

# YUKON MONTESSORI SCHOOL PARENT OBSERVATION

+ Welcome!

We hope that your observation for our classroom helps you to better understand the Montessori approach to education as well as the strengths of our school.

If you have a child in the class, please keep in mind that your own child may not work in their typical pattern during parental observation. This is an example of why it is unwise to try and compare your child with others in the class.

Remember that the more unobtrusive you remain, the better your chance of seeing the classroom as it normally functions. Try not to engage the children in conversation but you can speak to a child if they approach you. Keep it brief, explain your role as someone who is observing their work.

Try to get an opportunity to notice many different aspects of the Montessori classroom.

Thank you for coming, we appreciate your interest.



*Guided Freedom.  
Unlimited Potential.*

## **The environment as a whole**

Generally speaking the Montessori 6-12 class should be well-lit, clean, and comfortable with little clutter. There should be artwork on the walls, plants, and pets.

The furnishings should be child-sized and inviting, with areas that promote individual exploration, group activities, and quiet contemplation.

The materials on the shelves should be arranged by curriculum area and arranged as such that the child must gather supplies and tools from all over the classroom in order to complete a task (eg: supply shelf, bookshelf, paper supply shelf, cubby, etc).

## **The 9 curriculum areas**

Language (French included)  
Math  
Geometry  
Biology/Botany (including science equipment)  
History  
Geography  
Music  
Art

## **Activity of individual children**

**Active:** Is the child taking an active role in their group work?

**Engaged:** Is the child engaged with their work?

**Focused:** Is the child distracted easily or frequently? Is the child able to focus, take a break and refocus?

## **Lessons given by the teacher to groups of children**

Is the teacher giving group lessons? This would be 2 or more children at a time.

Are the students engaged and respectful towards the lesson?

Is the teacher observing children, without being noticed by the children?

Is the teacher, when approached by a child with a problem/conflict, helping the child problem solve rather than doing the solving for them?

Is the teacher modeling "Grace and Courtesy" to children via active listening, empathy, and understanding?

Is the teacher redirecting children who are not choosing work or being disruptive towards others?

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## **A Few Observational Tips**

Please sit quietly. We try to use quiet voices in the classroom so that everyone can focus.

Please keep interaction with the teacher to a minimum unless approached.

Observe the entire classroom

Look for qualities of independence, self-discipline, social interaction, attention, concentration, and joy.

## **In the teacher you can look for**

Awareness of class dynamics

Sensitivity to individual children

Helps the children to initiate work,

Provides requested assistance,

Demonstrates use of materials through lessons.