



Observation

Before enrollment, we warmly encourage parents to observe in our classroom during our morning work period so you can witness firsthand what your child will be doing on a daily basis and gain a deeper understanding of how learning unfolds in the Montessori environment.





Rules for Observing

1. Due to separation anxiety, we do not allow parents to observe their own child in the classroom. However, you are very welcome to observe before the start of your child's enrollment.
2. Sit quietly in one of the designated observer chairs. You may move from one chair to another if you wish to change your point of view.
3. You may use a pencil or pen and notepad to record any observations, comments, or questions you may have.
4. The main point to remember is that you are here to observe the classroom and how it functions on a daily basis. While you are not expected to ignore the children if they speak to you, we ask that you refrain from engaging them in conversation. If children approach you with questions, you can respond with something like: "I am going to continue working on my notes quietly now."
5. Please do not take photographs or use your phone during your time in the classroom.



What to Observe During Your Classroom Visit

1. Notice the overall mood of the classroom. Do the children and adults seem glad to be there?
2. Look for qualities of independence, self-discipline, self-direction, attention, concentration, and joy.
3. Observe one child of each age in the classroom and notice how older children naturally help younger ones.
4. Watch how children choose their work. Are they adult-directed, peer-directed, or independently selected?
5. Notice how the guide presents lessons with precise movements and when they step back to allow independent work.
6. Look for the style of discipline the adults use. Is it positive, helpful, and respectful?
7. Observe how children move purposefully around the environment, carrying materials with care and respecting others' work spaces.
8. Notice how materials are arranged at the child's eye level, fostering independence in selection and care of the environment.