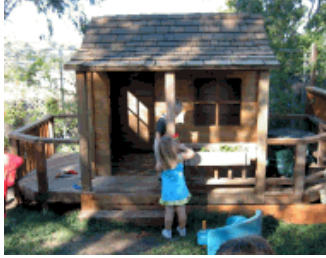


Montessori in Motion Newsletter

"Bringing love and laughter to learning"

May/June 2008



Linda Molinelli – Owner/Teacher
Shelley Martinez – Owner/Teacher



Dear Parents

Summer Plans

Please note that we have distributed the application forms for **Summer Session I in July and II in August 2008** and for **Fall September 2008**.

Application Fees:

- Summer sessions have an activity fee of \$30.00 each
- Fall application has a \$200.00 annual activity fee, payable with the September tuition.

Any change in plans needs a 30-day written notice when a child withdraws from the program prior to the end of the school year.

What's My Job as a Parent?

We will be offering an all-day Parenting workshop in the Fall and Spring of next year.

- This is an experiential workshop where participants will discover their underlying beliefs about parenting.
- This knowledge has the potential to profoundly shift undesirable behavior.
- With deeper self-awareness learning new skills are more likely to stick.

Early registration and Repeat participants: \$149

Regular registration: \$189

Date: to be Announced

Time: 9:00 – 5:00 Saturday

If you know you want to be in the next workshop please sign up early! Early registration considered up to two weeks prior to the actual date.

10 People Maximum

How To Talk So Kids Will Listen Group forming in the Fall – Time, Dates and Cost to be Announced (2-Hr classes 1-Wk for 10-Wks)

The goal of the **How To Talk So Kids Will Listen Group** will help you communicate more effectively with children.

In each session of the workshop you'll be introduced to proven skills that will help you to cope with your child's negative feelings...engage your child's willing cooperation...discipline without hurting or alienating....help your child develop a positive and realistic self- image...foster a family atmosphere of love and respect.

General Reminders

- Please label everything that comes to school. **Check the lost and found** basket in the multipurpose room for lost items.
- **Call the office** when your child is going to be late or not coming to school.
- Remember your **snack day** and keep it healthy.
- Check **your folder and the bulletin board** daily for messages.
- Remember to **sign-in and sign-out your child each day**.
- **Tuition is due on the 1st of every month**. A \$25.00 late fee is charged for tuitions received after the 5th of each month.

Sharing Program

Little's: Every **day is a share day**. Bring something from home "labeled" in a cloth bag.

Big's: Every **Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday**. Children are encouraged to tell what's new and good all 3 days! We request that children do not bring anything from home until further notice.

Kinder's: Every **Tuesday and Wednesday**. Children are encouraged to tell what's new and good on both days! We request that children do not bring anything from home until further notice.

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Key Dates

- **Jun 18** Last Day of School-Graduation Day
- **Jun 19-20** No school – summer setup days. **No childcare.**
- **Jun 21** Parent work day
- **Jun 23-27** No school – Childcare is available.
- **Jun 30-Jul 25** Summer Session I
- **Jul 28-Aug 22** Summer Session II
- **Aug 25-29** No school – teacher setup week
- **Sep 1** Labor Day school closed
- **Sep 2** New school year begins 2008/2009

June School Events

June 18 Graduation Day!
Last day of school.

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Little's News

Well, it's all over but the shouting. What a year it's been – so many of the little's are having birthdays. Jenna, Laney, Jack, Niki, and Meechu are “three at last”. Watching them grow from toddlers to bigs makes me know that there's still hope in this world. The capacity to grow, to become empathic, to learn to get along with each other, to give, to take and yes, there's still a chance for this planet.

In the classroom, we are busy learning to wait for a turn. And, with a little help, put our work away. Most of the little's are potty trained or potty training. We still have accidents, so be patient and keep us in extra clothes (even extra shoes). Sunscreen before coming to school and send bathing suits and towels (labeled).

The children are working on stringing beads in patterns, matching colors, tweezing baby chickens, putting apples on a tree and doing harder and harder puzzles. We're even sorting buttons.

Thanks for coming to our Mother's Day Tea. Seeing for yourself the magic of Montessori.

Conferences will be held in June. It really does take a village to keep on track.

Communication is essential and remember it's our actions and not our words that the children will follow.

Julianne and I want to thank you for your patience and participation in the program.

I will be taking July off and will be back refreshed and happy in August.

See you at graduation on June 18, 2008!

Shelley and Julianne

Big's News

excerpts from the Bigs.....

The other day we were having snack and one of the children said, “Gimme water Teye.” “Hmmm,” I responded. “Does your mommy bring you water when you ask her like that?” After a momentary silence, there was a firm, “YES!” I slapped my hands on my thighs and said in a strong voice, “That's it. Tomorrow you folks stay home --and send your parents to school so they can learn their manners!” The children immediately burst into laughter. And the very next sentence was, “May I have some water please, Teye?”

We all need reminders. Rule of thumb...give the same message over and over (at least 100 times a day!) in as many ways as possible! ☺

...Josie was working with matching cards where she had to select pictures of items that go together. Sophie came over and asked her, “Josie, let's paint with the new paint, OK?” Josie, eyes still on her work, said “not now Sophie, I'm busy.” Sophie went to the big table and began to paint. ☺

Walking down the hall I heard poop words coming from the boy's bathroom. He must have uttered about 50 of them! Without any prompting from Meg or me (this particular time,) Aidan had gone to the bathroom to flush down the toilet his bathroom words! Maybe the best way to get rid of them is to recognize they're there and then flush them away? ☺

It was an especially sweet Mother's Day tea! Thanks to all of you who attended and helped! I am inspired by your participation and am also enjoying getting to know you better.

Taye and Meg

Kinder's Capers

One more month until school is out for the summer and I can hardly believe it! The time we had together passed so quickly and the children seemed to grow at the same rate of speed. I can barely remember those floppy little bodies sitting in our circle the first day of school. Now those same bodies sit tall and seem so mature to me.

This last month we will take the time to complete our unit on the structure, function and care of the human body. We will also try to get in as much geography as possible.

The children are finishing their shape books and will soon bring them home.

I will be teaching the first session of summer school this year. Our theme will be dinosaurs. I think we will have lots of fun getting to know these humongous reptilian monsters that inhabited the earth before man was even thought of.

In case we do not have another newsletter, I do not want to forget to thank all of the parents for their participation in work parties and field trip driving or any other help that you have given us this year. It really means a lot and we appreciate it.

Many thanks!

Linda, Dani, and Romaika



"Bringing love and laughter to learning"

Office Notes

It's time to finalize enrollment for the coming year. We have been having a lot of interest in the school over the past several months, and we have a waiting list of new applicants for the Summer as well as the 2008-2009 school year. So in order to secure a space for your child, please return Summer and/or Fall applications along with materials fee (\$30 for each of the two Summer sessions, plus \$200 for the Fall) as soon as possible. If you need a new application, please see Zerene or leave a note in the folder outside the office.

Special thanks to Karen Tervet for organizing and completing new vaccination cards for each child. And a big thanks to each and every parent for helping to keep your child's records up to date and sign and return administrative forms.

Please remember to check your folder in the sign-in room every day for important notices. And if you ever have a question about tuition or office organization, please feel free to leave a note for me in the Calder folder in the sign-in room, or in notes folder outside the office.

Vanessa Calder



Fundraising Program

Our eScrip Program is an easy way to earn money for your school.

For those of you who are not aware of what eScrip is, eScrip allows all of us to make a substantial contribution to our school of choice just by doing what we would do anyway and that's buying goods and services from stores like Safeway, Long's United, Macy's, etc.

So how does it work? Participation is easy, by registering your most active credit cards or grocery cards YOU guarantee Montessori In Motion passive income every month allowing us to reach many of our goals for our children at Montessori In Motion. The more families who enroll, the more MIM can accomplish.

It's a co-operative effort that is easy to do requiring little effort from each of us with potentially very BIG results for our children!

Here is the log in link for eScrip:

<http://www.escrip.com/merchants/search/index.jsp>

Click Sign Up

Click: Montessori In Motion or Enter **Group ID Name Address City**

State Zip # 4749628

[Montessori In Motion](#) 3 Wellbrock San Rafael CA 94903

After School Program

A Bowl of Fruit, A Ball & Lots of Imagination

How do we engage our children in meaningful work and play? How do we bring about gun control of pretend weapons? How do we minimize put-downs and teasing?

First, we create the environment both physical and psychological. We clear the room or yard and place a few simple items in front of the children. We remind the children that "safe and friendly" is how we work together. Then we ask a few questions and watch the children come up with a game plan.

Children find a voice - creativity bubbles out and everyone is too busy playing or working to return to gun play/movie heroes.

Now a healthy snack (bowl of fruit) and a well rested child will add to the success of this learning environment. So parents...help us create this type of environment. Help us help each child find his/her voice. And let's have a fun and creative summer!

Wayne Lechner
for the after school staff



“Bringing love and laughter to learning”



Summer Essentials

- Labeled sun block in the Extra Clothes box
- Extra pair of shoes for summer – waterproof – NO CROCS
- Swim suit and towel

Snack: Please remember your assigned date and to mark on the calendar on the bulletin board what you plan to bring. The children look forward and depend on this. We have had very good cooperation from all to keep the snack healthy. Thank you!

Labeled Backpack: This backpack is to be hung on the labeled peg outside the classroom. Sharing for the day should be labeled and brought in this backpack. Please remember to take the backpack home every day.

Cubby: Each child has a cubby in the classroom. The teachers direct the child to put their paper/art work and an other projects in this cubby. Please remember to check the cubby periodically and take things home.

Extra Clothes Box: Each child has an Extra Clothes Box in the classroom. Please make sure that there is always an extra pair of clothes in this box. As and when clothes are returned home (if the child has had it wet or dirty), remember to replace it.

Swimming Classes

We will be offering swimming classes at the Terra Linda Recreation Center. If you are interested, you may sign up, and contribute your time for at least one day during the 8-Day session. The charge is quite reasonable.



"Bringing love and laughter to learning"

Parent Tips

As the school year begins to wind down, our children are forging ahead. Pushing their boundaries often elicits feelings of frustration for children, parents and teachers.

A subtle way we build concentration, order, co-ordination and independence into the curriculum and especially when entering the next level of mastery, is to understand periods of frustration as necessary.

"I can do it by myself!" Heard this before? How about, "Don't do things for your children that they can do by themselves?" How do we know when to let them do what? How much frustration is useful, and how much should we do for them? How can we take the Montessori principles from the classroom to our homes providing consistent messages that reinforce, "I am important." Or, "I am capable?"

One example is to include children in chores. Hands-on learning through routine tasks supports sharing the family work load and assists in learning responsibility. Daily tasks help children develop eye-hand coordination, organize sequences, understand how parts make up the whole and help children learn to solve problems. Children learn best through natural life experiences that they can relate to and interact with. For example, in our class it is not uncommon for an older child to show a younger child how a work is done or to share what the school rule is regarding a particular activity. Everyday tasks can be enjoyable as well as help build a strong sense of confidence. You will reap additional benefits when writing and reading become logical next steps.

Don't do things for children that they can do by themselves, doesn't mean expecting your child to work independently. If you have reasonable expectations and provide patient guidance you will discover what is reasonable to expect for your child. What is reasonable for one child may be totally unrealistic for another. To determine what is reasonable for your child, look at your values and level of patience, then consider your child's age, temperament, experiences and learning style.

Children learn to be responsible in small steps. First, they observe you. Next, allow them to help (here's where your patience comes in!) Then, observe the child while (s)he carries out the job. The patience required to stand by, hands at your sides, while the child struggles with what seems a simple task will pay off as (s)he gains confidence and skills. This leads to the child's willingness and ability to help. In setting the table, for example, (s)he may forget the napkins or spoons and need your prompting, "Let's check to see if we have everything we need." And very soon (s)he will be able to do the job independently and completely.

Positive Approaches to Help Your Child Assume Responsibility

- Don't expect your preschooler to do something beyond his or her years. The extent of involvement for the average 3- or 4-year-old is to help others with household jobs.

- Preschoolers test limits. As they push toward independence, at one moment they may be willing and at the next moment resistant.
- Make it fun. If children are ordered to do a task, they recognize they are in a power struggle and increase their resistance because they perceive the outcome is a big deal to you. They will win every time!
- Most children are more cooperative and enjoy working with a cheerful adult who makes the work fun.
- Give real but limited choices. Because children are into power, testing and refusals may be less of a power struggle when you give children certain kinds of choices. The wording of the choice is important. "Would you like to put the napkins or the forks on the table?" Don't say, "Would you like to set the table?" unless you're willing to take no for an answer. Saying, "What would you like to do to help?" Can also overwhelm children because of the many possibilities. When choice is not possible, state the fact. "We're all going to the store. Will you ride in the cart or push it?"
- Give specific acknowledgement that is specific to the task is most effective. "Look! All the books are back on the shelves, the clothes are in the hamper and the bed is made. That's what I call a clean room."
- Use reason. When children are told why they should or should not do something, it becomes a learning situation. A statement such as, "Let's pick up the Legos so they don't get broken" is more reasonable and likely to get a positive response than, "Pick up this mess." Try not to talk too much though! ☺
- Focus the child's attention on the job. For the child with a messy room, you may have greater success by directing the child's attention to the job, forewarning that, "In a few minutes it will be time to clean up the toys." However, children differ in their capacity to respond to warnings. Some need a substantial amount of time to complete what they are doing before switching into a new activity.
- Make a game out of getting dressed or picking up toys. Set a timer, on the mark, get set, go! Chores can be fun when you race with time.
- Assume they will be responsible. "Watch Jackie. See how beautifully she can fold dish towels."

Think of common tasks in which to involve preschoolers: dress self, brush teeth, pick up belongings, put dirty clothes away, hang up clean clothes (yes, button, zipper and place on a hanger!), make bed, wipe spills, set table, fix simple snacks, wash dishes, sweep the floor (they love this!), carry boxed or canned goods from the grocery sacks to reachable storage shelf, help feed pets, sort laundry, measure ingredients (our "Soupers" are experts!)

Think of the variety of skills to be learned. Home is such an important learning environment.

