

# Love of Learning Montessori

## Parent - Teacher Conferences

Parent-Teacher conference time is special for both parents and teachers. It is an opportunity to assess your child's progress - where they have come from, what they are doing now, and what some of the options for the future are.

The conferences are scheduled for Friday, January 20th and Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup>. There will be ½ hour allotted for each conference, beginning at 8:30 AM. The last scheduled time will be 3:00PM.

Please fill out the request form that follows and return as soon as possible. A specific time will be assigned and you will be notified.

We look forward to meeting with each of you, addressing your questions and concerns and sharing our perspective. In an effort to make this time productive for all we are including the following page with guidelines, compiled from various parent, teacher and administrative organizations.

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**Conference preference form** (fill out and return to school as soon as possible):

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your child's Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle your preference:

1. Fri. Jan. 20 morning
2. Fri. Jan. 20 afternoon
3. Fri. Jan. 20 anytime
4. Fri. Jan. 27 morning
5. Fri. Jan. 27 afternoon
6. Fri. Jan. 27 anytime
7. Whenever we can be fit into the schedule - no preference.

### **1. WHAT IS A PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCE?**

The conference is an opportunity to meet together to exchange information and concerns about your child's development. You are a provider as well as a receiver of information.

### **2. HOW DO I PREPARE FOR A PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCE?**

In order to avoid that nagging feeling that you forgot to ask an important question, you are welcome to bring a list of questions and to bring a pad & pen to write down suggestions. Also, make a list of things you would like the teacher to know about if not already mentioned in previous contacts - things like:

- Special health needs or problems
- Outside interests and hobbies
- Feelings about school
- Relationships with brothers & sisters

### **3. WHAT WILL OCCUR DURING THE CONFERENCE?**

In general, your child's teacher will be prepared to discuss the following with reference to your child:

- Activity and materials your child likes to work with.
- Social progress of your child, including getting along with others; feeling of self-esteem and behavior.
- Your child's strengths & weaknesses in the school setting.
- Any other observation that may be helpful.

### **4. WHAT INFORMATION SHOULD THE PARENT PROVIDE?**

In this give and take meeting, you can help by giving the teacher any information that will be useful in helping to better understand your child. Types of info that may prove useful:

- Recent crises in the child's life (separation, divorce, death of close a family member).
- After school activities.
- Special interests.
- Conflict among family members.
- It is not necessary to reveal personal information. However, anything you do say will be kept in confidence.

### **5. HOW SHOULD MY CHILD BE INVOLVED IN THE CONFERENCE?**

While a child's attendance at a conference is strongly discouraged, there will be (depending on your child's age) a degree of curiosity and anxiety that should be dealt with. We suggest the following:

- Talk to your child before the conference to get their ideas about how they feel about your meeting with their teacher.
- Tell your child what was discussed (omit items your child is not mature enough to understand).
- BE POSITIVE. Always start with positive points before discussing short comings. Positive self-esteem is a vital part in the education of a child.
- Talk about changes or new rules.

**6. WHO BENEFITS FROM THE CONFERENCE? EVERYONE!**

Parents hear about their child from a different perspective and learn how they act independently of them.

Teachers have a better understanding of the individual needs of the child and are then better able to meet those needs.

Most importantly, the child receives a better and more personalized education!

**7. HELPFUL HINTS:**

- It's especially helpful if both parents can attend.
- Be on time - one late comer can throw off everyone's schedule for the whole day! If something comes up making it impossible for you to keep your appointment, please call as soon as possible so we can make another appointment for you.