



# Montessori Learning Centre

“Knowledge with Understanding”

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to beginning your *CASA* programme with *MLCP*. Your three-year experience will be one of excited growth.

As you watch your child mature academically, socially and emotionally, know that your investment in Montessori's time proven methods is sound and commendable. These absorbent years show your child developing responsible, independent, self-regulating skills which will overlap all areas of their life creating an engaged, self-expressive individual, in an all-inclusive environment where all belong. Allow your child to share some of these skills with you - folding, sweeping, polishing, payments at the store, chopping, stirring, and measuring in the kitchen are all areas in which they would be proud to help. Let them walk independently into their classroom, on time, carrying whatever they need for the day.



Remember Montessori's famous words: "HELP ME TO HELP MYSELF".

**DROP-OFF** during these first days and, maybe even for the first weeks there may be tearful separations (probably for both parties). Your positive attitude and cheerful reinforcement will make adjustment much easier for your young one. It has been proven over and over that a short period (5 minutes maximum) of reassurance, a kiss and hug and a **QUICK** departure is the best way for the child to begin his/her day.

Once the parent has left and the child is free to begin exploring the environment and meeting friendly faces, the sadness eases quickly. Please trust us on this point, and after the final hug and kiss, leave your child to begin the wonder of exploration. Call us as often as you like during the first few days and believe that the adjustment is much more difficult for you than for your child.

**FRENCH** classes continue to be offered each day. Mme. spends a period of time in each Casa class daily offering the French language through interactive exercises, song, movement, visual support and stories. Each classroom houses French exercises for independent use, as chosen, around the French class time.

**GYM DAYS** will be forwarded and posted in each classroom. Please ensure your child wears appropriate shoes and attire on these days. Added activities are forwarded via notes sent home or additional e-mails.

**INFORMATION** is communicated via emails to the provided address each Monday and by notes sent home. Please check the website regularly for supplemental communications. Each child does have a labeled pouch where additional or complimentary information can be exchanged. Please submit the requested **Annual Sign Off Form** to the classroom during the first week of school.

**LUNCHES** from home cannot be refrigerated or heated. Please use ice packs for cooling and thermoses for warming. Please provide plates, bowls and cutlery as needed. Unfinished lunch portions will be sent home. Please make lunches as healthy and environmentally supportive as possible. A reminder that all students under 4 years of age are required to participate in the hot lunch programme. The hot lunch programme is an option available to all students over 4 years of age or on an occasional basis as required. Menus are posted in each building and on our website.

**MEDICATIONS** can be administered only if noted in the medication booklet and on the notice board with parental documentation to the prescribed patient. Any prescription medication can only be administered as written on the original container or with a doctor's written instruction from the labelled container.

Emergency dosages of antihistamines, fever reducers or pain relievers, etc. can be administered with signed consent as needed and only if provided by the parent. We suggest parents, particularly of younger students, store a fever/pain reducer and an antihistamine with the student's name clearly noted at school. In the event of either of these being needed, we can only administer labelled medication, sent from home, with parental signature, to the student.

Standing medications require a specific form and should be updated as needed *i.e.* **puffers, epi-pens, insulin etc.** As such, we do suggest that you keep a supply at school in the emergency pouch.



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Medications of any kind (prescribed or over the counter) may NOT be stored in backpacks or lunch bags nor carried by the student but must be stored with the classroom teacher in the emergency bag or the fridge.

A reminder that children who are unwell must remain at home until symptom and fever free for 24 hours or 48 hours if stomach related.

**MUSIC** is offered once per week with movement, note identification and instruments creating a fun filled session.

**NAPS** continue at 12:30 until 2:30 for all students under 4 years who need them. Please advise if your child is to be awakened after a certain period of time if that is something that is important to you. **Two** labelled pieces of bedding are required and will be sent home each Friday for laundering. Older Casa students are required to enjoy a minimum 30 minute quiet period each day before the afternoon programme begins.

**NECESSITIES** should all be **labelled**. MLCP suggests the following items:

- Fever/pain reducer/antihistamine-with permission notes
- Bedding - nappers - 2 labelled pieces of bedding (single sheet, beach towels, smaller blankets, etc.)
- Weather appropriate clothing - tops, bottoms with 2 changes of underwear and socks which could move back and forth daily in backpack.
- Jackets and snow pants may be stored on the assigned hooks
- Hats, gloves and scarves are to be **labelled** and stored in sleeves for easy movement to dressing areas
- Indoor and outdoor shoes/footwear-as applicable
- Backpacks and lunches should be stored on the appropriate shelves-please **DO NOT** hang on hooks

Mabel's Labels are a great way to keep things identified. Labels are available for clothing, bags, shoes, household items and more and can be ordered from the website link found on the MLCP PTA Facebook Group Page.

**SNACKS** are provided at all academic levels at MLCP at approximately 10:00am and 3:00pm. Please see the menu for details.

**STAFF/PARENT COMMUNICATION** continues to be welcomed. Please feel comfortable calling MLCP, at any time, to schedule a call or a meeting. Please note that calls between 11:30am and 1:30pm will be picked up by the answering service and returned as soon as possible thereafter. We ask that you refrain from extended conversations with staff at drop-off or pick-up times. Monitoring of the children both academically and socially must be our priority.

Should you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to speak to your classroom teacher.

Nicola Phillips  
Principal

