

Parenting Tip of the Month

February



Lower Elementary Teachers

Montessori Grace and Courtesy in Lower Elementary Classrooms

Though the rules may vary from school to school, they clearly spell out the need to treat others, as you would like to be treated. In other words, they encourage children to be respectful of all creatures and all things.

While the rules may appear to be simple, the Montessori teacher does not assume that children automatically know what it means to be respectful. This is discussed and demonstrated in great detail in the Montessori classroom. The expectation is that through modeling and practice, children will learn to live and work together in peace and harmony. Montessori students are shown what it means to cooperate, how to be a friend, how to express anger in a positive way, and how to solve problems. The lessons in grace and courtesy provide a foundation on which to build and they set a tone of mutual respect and kindness.

Because children are emotional beings and learning to express themselves, the lessons in grace and courtesy also give Montessori students the tools they need to validate their feelings. When feelings are hurt, they are able to call upon what they've learned in these lessons to practice peaceful conflict resolution. Teachers and peers act as guides and mediators, modeling appropriate behavior and language. Over time, Montessori students become more adept and proficient at handling difficult social situations.

The ideas of justice and fairness are fundamental concerns of the elementary child. The culture in the Montessori environment is built upon caring, respect, and consideration for others. An important component of that is creating a diverse cultural, racial, and linguistic environment. We do this through the lessons of grace and courtesy as well as cultural geography. Children learn that all the people on earth have basic needs that must be met. Cultural differences are celebrated and the uniqueness of different culture, language, background, race, and religion is honored.

As with any skill, practice makes perfect. Children enjoy role-playing social situations and offering advice to the “actors”. There are ample opportunities to develop grace and courtesy in the elementary Montessori environment. At DCS Montessori, we attribute grace and courtesy with our COUGARS traits.

C – Compassion
O – Ownership
U – Unity
G – Generosity
A – Achievement
R – Respect
S - Success



Material of the Month

February



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Montessori Cultural Materials



Cultural Studies in a Montessori Classroom

The cultural area of the Montessori classroom covers a variety of subjects such as Geography, Science (Earth, Life, and Physical), Astronomy, Botany, Zoology, and History. Art and Music are also considered a part of the cultural area.

Science, Geography and History:

The excitement of life science, the discovery and understanding of different cultures and the concept of time provide a sense of self worth, ability and belonging. The studies of these subjects are integrated through hands-on and captivating materials and activities that nurtures a lifelong love of sciences, geography, history and cultural studies. Maria Montessori's Cosmic Education is designed to help children develop a global vision and gratitude for the universe.

Botany and Zoology:

Children have a natural curiosity about plants and animals. They derive great delight in exploring the plant kingdom; touching and feeling the different texture of the leaves; smelling the different fragrance of flowers. Their natural bond and love for animals unconsciously develop a sense of care for all living things around them.

Arts & Crafts and Music:

Arts & crafts and music are also incorporated into cultural studies. As the child moves from concrete to abstract, the studies of cultural subjects are brought to life through the appreciation of art work. Through music, and art, the children are provided with opportunities to engage in a variety of creative expressions.