



Newsletter September 2023

Dear Parents,

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our returning and new families. We hope you had an enjoyable, restful summer. We look forward to a great year in our Montessori environment.

Beginning of a new school year is always exciting! No doubt it is a fresh beginning with new expectations, new schedules, new clothes, new and renewed friendships.

For our returning children September will be a month of transition from our relaxed summer program into a more structured program. For most of our new children this will be their first experience in a group situation away from their mom's and dad's. This adjustment can be challenging....

Therefore, we have enclosed a few reminders of our classroom and school procedures which would help you with this transition.

Classroom and School Procedures.

Gradual Entry for New Children

All New children will be scheduled to start with a shorter day. This will make it easier for them to transition and adapt to a new environment without separation anxiety. Preschool children will start with 1 hour. Daycare and Extended day children will do 2 hours on their first day. At the end of these sessions, the teacher will touch base with each parent and let them know how their child is doing. We will gradually increase the time and will try to have all our new children for the full session by the 3rd day. However, there can be exceptions where the child needs more time to settle in.

Greetings and Goodbyes

Please remember, it is important that you allow your child enough time to get ready for school so that he/she can be calm on arrival. We know that parents have busy work schedules but make your child a priority and find that extra time to get him/her ready for school.

In order to ease transition and to support independence please respect our policy of keeping your goodbyes brief and sweet outside the classroom. Also remember that the greeting teachers **do not have the time to engage in lengthy discussions** about your child's day at the beginning or end of sessions, as they have other children and duties to take care of. If there are concerns, we will always let you know and the parents also can schedule an appointment if they have concerns.

School Clothing

Children should wear comfortable and appropriate clothing. In order to foster independence please make sure that the clothes are easily manageable by the child when he/she need to use the washroom, getting ready for outdoor play etc. Our classrooms are adequately heated so there is no need to dress your child in layers and layers.

All children should also have spare clothing which will remain in their cubbies. This should contain a pair of pants, Shirt/ dress, underwear and socks. They also need a pair of shoes for indoor wear.

Toys

Toys should be left at home.

Punctuality

Please make every effort to drop off your child by 9.00am the latest.

We are **a Montessori learning environment**, and it is very disruptive to the rest of the class and the children who are working easily get distracted by the ring of the doorbell and the late arrival of their friends. **We are working hard to achieve certain goals with your child and punctuality sets a very good and important example for this.**

In case of an emergency, or if you have a very valid reason for getting late, please call the school or let the teachers know the day before and we will try and accommodate you.

Also make sure that you pick up your child on time after the end of each session. There will be **a late fee of \$1/= per minute** for all late pickups.

Parents, please strictly adhere to the times as per your contract.

Emergency kits

Please prepare the Emergency Kits following the list that was given to you. If you have any questions or need clarification, please don't hesitate to speak with a teacher.

Sickness Policy

Stay home when sick!!

Parents and caregivers must assess their children daily for symptoms before sending them to school. All children with common cold, influenza, fever and infectious disease symptoms must stay home until no fever, symptoms have improved or have been assessed by a health care practitioner to confirm that it is safe for the child to return to school.

Emergency kits

Please prepare the Emergency kit following the list that was given to you. If you have any questions or need clarification, please don't hesitate to speak with a teacher.

Label all children items

All items belonging to your child must be labeled clearly with the child's name. These include the school bags, bottles, boxes, lunch containers, extra clothes kept in the classroom, jackets, shoes etc. This way even if another child takes it home by accident it will be returned to the school. If your items are not labeled, the teachers cannot help you if they go missing.

Please let us know if any of the information that you provided on the registration form has changed. (Phone number, address, email, persons authorized to pick up the child, medical information such as allergies, medication etc.)

We encourage parents to login to our website www.brightstarmontessori.ca in order to access the Parents Corner.

Username: brightstar

Password: 3503

Parents can find Newsletters, School calendar, information about our programs and other documents here.

We look forward to a safe, happy and productive school year.

Sincerely,

Ms. Kirsti
Ms. Mindy