

THREE RIVERS RACCOON NEWS

DECEMBER 2024

A message from Dr. Henry

Three Rivers Montessori is all about children. As the Executive Director, I am honored to serve in this position alongside a caring staff of people. Teacher/Staff Roles in a Responsive Montessori classroom (what you will see and hear):

- Ongoing encouragement and positive language
- Facilitating self-monitoring
- accept students as they are
- Create a safe place where students know they can make mistakes and build self-confidence
- Allow students to define their own limits
- Positive feedback is used vs. praise that is not specific
- Look at the behavior or action instead of generalizing the child

Thank you, dear families, for your support of Three Rivers Montessori, home of the raccoons. Have a wonderful winter break ahead!

-Dr. Paula Henry



Upcoming Dates

Winter Break: Dec 23rd - Jan 3rd

Parent Meeting - Jan 15th

MLK Jr. Day - No School: Jan 20th

Teacher Workshop No School: Jan 21st

Reading Goal Update

Hey Parents!

We blew past 50,000 minutes like a rocket with our newest total!

We are at 58,402 minutes!

Keep up the good work!



Spirit Week/Parent Meeting

Spirit Week is next week December 16th through the 20th

Monday- Holiday color day (any holiday)

Tuesday- Holiday sweater day or wear your favorite color

Wednesday- Winter white out day (wear all white)

Thursday- Flannel or plaid day

Friday- Cozy or PJ day or wear your Raccoon wear

We will also be having a school-wide outside time for all of our students to visit and play outside together! (weather permitting)

Parent Meeting Wednesday January 15th at 6:00pm

Please come and join in to help with ideas and solutions for:

- Fundraising
- Building and Space Needs
- Plans for 2025-2026

Word of the Month Global



I am a citizen of the world that respects and appreciates the differences in others.



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Parenting Tool- Avoiding Pampering

Positive Discipline

Creating Respectful Relationships in Homes and Schools



Parents make a mistake when they pamper in the name of love. Pampering creates weakness because children develop the belief that others should do everything for them. One of the greatest gifts you can give your children is to allow them to develop the belief, "I am capable." Children feel capable when they learn that they can survive the ups and downs of life.

But first let's define what we mean by "Avoid Pampering." We are NOT talking about love, affection and connection. Giving hugs is not pampering. Giving compliments is not pampering. Validating feelings is not pampering.

Pampering is doing things for our children that they are perfectly capable of doing for themselves. The fact is, our children are born with an innate desire to do things for themselves and begin to express that desire around the age of two. We are all familiar with the toddler who says "Me do it!" Too many parents say, "No, you are too little. Go play." Then when they are older and we ask them to help, we are surprised when they say, "No. I'm playing."

Parents often do things for their children for expediency. They may be in a hurry or they are afraid their children will not do it "right" or perfectly. That is why it is important to "take time for training." This means showing them how and then letting them practice. Do things "with" young children until they are old enough and practiced enough to graduate to doing things by themselves. It will still often take longer and not be perfect, but remember we are striving for long-term results. We need to give our children opportunities to become responsible, capable young people.

A good way to think about this concept is to ask yourself, "Would I do this for an adult friend?" If the answer is "No", then it is probably best to allow your child to experience the responsibility of doing it themselves. But remember that the feeling behind what you do is just as important as what you do. Avoiding Pampering is not an opportunity to shame or blame your child. This is an opportunity to kindly but firmly allow them to develop the skills they will need to survive in this world. So don't get angry if your child wants you to do something for them. Be positive and supportive and show faith in them to accomplish the task or solve the problem.