



## A Day in a Montessori Primary Classroom

The Montessori Farmhouse School opens its doors at 7:00 a.m. to help accommodate those families who are in need of Before School Care. These children arriving early have an opportunity to have their breakfast, play with manipulative toys and assist the teacher in preparing the classroom for the day ahead.

As children arrive at 8:20 a.m., they take care of their coats, shoes and lunches. They assist in getting their classroom ready for the day; wetting sponges, sharpening pencils, placing a tablecloth on the snack table, feeding the animals, etc.

By 8:45 a.m. the children have arrived and a morning group begins. Songs and movement start our circle and we then attend to the calendar, weather, counting our friends, and any pertinent information is shared. Each day one child is chosen to greet the children with a handshake and invitation into the classroom.

Children begin activities in the classroom in a variety of ways; some have had an idea of what they want to do and proceed directly to their work, others may finish something started the day before. A child might start by having a snack, which is available throughout the morning. A majority of young children are seen walking and looking at the variety of choices available to them on the shelves until they find that which has inspired an interest.

Each day children have 2½ to 3 hours of an uninterrupted work period. This is where a child will cycle through simple, easy to master activities to the more challenging and detailed work and then back to the familiar again. These cycles ebb and flow throughout the morning allowing for deeper concentration and focus to occur for each child. Within this period individual and small group lessons are presented to the children and children may also be seen quietly observing others.

Preparation for lunch begins at 11:30 a.m. Dependent upon weather, lunch is eaten outside on the picnic tables, under the covered porch or in the classroom. By 12:00 p.m. the children are enjoying the outside play areas; running, climbing, swinging, digging and exploring. At 12:20 p.m. the children are gathered together for a short story and the Half-Day children are picked up to go home at 12:30 p.m.

The Primary age child needs time to quiet their minds and bodies. At 12:45 p.m. the children either rest or nap depending on their needs. The children gather a mat and their blankets and rest until 1:20 p.m. Children who take a nap sleep until 2:45 p.m. where they are gently awoken in preparation for going home. Those resting children bag their blankets and return their mats for the remaining 1½ hr. afternoon work period. This is an opportunity for whole group activities in art, science, cultural and literature. Individual activities are also available at this time as well.

Cleaning up the classroom is started at 2:50 p.m. Children are seen sweeping the floor, washing and drying the tables, emptying garbage and straightening work shelves. As the jobs are finished the children gather belongings in preparation for going home at 3:00 p.m.

The Montessori Farmhouse School also provides for After School Care until 6:00 p.m. The afternoon includes outdoor play with special activities; games, theatre, crafts and science experiments. Children staying until 3:45 p.m. receive an afternoon snack and then indoor play; building blocks, cars, dolls, farm and castle play is continued until closing.

Every day children are learning and exploring their world. Their daily journeys are full of discoveries, challenges and joy.