Parent Resource

Preparing Your Child for Montessori School

The Montessori Journey Begins at Home

The transition to a Montessori learning environment represents an exciting milestone in your child's developmental journey.[1] We've created this resource to help you nurture your child's natural curiosity and independence before they join our community of learners.

Understanding the Montessori Approach

Montessori education honors each child as a unique individual with an innate desire to learn.[2] Our approach creates carefully prepared environments where children engage in self-directed exploration using specially designed materials that develop concentration, coordination, independence, and order.[3]

Dr. Maria Montessori observed that the greatest sign of success for a teacher is to be able to say the children are now working as if the teacher did not exist.[4] This philosophy guides our practice of nurturing each child's natural development.

Preparing Your Child by Age Group

For Toddlers (Ages 18 months–3 years)
The toddler years represent a critical period when children develop independence and language skills while exploring their environment with all their senses.[5]

Nurturing Independence:

- Create low shelves at home where your child can choose and return their own materials[6]
- Provide child-sized tools in the kitchen and bathroom to encourage self-care
- Allow extra time for your child to dress themselves with minimal assistance
- Set up a designated space for putting on and removing shoes and coats

Language Development:

- Speak clearly using proper vocabulary rather than "baby talk"[7]
- Read regularly with your child, discussing pictures and concepts
- Name objects and actions during daily routines to build vocabulary
- Engage in conversations that encourage verbal expression

Practical Life Skills:

- Involve your child in simple household tasks like wiping spills or setting the table[8]
- Practice pouring exercises using small pitchers with water or dry beans
- Encourage hand washing and other self-care routines with minimal assistance
- Introduce simple food preparation like spreading or arranging items on a plate

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For Preschool (Ages 3–6)
Preschool-aged children thrive when given opportunities to refine their independence, develop concentration, and build social connections.[9]

Concentration Development:	Social Preparation:	Order and Organization:
• Create opportunities for uninterrupted work periods at home[10] • Observe when your child is deeply engaged and avoid unnecessary interruptions • Provide simple puzzles, sorting activities, and other materials that require focus • Limit screen time which can impact concentration development[11]	• Arrange playdates to practice sharing and taking turns • Model respectful communication and conflict resolution • Practice using "please," "thank you," and "excuse me" • Create opportunities to interact with children of different ages[12]	• Establish consistent daily routines that provide security • Keep toys and materials organized and accessible • Involve your child in maintaining order in their environment • Demonstrate the complete cycle of an activity: taking out, using, and returning materials[13]

For Kindergarten (Ages 5–6)
Kindergarten in a Montessori setting offers children leadership opportunities and deeper learning as they prepare for elementary education.[14]

Academic Foundations:	Independence and Responsibility:	Leadership Development:
• Foster a love of reading through daily stories and discussions • Explore numbers and counting in everyday contexts • Encourage writing through meaningful activities like making lists or cards • Support curiosity about the world through nature walks and simple science experiments[15]	• Gradually increase responsibilities appropriate to your child's abilities • Support problem-solving by asking guiding questions rather than providing immediate solutions • Encourage your child to manage their own belongings and schedule • Provide opportunities for making age-appropriate choices and experiencing natural consequences[16]	• Create opportunities for your child to help younger siblings or friends • Acknowledge when your child demonstrates responsibility and helpfulness • Discuss the importance of being a positive role model • Encourage initiative in family projects or community activities[17]

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Developing Healthy Drop-Off Routines

A consistent, positive drop-off routine helps children transition confidently into the learning environment.[18]

Before School Starts:	Establishing the Routine:	Building Confidence:
• Visit the school together if possible to familiarize your child with the environment • Read books about starting school and discuss what to expect • Practice separations with other trusted adults to build confidence • Create a special goodbye ritual that provides reassurance[19]	• Maintain a consistent morning schedule that isn't rushed • Keep goodbyes loving but brief and confident • Reassure your child about when you'll return using concrete time references • Partner with your child's teacher to develop strategies specific to your child's needs[20]	• Express positive expectations about your child's day • Acknowledge feelings while maintaining confidence in their abilities • Avoid showing anxiety or lingering, which can transfer worry to your child • Celebrate successful transitions and growing independence[21]

Education Beyond Royal Montessori Academy

As families look ahead to education after our program, there are several excellent options in the Green Bay area that may align with your child's unique interests and learning style.

Montessori Continuation:

- Several area schools offer Montessori elementary programs through 6th grade[22]
- The Northeastern Wisconsin Montessori School provides programming through 8th grade
- These programs maintain the philosophy of self-directed learning and multi-age classrooms

Specialized Programs:

- Aldo Leopold Community School offers a strong emphasis on arts integration and environmental education[23]
- Baird Elementary provides a Spanish dual language immersion program
- Leonardo da Vinci School for Gifted Learners has an application process with academic assessment
- Several charter and private schools offer unique approaches to continuing education

Supporting the Transition:

- Begin researching options during your child's kindergarten year
- Discuss with your child's current teachers about maintaining Montessori principles at home
- Arrange visits to potential schools to observe their learning environments
- Consider how each program might honor your child's individual learning style[24]

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Resources for Your Family's Journey

Online Resources:
[American Montessori Society]
[Association Montessori Internationale]
[National Center for Montessori in the Public Sector]

Books:
Montessori from the Start by Paula Polk Lillard and Lynn Lillard Jessen
How to Raise an Amazing Child the Montessori Way by Tim Seldin
The Montessori Toddler by Simone Davies

Royal Montessori Academy
Where Learning Begins

We look forward to partnering with you as your child discovers the joy of self-directed learning in our carefully prepared environments, where each day brings new opportunities for growth, discovery, and the building of lifelong skills.

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