

Maine Mountain Children's House

Kingfield, Maine



Classroom Notes

Welcome families! We are so incredibly excited to start the 2017/2018 school year :) We had a great first week meeting new friends and seeing familiar faces. We also really enjoyed getting to meet/see many of you at the Parent Night before school started! It was really great to mingle and chat with many of you before the year begins. Many thanks to Misse, as well, for her wonderful overview of the Montessori philosophy and classroom. How lucky we are! Stay tuned for more Parent Education sessions this year!

As our school year comes to a start, don't be afraid to ask questions. For many of you, it's not only an exciting time for you and your child(ren) but also a bit sad and nerve-racking! We are here for you- if you have questions, comments, concerns, or just need a quick picture to see that your little one is doing a-ok :) Please utilize the other parents, as well, for many of them have been here for a year (or more) and know the drill. Attached in this email is a parent list with names and emails for all families.

Read on for information on the Practical Life area of the classroom, where many students will find themselves to start the year! Also please note information on Harvest Festival and upcoming volunteer opportunities. Thank you and happy school year!



Upcoming Dates

September 30th
Harvest Festival

October 5th
Apple Orchard **Ten

October 9th
Indigenous People
Day- No School

October 20th
Workshop- no school

October 27th
Parent/Teacher
Conferences

Practical Life

Practical life materials lay the foundation for all of your child's future work in the Montessori classroom and beyond. These lessons focus on real-life skill building, and the development of concentration, coordination of movement, and independence. Additionally, this is where children begin building concentration for more advanced work, fine motor skills for writing, and much more.

The practical life area includes four areas: **preliminary activities and body movement, care of self, care of the environment, and grace and courtesy.** A typical practical life area of a Montessori classroom at the beginning of the school year will have basic dry pouring lessons, such as pouring beans from one pitcher into another. It will have spooning and squeezing lessons where children use spoons and tongs to transfer materials. The care of self area will have dressing frames, which allow children to

practice tasks that are essential to their independence, such as mastering buttons or zippers. The care of environment area will include brooms, sweepers, dusters, towels, and sponges. This area allows children to take care of their school and clean up after themselves and their friends. Finally, grace and courtesy lessons are a general part of our day-to-day life in our classroom. We practice greetings at circle time, such as shaking hands or waving hello, in addition to using kind and polite manners between all teachers and students.

We hope this gives you a small sense of one area of the Montessori environment your child is immersed in. Next month we will review the sensorial avenue of the classroom and give you peak at some of the common lessons you will find there!



Volunteer Board

Upcoming Opportunities:

4th Annual Harvest Festival-Please Help!

- **SELL TICKETS!! Share the mainemountainfestival.com link so friends and family can buy tickets!**
- **Sell raffle tickets at the event**
- **Help with set up and take down**
- **Man the fire pit for S'more roasting**
- **Man a game station**
- **Help with Parking**

We will have a sign-up sheet in the cubby room on Monday so you can choose how you'd like to participate. This is our one big fundraiser of the year, so we need all hands on deck to make it the best it can be!