

Preprimary Program

Overview

At the Montessori School of Huntsville preprimary level, children focus on developing the building blocks for learning: concentration, coordination, independence and order. Real success in academics depends on the strength of these qualities. Combine these with healthy social development and maturation of self-confidence, and you have the important tasks of early childhood. Along the way, our children learn to read, write and do complex mathematical operations, while discovering true joy in the task.

An early childhood classroom is divided into specialized areas, each of which promotes the development of different skills. Didactic materials are used because young children learn best through tactile experience and physical activity.

The major areas of study include practical life (independent-living skills), sensorial (sensory awareness), math, geometry, language, cultural studies (history, geography, science) and art. Each child participates in lessons designed to develop grace and courtesy (social skills), motor skills, and good work habits. Cooking, gardening, and sign language are also a regular part of the curriculum. Spanish and music classes are conducted by teacher specialists.

"Follow the child," is a phrase frequently heard in Montessori classes. Especially in math and language, lessons are taught to individual children or small groups when the children show an interest or the teacher's observations indicate they are ready for a new skill or concept. Teachers carefully document each child's progress in all areas and present new tasks at just the right time for optimum learning.

MSH conducts a multi-age program for children ages 3 to 6 years old. Three and four-year-olds may attend four or five days per week from 8:30am to 1:30pm. While children in their third or kindergarten year, attend five days a week until 2:45pm.

Extended Care (EC) is available from 7 to 8:30am and from 1:30 to 6pm. (2:45 to 6pm for kindergarten children.)

We encourage you to observe in the classroom and meet with the teachers after class. You are welcome to bring your child, but some parents prefer to visit the first time without their child so they are not distracted from learning all they can about the program.

Before a child attends MSH, the school must have a Preadmission Form and Addendum and a State of Alabama Certificate of Immunization (obtained from your child's Pediatrician or Health Department) on file.

A non-refundable annual Application Fee of \$150 is due upon enrollment (\$100 if child pre-enrolls.) A Registration Fee of \$200 for preprimary students and \$250 for kindergarten students is also due by the first day of school. Tuition for the preprimary program for the school year is based on an annual fee and payable in ten equal monthly installments, August through May. A \$250 advance deposit is due in May with your child's registration forms and will be credited to your child's tuition amount in the fall.