CANTON MONTESSORI SCHOOL

Pre-Primary Classroom Information

Description of the Classroom

- Mixed age group of three to six year olds
    - The curriculum is based on developmental needs. Materials are available when the child is developmentally ready for them.
    - Peer teaching takes place: the younger children learn from the older children, the older children's self esteem is enhanced through leadership roles and their skills are reinforced by teaching others.
- The children move freely about the classroom choosing activities that interest them. The materials are presented individually, in small groups, or in a large group. The children may work individually or with friends.

Goals of the Pre-Primary Program

- To help each child reach his full potential by providing him with an environment and a curriculum that meets his developmental needs.
- To help each child develop independence, self-discipline, self-motivation, social skills, and a positive self-image.

Supplies Required in Pre-Primary

- All children should bring a drawstring bag or small plastic container (shoe box sized) filled with an extra change of SEASONAL clothes and a picture of your family for their cubby.

- Nappers should bring a blanket and/or small pillow for napping
  PLEASE PRINT YOUR CHILD'S NAME CLEARLY ON ALL ITEMS

Lunch

Students enjoy a packed or hot lunch in their morning environment from 12:00-1:00.

*Please note we are a peanut free school.

Differences Between Toddler and Pre-Primary Classrooms

- A larger community of peers
- Adult/child ratio: 1 to 12
- Wider range of ages: 3 years instead of eighteen months.
- Independence encouraged and eventually expected: self-management of clothing, belongings, and personal care.
- Responsibility for actions: ground rules are carefully explained and reinforced.

- Wider social contacts: child's focus is on peers rather than adults: child has contact with 30-60 pre-primary children.
- Wider adult contacts: child has contact with adults from other pre-primary classrooms.
- Reports from teachers: no daily report from teacher; conferences twice a year; conferences may be initiated by parents or teacher at any time.
- Parent/Family Visitation Nights: twice a year parents are encouraged to visit the classroom to work with their child.

Transitions

- The Pre-Primary classroom is designed to meet the developmental needs of the three to six year old child. Around the age of three, the child exhibits behavior that indicates that he is ready to move to this classroom. A period of transitions accompanies this move. The child's experience is different than the experience in the toddler classroom and appropriate to his emerging developmental stage.

- It sometimes takes up to six weeks for the child to completely adjust to a new classroom. The child usually has a positive adjustment in the classroom. The child may exhibit negative behaviors at home as a result of the stress of the transition such as irritability, fatigue, and testing of limits. It takes a great deal of patience and understanding from parents and teachers to help the child through this period of transition.

- Parents must also make a transition to the new classroom. It takes time to establish a relationship with the staff and reach a comfort level. The new classroom has different procedures that need to be learned. Parents must also adjust to the new developmental stage that their child has reached. We urge parents to give themselves time to make the transition to the pre-primary classroom, staff, and experiences. We encourage open and honest communication between the staff and parents to ensure smooth transitions.

- Transitions are often the most challenging experiences in life. If parents and the staff approach the child's transition from the Toddler classroom to the Pre-Primary classroom in partnership, this transition will lead to a wonderful entry into a new stage of growth and development