



Monthly Newsletter: October 2021

Thank you to all of the families who attended our Open House and for your feedback. We hope it was informative and fun for you all. If you were unable to attend we have books you can check out that explain some of the Montessori materials and also how to bring Montessori into the home. The books and a check-out sheet are on the white shelves in the bin room for you to browse at your convenience.

Also, a big thank you to all of the parents who have been bringing us items from our wish list! Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

What have the students been up to and what do they have to look forward to this month? This first month of school we have focused greatly on normalization in the classroom. The four characteristics of normalization are: love of work, concentration, self-discipline, and sociability. If you would like to learn more about normalization in the Montessori classroom there are articles on the parent bulletin board (in the kitchen) and you are welcome to take one home!

Math and Sensorial Skills

The students have been working on

- Size discrimination
- Exploring 1-10 through counting, books, and numeral formation
- Counting and writing teen numerals

This month we will be introducing

- Basic shapes: names, number of sides, shape
- 2D vs 3D shapes
- Patterns

Art

The students have been working on

- Basic skills such as cutting, gluing, how to care for the artistic tools, and clean up procedures
- Primary colors and distinguishing warm vs cool colors

This month we will be introducing

- Learning about line and exploring with different line drawings
- Watercolor Paints

Practical Life

The students have been working on

- Developing concentration and hand-eye coordination
- Practicing cleaning up after oneself

This month we will be introducing

- Harvest/Fall theme work

Spanish

The students have been working on

- Spanish greetings, colors, numbers, and shapes

This month we will be introducing

- Face & Body parts in Spanish

Language

The students have been working on

- Language development through initial sound works, rhyming, letter formation, and reading comprehension

This month we will be introducing

- Lowercase letter formation using the sand-pan, skywriting, letter-pin-punching, vowels, and letter formation books

Science and Geography

The students have been working on

- Learning about the universe, galaxies, and our solar system

Intro to classification (living/non-living, plant/animal, vertebrate/invertebrate)

This month we will be introducing

- The 5 animal kingdoms. Leaves, Earth's layers, volcanos, fossils, and dinosaurs.

FYIs, Upcoming Events & Reminder

Thursday, October 29 will be our annual **Harvest Celebration**. We offer activities and games including pumpkin painting, bite the doughnut, mask making, apple-coring, and more in the backyard from **9:00-11:00 a.m.**

Due to the ongoing pandemic, this year we will unfortunately not be able to have parent volunteers and only students who are scheduled to come to school on Fridays will be able to attend.

Thank you for understanding! We look forward to next year when we hopefully can return our Harvest Festival to its historic and festive norm.

**** In the Children's House tradition, we encourage all students to dress up as something along the theme of harvest: flowers, pumpkins, tomatoes, scarecrows, farmers, animals, etc. In this way, we use our creativity to celebrate the spirit of the fall season. **Please NO superhero costumes or weapons.**

Super Hero & "Character" Clothing:

Movie and television characters and combative images on clothing often encourage distractibility and behavior that is aggressive or violent in nature. Also, children will often compete with one another and even engage in 'put-downs' with regards to the character printed on their clothing. For these reasons we have imposed a No Character or Super-hero clothing rule at Children's House of Durango. Character shoes are excepted as we realize they are often the only school-suitable shoes the child owns. Please help us to promote a peaceful, healthy environment by evaluating whether the image on your child's shirt is appropriate each morning.

Sharing – Please try to arrive at school on time. Entering a class during lessons can break the concentration of students. Also, we would like to remind parents that sharing begins promptly at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday and Friday mornings. If children arrive to school late on these mornings we ask that they save their sharing for another day. A sharing list is posted in the kitchen and available on the website and Shutterfly. Thank you for your cooperation!

Photos on Instagram and Shutterfly

We like to keep families and our community connected with what is happening at school through photos on our Instagram and Shutterfly accounts. We only publicly post pictures of students if you checked "yes" in your photo release paperwork.

We also use a private Shutterfly account to post pictures of our students regularly. If you specified that you would not like pictures of your child posted online we have refrained from taking pictures of them. However if you would like pictures of your child posted ONLY to the private account please let Katy or Stacy know.

We also use the Shutterfly calendar for field trips, sharing dates, school gatherings, etc. Anything that does not belong on our public website calendar.

Through Shutterfly you can also order prints and photo gifts if you're thinking about the holidays already! 😊

Please let Katy know if you need a new invitation to Shutterfly!

Clarissa's Cook's Corner

Dear Parents,

Here's a recipe for playdough that is easy to make:

PLAYDOUGH

2 Cups Flour

1 Cup Salt

2 Cups Water

4 Tsp Cream of Tartar

2 Tbsp Oil

Combine these ingredients and cook over medium heat stirring frequently until thick. We can always use extra playdough at Children's House, so feel free to bring us a batch of your homemade playdough!

Thanks!!

Miss Clarissa