



# Montessori Learning Centre

“Knowledge with Understanding”



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to the Pre-Casa classroom! Our “curriculum” here provides the stimulation and socialization so necessary for the active and eager young child, while keeping in mind the physical reassurance still necessary and needed. You will be likely to see little bodies on laps for hugs and soothing, alongside pre-printing exercises and number tracing. We work hard to ensure an inclusive environment where belonging, engaged students enjoy a sense of well-being throughout the day. We hope to ensure that this Pre-Casa experience is a positive and happy one.

The following mentions a few organizational suggestions which aid in the smooth coordination of school and home life.

**BOTTLES** are usually only offered at nap time (other than during the initial settling period). Please place filled **labelled** bottles in the kitchen fridge. Milk will be warmed unless otherwise specified. Pacifiers can also be offered at nap time if requested by parent. Again, once your child settles comfortably and becomes involved in daily activities, the need for supports becomes less necessary.

**CLASSROOM SNACKS** are provided at approximately 10:00am and 3:00pm. Classroom snacks consist of two food groups each and the menu is available for viewing in the main foyer and on the school website. There is also a snack between 7:00am and 8:15am and another between 5:00pm and 5:30pm for the children utilizing daycare hours.

**DIAPERS/WET WIPES** are your responsibility. Please leave an adequate supply at school. A note will be forwarded when replacements are necessary.

As signs become obvious that your child is ready to begin toilet training we communicate this and work together, with home, to ensure a smooth and positive transition from diapers.

**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 (a couple of minutes maximum) of reassurance, a kiss and hug and a **QUICK** departure are 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** is offered each day and runs for about 20 minutes. Mme. utilizes puppets, music and dress up for this happy time with the French language.



**GYM DAYS** for your child will be forwarded and posted in each classroom. Please have your son/daughter wear appropriate shoes and attire on these days.

**INFORMATION** is communicated through daily notes. Forwarded emails to the provided address each Monday is another source of information. Please check the website regularly for added communication. 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** All students under 4 years of age are required to participate in the hot lunch programme. Please see posted menus in the main foyer and on our website.

**MEDICATION** 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 and from clearly labelled containers.

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.

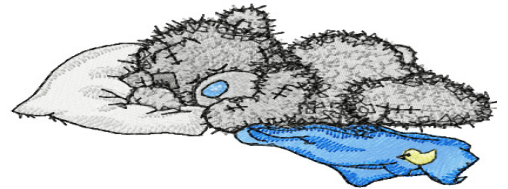
Standing medications require a specific form and should be updated as needed i.e. **puffers, epi-pens, insulin etc.** As such, we do suggest that you keep a supply at school to be stored with the classroom teacher in the emergency pouch.

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 fever free for 24 hours or 48 hours symptom free stomach related.

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

**NAPS** begin approximately at 12:30pm. The CCEYA requires all children under the age of 4 rest for at least 45 minutes each day. You are asked to provide bedding for your child's cot - **something to lie on and something to cover with. PLEASE LABEL CLEARLY.** Stuffedies etc. are welcome for nap time. Bedding will be collected and sent home each Friday for laundering. Please return on Monday morning with your child.



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

- Fever/pain reducer/antihistamine-with permission notes
- Diapers
- Wet wipes
- Vaseline and other creams- as needed-with permission slip
- Photograph for hooks
- Bedding-2 labelled pieces please
- Weather appropriate clothing-tops, bottoms and socks-2 sets to be stored in your child's basket
- Jackets and snow pants may be stored on the assigned hooks
- Hats, gloves and scarves are to be stored in sleeves for easy movement to dressing areas
- Indoor and outdoor shoes/footwear-as applicable
- Backpacks should be stored on the appropriate shelves

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.

**STAFF/PARENT COMMUNICATION** continues to be welcomed. While we endeavour to touch base with parents at drop-off and pick-up times, this is not always feasible. Please check pouches or slots daily as mini reports pertaining to bathrooming, eating and napping will be provided daily. Please feel comfortable calling MLCP, at any time, to schedule a call or a meeting with your child's teacher. 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.

**WELCOME TO MLCP'S PRE-CASA PROGRAMME!**

Nicola Phillips, Principal