



# TOTM

MONTESSORI

NAVY YARD, WASHINGTON, DC



H STREET NE, WASHINGTON, DC

## Coats

We began lessons on the 'tags to toes' method of putting on a coat in October and we are observing that the children who have been practicing at home and at school are now able to put on their own coats. Zippers, snaps and buttons come next! Please see the November Newsletter ([archived on website](#)) for pictures and instructions and let your child practice this at home.

## Meals

We recommend that Montessori parents donate the high chair and move to a small table and chair where your child can gain independence with the grace and courtesy of eating sitting down. We practice at school and are observing that the toddlers are embracing the routine of getting a plate, sitting down, asking politely for a snack, and then cleaning up.

## Shoes

Shoes take a lot of practice! Please invest in shoes that go on and off the feet easily and avoid buckles, snaps, laces, and tricky fixtures. Toddler shoes should slip on and off with velcro. Over time your independent toddler will put on socks and shoes happily.



## Toddler

Our toddlers returned from the holiday week rested and ready to work and see their friends! We've noticed that some of the children who were still riding in wagons are now able to walk to the park on the walking rope. It's standard in Montessori programs for toddlers to get out and walk each and every day. The motor, cognitive, and social challenges involved in taking a long walk are great and we consider this one of our most important works of the day. We fall down a little and have to take breaks and model/practice walking safely, but we always get to the park and the sense of achievement is visible on the children's faces!





## 2017 Conferences

This November/December, Gwen and Nathaly are conducting 20 minute sit-down conferences with each family who signs up, and Natalie is sending a page long written narrative in the ethnographic style for her twenty toddlers. No matter the medium, it's important that you feel you are connected with your child's teacher, and that you have insight into your child's gifts, challenges, developmental plane, and Montessori experience. Aside from this month's written and verbal check-in, please feel free to:

- *email your child's teacher about your child's experience in the classroom, over-all development, likes-dislikes, friends, habits, energy levels, favorite works, will, compliance, emotions, etc.*
- *ask for a phone discussion if you think email is not sufficient*
- *schedule a time to sit and connect if an in person discussion is what you need*
- *join us for Parent ed. each month and gain from the insight, community, support, resources, and helpful tips on a variety of topics chosen for Montessori parents.*

## Primary

This month the children have been gravitating towards identity and individuality. Each child is a steward and partner in the community, but each is also an autonomous individual. Confidence is key and this aspect of having healthy relationships within a community is vital; Dr. Montessori recognized this and Montessori environments foster independence and confidence with this outcome in mind. We are teaching different techniques (mostly indirectly) to help to lay this foundation for the children. This month the **peace table** was introduced and its purpose is to provide a place where children can converse with one another when conflicts arise. It's a tool that provides an opportunity to "work it out". During lunchtime we have been listening to stories about Pete the Cat. He goes to different places and has different things happen to him, and he overcomes these "obstacles" on a level that children can relate to.



### Three Fun Facts About Early Childhood



1. The four areas where parents and teachers can focus their energies toward stabilizing, healthy, predictable, nurturing, peaceful, and developmentally appropriate activities is **People, Places, Routines, and Rituals**. Ages 0-6 requires stability and consistency in these four areas, but not all four at the same time and we don't have to seek perfection. Reflection: *How much stability and consistency, in general, does your little one have, over all?*

2. Ages 0-3, the child is absorbing everything around her unconsciously and the "learning" is through experience. Toddlers are ego-centric and impulse driven, ergo, "discussing it" with toddlers is not developmentally appropriate. Use correct language and don't "dumb it down", but be brief. Ages 3-6 the child begins to consciously absorb information in a more mature way, using more of the brain, and she is moving away from impulse and toward will. Small verbal reminders and short talks are now meaningful and when *used correctly*, can be part of the learning. Nature is a powerful and more appropriate guide than lessons and lectures at this early stage. Reflection: *Is it easy to trust your child and trust in nature, or do you find yourself worrying and feeling anxious about how your child is developing? What would help?*



3. Educators who prioritize community, relationships, communication, and peaceful environments over materials, curriculum, achievement, and right-wrong see emotional stability, frustration tolerance, flexibility, grit, curiosity, kindness, and joy arise naturally in young children. Montessori environments are known for these priorities. The latest research on early childhood education is calling for a certain kind of "quality" in learning environments and teacher training is a key element. Reflection: *What's your vision of a "successful" learning environment?*

## Upcoming Events

(5 things to put in your calendar)

1. Toddler Parent Ed **Wednesday Dec 13th @ 6:30pm** (In Toddler Classroom, Adult Only)  
Topic: *Montessori At Home - with 2 guest speakers!!*
2. Primary Parent Ed **December 15 @ 6pm** (In Primary Classroom, Adult Only)  
Topic: *Montessori 101*
3. Brown Bag with Head of School “Community Meeting”, at Capper Community Center Thursday,  
**December 14th 12:15-1:15**
4. **Holiday/Winter Break 18th-Jan 5th** - No School in Toddler or Primary
5. Primary **Open House** for Toddler Parents: **Thursday, December 7th @ 9am** at 1000 5th Street S.E., Washington D.C. 20003 in the Capper Community Center

## Reading List

What We Say Matters

Nurture Shock

Quiet

The Joyful Child

Unconditional Parenting

## Website Resources for Montessori Parents

Montessorium (Primary)

RadicleBeginnings (Toddler)

The Kavanaugh Report

The Family Alliance (International Montessori Council)

The Parenting Junkie

How We Montessori

## Recent Articles of Interest to Parents

<https://primary.community/parent-teacher-partnerships>

<https://aleteia.org/2017/09/20/the-montessori-teachers-rule-that-changed-the-way-i-parent/>

<https://www.parent.co/the-french-method-that-completely-shifted-my-parenting/>

<http://pickanytwo.net/the-train-analogy-that-will-change-how-you-see-your-crying-child/>