

The Role of the Montessori Guide

Prepare and Maintain the Environment

- Physical arrangement of the room
- Choose classroom décor
- Acquire materials (help with ordering, making materials, etc.)
- Display materials in a beautiful, orderly, and sequential manner
- Evaluate and change the environment and materials to meet the needs of children
- Maintain cleanliness and order
- Clarify ground rules and discuss them with teaching team
- Plan group and individual lessons, special projects, and events

Be a Constant Observer

- Engage in both formal and informal observation of each child
- Observe both learning and social activities
- Keep records of observations
- Use insights from observations to help guide children
- Observe for changes needed in the environment
- Observe yourself so to avoid being an obstacle in the child's development

Link the Child to the Environment

- Give lessons – give more lessons, and still more lessons.
- Observe children so that one will know what lessons to give
- Keep records of lessons given, children's work choices, reactions to work, and their progress
- Use records and observations to make individual plans for guiding each child and supporting their learning process
- Demonstrate lessons with joy and passion – make them fun and fascinating
- Keep looking for the hook that will entice a child to work
- Involve the children in maintaining the environment

Be a role model

- Model grace and courtesy – kindness and respect
- Model ground rules and procedures (if it is a rule for the children it is a rule for the adults)
- Model order and care of the materials and environment

Model love of the work (sometimes do activities by yourself just for fun)

Communicator

Communicate warmth, respect, and sincere regard for every child

Communicate expectations, ground rules and procedures to the children

Share interests, ideas, information, and ask questions

Guide and facilitate class meetings and discussions

Guide and supervise all support staff and specialty teachers who interact with the class

Communicate to parents class procedures, expectations, interesting events, and general information

Communicate to parents often about their child's goals, progress in all areas, and class citizenship

Communicate with fellow faculty members and administration

Be an ambassador for your school and Montessori in your community

Peacemaker/ Tone Keeper

Create a culture of kindness and respect – Hold children accountable for this

Be clear, consistent, yet flexible with ground rules

Maintain an environment conducive for concentration, individual and cooperative learning

Facilitate conflict resolution

Encourage tolerance

Celebrate diversity

Teach silence and reflective practices

Prepare Yourself

Embrace the life long task of personal and professional development

Continue to learn about child development, Montessori, and best practices

Establish a method for daily regrouping before children arrive or before you enter the class

Take time in class daily to observe and reflect

Practice short daily reflection to review events and interactions at school

Regularly engage in longer reflective practices to better understand yourself

Regularly engage in renewal practices for the body, mind, and spirit