



Winn Montessori Tour Guidelines



Please read the following guidelines for observing the classroom. This is an opportunity for us to share with you what life is like in a Montessori School environment by giving you a chance to see the interaction of the children, the teachers, and the learning materials. Also, you will get to experience the less tangible atmosphere that is “home” to the children for so much of their working day.

To minimize distractions, we ask you to follow these procedures:

- When you enter the class you will be shown to a seat that is set at a vantage point for you to get the best observation without being intrusive to the teaching area.
- When you sit down, children may come up to you. Please try not to engage them in conversation. A polite “hello” and direct response as to who you are is fine.
- If you are here to observe your child and he or she clings to you, acts silly, or ignores you, don’t be surprised. It is all expected behavior. Children respond differently to having their parent in the classroom than they do in the normal course of the day at school or at home.
- Please do not interfere in a child’s work or walk around the classroom.
- The teachers will not be able to take time from their classroom duties to converse with you either during or after your observation. If questions occur to you while you are watching, please write them down. When you return to the front office you will have an opportunity to talk with the administrator or the administrative assistant.
- If you have come with your spouse, another family member, or a friend to observe the classroom we ask that you do not talk to each other. This can be very distracting to the children. Please wait until you are back in the front office what you have seen.
- Fifteen to twenty minutes is ample time for classroom observation. Someone will come to take you back to the front office, or you may quietly leave the room when your time is up.
- If you are observing your child it is best if your good-bye to him or her is brief and positive. It is helpful if you prepare your child to the fact that your visit to the classroom will be short and that you will leave and see him or her at the regular dismissal time. Rest assured that even the most agitated child will calm down very shortly after you leave.