

THE MONTESSORI PREPARED ENVIRONMENT

The first aim of the prepared environment is, as far as it is possible, to render the growing child independent of the adult.

—Maria Montessori *The Secret of Childhood*, 1966.

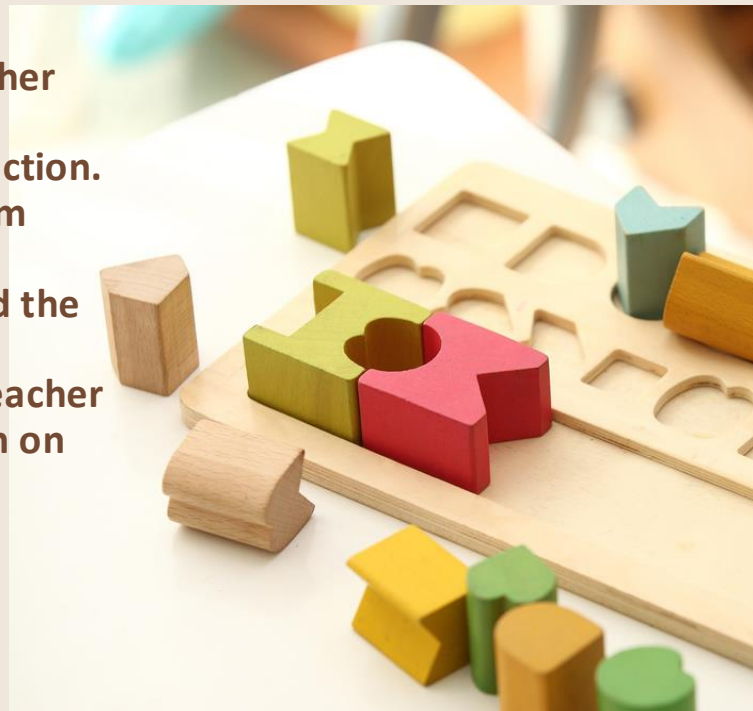


Social Environment

- Everyone should feel welcomed.
- All classrooms have co-teachers so both teacher and co-teacher will need a workspace.
- Consider small group and whole group instruction.
- “De-fronting” the room by arranging the room with no designated front.
- Children should see all spaces as learning and the teacher is not the sage on the stage.
- The environment is to be child centered so teacher needs should be minimized and not encroach on the space as needed for the children .

Structure and Order

- Consider the grace and courtesy expectations for the classroom when designing room layout.





Freedom

- Decide how your shelves will be laid out.
- Make sure students can easily assess everything on the shelf.
- Make sure there is floor space for students to work without being interrupted by foot traffic.
- Ensure sight lines are free from obstructions and blind spots are reduced.
- Furniture should be appropriate height for the development of the student to promote independence.
- The appropriate size and height of desks and chairs is requirement for comfort, posture and support which aids in concentration.
- Appropriate bookshelf size and height are necessities to ensure space and clearance for Montessori materials and works.

Nature and Reality

- Consider bringing plants into the classroom to accent the natural wood of the tables and chairs.



Beauty

- Cleanliness and orderliness are key.
- Clutter can inhibit learning and clarity of thinking.
- Décor should not overpower the function of the materials or overstimulate the child.

Intellectual Environment

- Make sure you have an area for math, language cultural, sensorial and practical life for primary.
- Materials should be laid out in progression of difficulty (see albums) left to right, top to bottom.
- All materials should be on the shelf for lower and upper.
- If you have materials in storage you will need to have them out.



1. Keep your room **CLEAN**. Enough said.

2. Keep your room **ORDERLY**.

3. **LESS** is more.



Here and Now Moving Forward

As we are currently in this transitional period awaiting the construction of our new school, we are committed to provide classrooms with the necessities required to teach Montessori. We acknowledge that there may be additional furniture , materials, and or works that is desired or needed, however we must maintain fiscal responsibility when doing so. Additionally we expect that each individual will care for and maintain the materials and furniture we do have and in order to utilize and share with each other.



Cut and return the portion below

I have reviewed the elements of the prepared environment. I agree and commit to following the tenets of Maria Montessori. I understand that I am expected to maintain a prepared environment throughout the year.

Signature