

Creative Learning Center

Montessori Curriculum

The Kindergarten Experience

At Creative Learning Center, a child enters a world of beauty and order, it's a place to learn and grow according to individual interests.

Questions Parents Ask About Montessori Kindergarten

Every year parents of children in their second year of Montessori begin to ask questions about continuing their child in our school for the kindergarten year. This letter is intended to answer some of the questions you might have.

Why is it so important to continue my child in the Kindergarten year at a Montessori school?

At Creative Learning Center, the child is presented with endless opportunities to develop all his senses and his motor skill with the aid of self-correcting materials in a prepared setting. During the third year a child can work not only with these materials in more depth, thus gaining more insights from them, but using this base, can move into the academic areas.

Next, having learned from older children, shared with his peers and helped those younger than himself, he has the opportunity to assume leadership within his class.

And, once the child has established critical learning habits - concentration, self-discipline, a sense of order, persistence in completing a task, creative self expression and a love for learning (invaluable preparations for life) - these behaviors are reinforced in a supportive, exciting environment.

All preparations for later academic work and for social and emotional development, which have been so carefully nurtured in the three and four year old child, are reinforced in the kindergarten year.

As one parent said “everything my child had learned up to then seemed to fall into place, and he was ready to meet other challenges once he had this foundation” I have witnessed this to be true time after time.

Won't it be easier for my child to make the adjustment to public school at the kindergarten level rather than at first grade?

The goals of Creative Learning Center seem to be more closely related to those of a traditional first grade than those of a traditional kindergarten. In most traditional kindergartens, the primary emphasis is on developing social skills with some preliminary work in cognitive readiness.

In a Montessori environment, the emphasis is on individual growth, which allows for cognitive development based on a firm foundation of sensory and motor skill training, and which makes the transition into academic work so much easier for the child. This transition occurs naturally

during the third year in a Montessori environment and it occurs without stress, pressure or extensive praise. At this point, a child who is ready will begin reading and working with math materials, in addition to other activities. Most of these concepts are not introduced to children in public school until the first grade.

Will a child have enough experience in working in groups in a Montessori school to become a successful group member in first grade?

A visit to our school will show that considerable socializing and grouping takes place naturally in the environment and that the children behave in a socially responsible and orderly manner.

The Montessori approach eliminates many of the discipline problems found in more conventional environments. There are a few well chosen ground rules which are consistently reinforced. The children learn to help one another and to care for one another, as well as taking care of their environment. Children are free to talk and move around, are treated with respect, and are not controlled by fear or punishment.

The ambiance of our classroom provides the opportunity for more meaningful talking and social interactions because of the low teacher child ratio (1:6) as compared with public school (1:22) Thus, the young child is well prepared to act as a cooperative and skilled group member in first grade.

After three years in Montessori, won't my child be bored in first grade?

Creative Learning Center cultivates a highly motivated child with a true love of learning, a child with a positive attitude toward school who is motivated in learning in any environment.

Top 10 Reasons to Keep Your Child in Montessori through the Kindergarten Year

- The third year, the kindergarten year, is the time when many of the earlier lessons come together and become a permanent part of the young child's understanding. An excellent example is the early introduction to addition with the large numbers through the Bank Game. When children leave at age five, many of the still forming concepts evaporate.
- Your child has waited for two years to be one of the five-year-old leaders of her class. The kindergartners are looked up to as role models for the younger student, and most children eagerly await their opportunity to play this role.
- In Montessori, your child can continue to progress at her own pace. Public schools do not have the capacity to cater to individual needs.
- Learning is not focused on rote drills and memorization. Our goal is to develop students who really understand their schoolwork.
- Students learn through hands-on experience, investigation, and research.

They become actively engaged in their studies, rather than passively waiting to be spoon-fed. (This is speaking in general terms. I have based this observation from my own experience with my children as well as feedback I have received from parents)

- Rewards are intrinsic through success with material as child spots own errors.
- Children are allowed to work on projects for as long as she/he wishes; learning is uninterrupted.
- Research indicates achievement rates of children educated using Montessori methods are two to three times those of their peers. They also exhibit an increase in higher cognitive skills and interpersonal skills. Montessori education capitalizes on the important early years by introducing meaningful learning experiences that positively impact brain development and thereby have a lasting effect.
- Montessori children are studying cultural geography and beginning to grow into global citizens.
- Children are consciously taught to be kind and peaceful. This is an important component in Montessori philosophy.

If you still have any doubt, spend a morning observing in our class and compare it with the kindergarten class in the other school you are considering.

Then project your child into the future and ask yourself how the positive differences you observed here might help shape your child to become the teenager, and later the adult, you envisioned for your child's future.

Please call me if you have any questions.

