



MONTESSORI CASA INTERNATIONAL  
PRESCHOOL  
*Inspiring a passion for learning*

MCI FOR THE ULTIMATE MONTESSORI EXPERIENCE

Volume 123

## *Directly from*

### *Punum's Desk...*

#### **How does the magic begin?**

It's a brand new school year...the children have been away for at least 6 weeks...there are new children joining us, of which some have never been to school before. The task can seem daunting especially when our end goal is normalization. So how do we begin helping the children settle in and form a community in which they will thrive for the rest of the school year?

In the first two weeks of school, we concentrate not on the Montessori materials but establishing the expectations in our classroom. We start with what we call **Grace and Courtesy Lessons**. These exercises foster self-mastery, respect for others and for the environment, and awareness that you are a contributing member of a group. Our lessons include:

\*How to walk in the classroom (walking feet)

\* How to talk in the classroom (inside voices)

\* How to take something from the shelf and replace it to the same place on (cycle of activity)

\* How to take out a rug or a table mat and place their work on it

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- How to clean a spill
- How to interrupt an adult to get attention
- How not to disturb your friends when they are working.

We are also building **independence** – they learn how to wear their smocks and crocs; how to use the bathroom and to get their water bottle when they need it. **Practical Life activities** are critical for developing the foundation that we are looking for – a sense of order; concentration; co-ordination of movement and independence. The teachers give the children ownership of the room – this is their classroom, and they must take responsibility for keeping it in order and clean. They are shown how to sweep the floor, dust a shelf, water a plant, and lay the table for lunch. Such purposeful actions help children to coordinate their minds and bodies and fix their attention, settling their whole personality. This is what makes these lessons foundational and crucial.

We ensure that the children are well protected and nurtured with no interruptions in the classroom to allow engagement with the materials and purposeful work to develop. Once this foundation of the work cycle has been laid, the magic begins!

#### Heads Up!

#### **Back to School Night**

Please join us for Back to School Night on September 14<sup>th</sup> from 6pm – 7pm. The topic this year is developing the child's independence and how to support your child at home.

#### Upcoming Dates!

#### **September 2022**

4 Labor Day NO SCHOOL

14 Back to School Night – EVENING EVENT

21 International Day of Peace

29 Mid Autumn Festival

#### Meet and Greet 2023

