

Guiding Independence

Children are constantly observing, learning and mimicking the adults in their lives. Often times we adults unintentionally stifle the success of our children with our eagerness to perform tasks they are capable of doing for themselves. This is usually done in an interest to save time, but mostly we do it from a place of love. Understanding your child's need for independence, and learning how to give them opportunities to practice this will help your young child feel more independent and successful in their daily lives. Here are a few ways to foster independence in your child:

- * Provide your child with shoes and other clothing that are easy to put on and take off themselves, and allow them to do so.
- * Arrange weather appropriate clothing on a low rod in your child's closet. This allows them to access their clothes to get dressed, and also makes it easier for them to put their clothes away.
- * Make a schedule for your child's morning/evening routine. If your child cannot read, you can use picture cards. This allows your child to be proud of completing a task and teaches him about time management. It can also help to bring harmony to your busiest time of day.
- * Let your child do things such as bathing, brushing hair and teeth, nose blowing, toileting/cleanup, etc., with your guidance and supervision while they learn, but be sure to assist **only** when needed. If they can't reach the sink, provide a step stool. Hold a mirror for them so they can see if they are missing a part of their head when washing their hair...ect.

Maria Montessori taught us to let the child do for himself that which he is capable, and to provide the tools necessary for success.



"Little children, from the moment they are weaned, are making their way toward independence."

—Maria Montessori

This past month has been absolutely extraordinary, and we would like to share with you a little about the wonderful activities your children have been engaged in! But first, we would like to welcome all new and returning students and families to Meadowlark Montessori this year. We are so happy to have you, and look forward to a great year! It has been a delight to see returning children grow and mature and to see the new ones trying so many new things.

First, our garden has been producing lots of yummy fruits and vegetables that the children have been harvesting and enjoying for snack! Last week we made Kale Chips, (of course we used the kale we grew from the garden). A few of the children helped to prepare and serve them, and almost all of the children tried them at lunch, and even asked for more.

Getting eggs from the chickens is an exciting event for the children every morning! We would like to remind families that the chickens love to get food scraps. This helps decrease food waste for your family, and keeps our chickens happy and healthy. Refer to the list on the fence of what is OK and not OK to feed the chickens. The chickens and I would like to thank you in advance!

The children have been adjusting nicely to the school schedule, and we appreciate the timely pick up and drop offs. Remember, that a quick goodbye in the mornings with a hug and a kiss, and reassurance that you will be back to pick up the child will help them during morning transition.

We are celebrating three birthdays this month! Refer to the Parent Handbook for how we celebrate your child's birthday in the classroom. We would like to remind parents that they are welcome to bring pictures and mementos from home for the child to share with the class on their birthday.

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Fall Project: Willow Den

For our Fall project we will be creating a willow den! The willow den creation day is set for November 15th. We are asking for involvement from parents and families! There will be a volunteer sign-up sheet available at the sign in door along with a list of materials needed. Emails will be sent out with more information.



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Adam will be turning 5 on Oct.
19th

Brodie will be turning 5 on Oct.
26th

Colton will be turning 4 on Oct.
28th

Happy Birthday Boys!



Meet our new Assistant Teacher Kelly!



I hope all of you have had the chance to say hi to our new Assistant Teacher, Kelly. She is in her senior year at SOU, completing her Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Development, with a special interest in Early Intervention. Kelly is currently doing her Practicum work at Meadowlark Montessori two days a week, but will soon be working here full time. Don't be shy to say hi and introduce yourself next time you see her around!



Upcoming Events:

October 13th & 14th: School will be closed due to Discovery Day and teacher observation day.

October 29th from 4pm-7pm: Bring your parent/family to school night. This is an important night for parents as the children get to show off their classroom and share what they have been learning. This night will also hopefully stimulate questions for you to discuss at parent-teacher conferences coming up in November.

October 31st: Harvest Party! The children will be preparing food with ingredients picked from the school garden. They will have the chance to take it home for their families to enjoy. Your child/ren are welcome to wear or bring their Halloween costumes to school on this day.