

Welcome to the Springwood Montessori Community!

We are pleased that you have chosen Springwood Montessori to work in partnership with you in the care and education of your child. Our beautiful campus has been specifically Staffed and views themselves as a Team with one focus; offering a loving yet stimulating environment for your child. When you greet your child at the end of the day, we know that you will feel the warmth of our care and see the results of a valued Montessori Education. It makes it so much easier to go about your day when you feel secure with your decision for the most important being in your life: Your child.

There are many reasons to choose a Montessori education for your child. One such feature at the preschool age is that children direct their own learning, choosing among the areas of a well-structured classroom, which includes Practical Life (fine and gross motor skills), Sensorial (senses and brain), Language, Mathematics, Geography, Science, and Art. The role of a teacher (Directress) is to introduce children to materials and then remain a *"silent presence*"[[2]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Montessori#cite_note-4%23cite_note-4) in the classroom. Montessori schools recognize the student’s development as an individual process which is as unique as our DNA, rather than viewing them as part of the group in a classroom. Students are encouraged to teach and help each other. At times, adult can be intimidating however, children follow their peers without fear of failure. In a Montessori classroom the older students are encouraged to give lessons that they have mastered. This is supportive for the younger child while developing leadership abilities in the older child.

*"From the moment the child enters the classroom, each step in his education is seen as a progressive building block, ultimately forming the whole person, in the emergence from childhood to adult. All focus is on the needs of the child."*[*[1]*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Montessori#cite_note-3%23cite_note-3) *Maria Montessori*

Your child is beginning his walk down the passageway of discovery. Throughout his life, he will be guided along this winding path which will offer many opportunities for formation and growth. There will not be an assigned destination because along the way, he will be empowered with the skills to design his own destiny. It is our responsibility, yours, and any other chosen adult mentors (our faculty for this leg of the trip) that will help map this journey. It is common for even the most outgoing child to be anxious in new situations.

A child cannot, in most cases, securely let his mother leave until he has begun to feel comfortable with his teacher, other children, and the provided materials. Bonding with his new environment will take time and understanding. How quickly

a child is willing to trust new people and places will be directly related to earlier experiences, and his understanding of his guardians’ confidence in the program.

Here are a few suggestions for assisting your child during these first few weeks.

* Prepare your child by explaining what to expect. Answer all questions directly and honestly.
* Convey an encouraging attitude. Children are aware of your feelings. If you are at ease, then your child will be at ease. The reverse is also true.
* Establish a routine involving both the night before a school day as well as morning preparation. Rituals and routines add predictability and comfort.
* Clearly state to your child where you will be and when you will return.
* Maintain a clear leave-taking routine. Leave your child at the door of the classroom so he can take responsibility for entering the classroom.
* Once you tell your child you are leaving, it is important to do so. Extending the good- bye with any hesitance tends to intensify anxiety rather than relieve it. Avoid sneaking away; this seems to promote anxiety causing children to become less trusting. This only makes the next day of school more difficult
* Lingering and allowing your child to see you hang about only confirms his fear “I am not safe.”
* Bring something from home. A favorite soft cuddly or blanket, and a family photo offers comfort safety for the child.
* Trust in your own judgment. You know you did your homework before choosing Springwood Montessori, allow yourself to find comfort in your decision.

Again, please know we are here to help you and your child, in any way that we can to assure a happy transition and we look forward to an exciting and fun year. Included in your enrollment packet is the following:

* Parent Handbook
* Needed Official paperwork
* School Year Calendar
* Menu

Remember: Please be sure to return your Parent Handbook Signature page and Emergency Information Sheet to the front desk. Also, it is important that we always have an updated vaccination record.

We look forward to all the wonderful days ahead.

Welcome to the Springwood Montessori.

We thank you in advance for your support and cooperation.