

## Feel Like Spring Already?

The Weather has been so mild lately and we do not even feel, that we are in the thick of Winter. Generally, February is the coldest month in Canada. However, this year we had coldest temperatures only for a couple of weeks. Does this mean Global Warming is happening too soon?

### HOW DOES MONTESSORI PREPARE CHILDREN FOR WRITING?

In an authentic Montessori environment, you would not witness an adult hold children's hand and guide them to write.

***Then how do we prepare their delicate hands for a big task as writing?***

The beauty of the Montessori approach to education is that each area in the environment is inter-connected. Every activity is a progression of the preceding one, and mostly the children are prepared for various skills indirectly.



#### UPCOMING EVENTS

- **February 20**  
Family Day  
Holiday
- **March 10**  
PA Day Holiday  
Parent  
Conferences
- **March 13-17**  
Spring Break

## HOW DOES MONTESSORI PREPARE CHILDREN FOR WRITING? (Continued)



When children enter the Montessori environment, we help them, to expand their hand-eye coordination, focus, and concentration. Initially, these skills are learned through various activities in the Exercises of Practical Life area. It is vital for little children to obtain these skills, because without them they would be in a chaotic state.

Then they are guided to strengthen small muscles, wrist movement as well as lightness of touch and we progress into the Sensorial area. Simultaneously, we train their ears to distinguish various sounds and later present them various phonetic sounds with sandpaper symbols in Sensorial as well as Language areas. Concurrently, children are introduced to tracing various shapes using colour pencils to form various shapes with controlled movement. Finally, the use of chalkboard and chalk gives the child an opportunity to actually form shapes of letters.



However, according to Dr. Montessori, writing is not just the mechanical part of writing. It is also, how a person learn to put together the symbols of letters together to form words.

*\* The above description is a broad idea of how children are prepared for writing in the Montessori environment, not a comprehensive analysis.*

*“Summing up, we may say that the two mechanical factors of writing are resolved into two independent exercises, that is, drawing, which gives the hand the ability to handle the writing instrument, and touch the letters of the alphabet, which serves to establish a motor memory along with a visual memory of the letters.”*

Dr. Maria Montessori