



MONTESSORI CASA INTERNATIONAL
PRESCHOOL

Inspiring a passion for learning

MCI FOR THE ULTIMATE MONTESSORI EXPERIENCE

Volume 93

Directly from

Punum's Desk...

The importance of the work cycle

Dr. Maria Montessori (1870-1952) believed that children have an inner directive for their optimum self-construction and that concentration is the key to their natural development. This was perhaps one of her major contributions to the world: that if protected and nurtured, the child's inner guide will lead to the development of the child's full potential. For this to happen there are certain key elements that need to be in place and, because this is not always the case, there are many differences in Montessori schools.

One of the key factors is the two/three hour uninterrupted work cycle. Montessori advocated for a two-hour work cycle in the Preprimary years and a three hour uninterrupted work cycle in the Primary classroom. A work cycle of three hours allows the child adequate time to become involved in his/her work, to observe, and then become significantly engaged in an activity. *"There is a vital urge to completeness of action, and if the cycle of this urge is broken, it shows in deviations from normality and lack of purpose"* (Montessori, 1948/1967, p. 57). This is part of what makes Montessori unique and, as such, as much as possible, this work cycle should be respected. An interruption, no matter how beneficial an adult may consider it to be, disturbs the growing development of the child's concentration and focus. In fact, if children are aware that they may be interrupted during the course of the morning, they may choose not to work at all. Hence, it is crucial that all Montessori schools respect the two/three-hour uninterrupted work cycle, knowing that it is the foundation for the child to achieve lengthened periods of concentration, discipline, and normalization. Montessori writes:

"Only normalized children, aided by their environment, show in their subsequent development those wonderful powers that we describe spontaneous discipline, continuous and happy work, social sentiments of help and sympathy for others" (1988, p.188).

The two/three hour uninterrupted work cycle at MCI begins at 8am sharp and we appreciate your efforts at dropping off your child on time.

Back to School Night

This year we are forced to host Back to School Night via Zoom. We look forward to seeing you all virtually as we discuss how to support the Montessori child at home. Dr. Montessori believed strongly in the home-school connection and called for cooperation between the family and the school. The teachers will be happy to take your questions and give you suggestions.

Safety Protocols

Thank you for your compliance as we work together to keep our children safe and MCI open. This is the time to be extra cautious and take every precaution possible. At school we spend a lot of time outdoors, wear masks, socially distance, wash hands regularly, keep our windows and doors open, deep clean regularly. We would appreciate it very much if you keep your children home when they are running a fever, have a cold or cough or simply are out of sorts. A little extra caution goes a long way in keeping everyone healthy and the school open. We are in this together for the sake of our children and we appreciate your loyalty, dedication and ongoing support.

Montessori Casa International

Back to School Night

Please join us for Back to School Night on September 18th from 6pm – 7pm. This year the event will take place on Zoom. The teachers will send you an invite closer to the event. The topic this year is on how to support your child at home.

Montessori Casa International

September 2020

A

7 Labor Day NO SCHOOL

18 Back to School Night

