have already mastered. This arrangement also mirrors the real world, where individuals work and socialize with people of all ages and dispositions.

Dr. Montessori observed that children experience sensitive periods, or windows of opportunity, as they grow. As their students develop, Montessori teachers match appropriate lessons and materials to these sensitive periods when learning is most naturally absorbed and internalized.

In early childhood, Montessori students learn through sensory-motor activities, working with materials that develop their cognitive powers through direct experience: seeing, hearing, tasting, smelling, touching, and movement. These experiences lay the foundation for later development of more abstract understanding.

Montessori students develop self-confidence, learn to think independently, work collaboratively, and seek knowledge for the joy of understanding.

Notable People Who Attended Montessori Schools

Among many notable individuals who have attended Montessori schools are:

Jeff Bezos - founder of Amazon.com

Larry Page and Sergey Brin – founders of Google

Stephen Curry - Guard, Golden State Warriors

Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy Onassis - former first lady (John F. Kennedy)

Sean 'P.Diddy' Combs - singer

Prince William and Prince Harry

T. Berry Brazelton - pediatrician and author

Julia Child - author, chef, TV cooking shows

Elizabeth Berridge - actress

Kami Cotler - actress

Melissa and Sarah Gilbert - actors

David Blaine - magician

Gabriel Garcia Marquez - Nobel Prize winner for Literature

Katherine Graham - ex-owner of the Washington Post

Anne Frank – author, diarist from WWII

Mark Zuckerberg – co-founder of Facebook

Alice Waters – World-famous organic restranteur, Chez Panisse, Berkeley

Also: Helen Keller, Alexander Graham Bell, Thomas Edison, Henry Ford, Sigmund Freud, Buckminster Fuller, Leo Tolstoy, Bertrand Russell, Erik Erikson, John Holt, Yo Yo Ma, Andrew Lloyd Webber & Hugh Grant.



Here's what we need back from you:

1. Identification and Emergency Information
2. Child's Preadmission Health History, Parent's Report
3. Physician's Report (*filled out by child's doctor*)
4. Immunization Record (*provided by doctor's office*)
5. Consent for Emergency Medical Treatment
6. Notification of Parent's Rights (*bottom signed, detached, and returned*)
7. Personal Rights (*bottom signed, detached, and returned*)
8. Blue California School Immunization Record (*top portion filled in only*)
9. Signed Original Admission Agreement
10. Signed Back Page of Policies (*the rest is for you to keep*)
11. Permission Slip For Use of Photos
12. Emergency Contact Form

Please complete and return these documents to the school as soon as possible, as it is required by law for us to have all documents on record.

Thank you!