

PRIMARY COMMUNITY

“The first duty of education is to stir up life, but leave it free to develop”
Maria Montessori



Children from three to six years of age make up the primary community. These children have the strong desire to explore through the work of their hands, repeat activities for understanding, and work to gain independence. Children have a need for order and the need to feel oriented to the community. Children do need to be using the toilet independently to attend our primary program. We also have a 4-5 day phase in period for our new primary students to help them orient to the community.

Ph 517.351.3655 | Fx 517.351.3957
2745 East Mt. Hope | Okemos, MI 48864



*ADDITIONAL MATERIALS
REGARDING MONTESSORI
EDUCATION MAY BE FOUND AT:*

WWW.OKEMOSMONTESSORI.COM





PRIMARY MATERIALS



From the upper left, going clockwise: counting chains, pink tower, and cylinder blocks.



PRIMARY PRINCIPLES

The Montessori classroom is carefully prepared with a variety of materials and activities to satisfy the youngest three-year-old to the most advanced six-year-old. Children in a Montessori environment may choose their own work; however, they must first be given a lesson on the materials. A teacher or another child may give the lesson. Children may work on the material as long as they like. The Montessori teacher is trained in observation. The teacher keeps careful records of what lessons have been given, observes the children and their choice of activities, The teacher will offer an alternative to a child who has chosen something beyond his ability.

Children are free to move about the classroom at will, to talk to other children, to work with any equipment they understand, or to ask a teacher to introduce new materials. A child is not free to disturb other children or to misuse the materials. The child needs adults to expose her to the possibilities of her life, but the child herself must direct her responses to those possibilities. Premises of Montessori education are:

- Children are to be respected as individuals who differ from each other.
- Children possess unusual sensitivity and mental powers for absorbing and learning from the environment that are unlike those of the adult both in quality and capacity.
- The most important years of growth are the first six years of life when unconscious learning is gradually brought to the conscious level.
- Children have a deep love and need for purposeful work. Children work not as an adult for profit and completion of a job, but for the sake of the activity itself. It is this activity which accomplishes their most important goal: the development of their mental, physical, and psychological powers.

THREE YEAR CYCLE

We strongly promote the three year cycle in our Montessori primary community. The third year in the program marks the children's extended day year, which is equivalent to their kindergarten year in a traditional setting. The child who is five going on six represents the end of the developmental cycle known as the "absorbent mind", where the child is immersed in the sensorial exploration of knowledge.



PRIMARY ENVIRONMENT

MATERIALS

Children in our primary community continue to develop their skills in the area of practical life where they can cut with scissors, pour their own water, fasten their own clothing and concentrate for a longer time with an activity. Through the work of the practical life activities, children feel confident and pleased with what they can do for themselves. Being able to get their own snack when they are hungry is a sense of pride for these children.

The sensorial materials help children make sense of the various perceptions and concepts of our world. The pink tower, brown stairs and red rods help children discriminate between large/small, broad/narrow and long/short. You will notice your child's vocabulary has expanded as these concepts are understood. As your three year old turns four, you will see a growing interest in letters, sounds and numbers. The Montessori environment has a wealth of materials that grows with your children as they move with ease from spooning beads and washing dishes, to learning letter sounds, writing words and manipulating the decimal system. All within a three year time span.

The primary classroom has up to 30 children with one trained Montessori guide and two assistants.

