



Dayspring Montessori Educational Center, Inc.

St. George Campus

Parent Handbook



**For the School Year
2010-2011**



Office Hours and Phone Number

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8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Monday - Thursday

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Dayspring Montessori Educational Center does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or sex.

Introduction

Welcome to the Dayspring Montessori Educational Center, Inc. This handbook outlines goals and policies of Dayspring along with other valuable information. It is designed to help you, the parents, better understand the policies and procedures of Dayspring. We ask that you read this handbook carefully and completely, for the benefit of you and your child. Please also refer to the calendar often for scheduling dates as you may not always receive the letter sent home with your children. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call the office and discuss them with the appropriate staff member.

The entire staff at Dayspring is dedicated to providing a premium learning experience for all students. Each year we look forward to the opportunity to work together with students and their families to achieve this goal.

Dayspring Mission Statement

Our mission is to bless the lives of children and their families. We teach truth, support correct principles, and assist children in meeting their spiritual, emotional, physical, social and academic needs.

The History and Purpose of Montessori Education



Maria Montessori, born in 1870, was the first woman to obtain a medical degree through an Italian University. By 28 years of age, she was engaged in the medical profession assessing the needs of challenged children. Dr. Montessori went on to design materials and techniques that would permit these children to explore areas that were previously considered beyond their capacity. Her great moment came when these challenged children took the state examination along with normal children and passed. Dr. Montessori concluded that if mentally challenged children could be brought to the same academic level as normal children, there must be something terribly wrong with the education of normal children.



Dr. Montessori formally began her life's work with a group of children from Italian slums in 1907 when she opened the now famous Casa Dei Bambini. Though observing and working with the children, she discovered their incredible, almost effortless capability to absorb knowledge from their environment. She observed that children will teach themselves if they are given the opportunity and the proper environment. Dr. Montessori believed that no human being is truly educated by another person. They must do it for themselves or it will never be done. This profound and simple truth inspired her lifelong pursuit of educational reform, curriculum development, methodology, psychology, teaching, and teacher training. A "Montessori" environment cultivates a child's natural desire to learn.

This honored visionary woman died in 1952. Today, after more than 75 years of international application, the Montessori Method thrives in the United States with over 3,500 schools established since 1957. Montessori philosophy and methods are not limited to the private sector, but are being applied within the public school system and child care programs as well.



Dr. Montessori's focus on the individual child, the peaceful unfolding of the self, and the prepared classroom environment started a revolution in education that continues unabated.

Within a Montessori classroom, inspiring children to learn is approached in many non-traditional ways. Children are allowed to experience the excitement of learning by their own choice rather than by force. Consequently, learning is highly individualized, often with a hands-on approach. Dr. Montessori also believed in a vertical classroom. This allows children in a three-year age span to receive instruction together. Benefits of a vertical classroom are many. They include the opportunity for younger children to observe and practice behavior and skills modeled by older children. Older children have the opportunity to mentor younger children, therefore crystallizing their learning process.

Knowledge is attained at the child's pace, not the teacher's. This promotes the maximization of future learning opportunities. Thus, the Montessori materials have a long-range purpose in addition to their immediate purpose of giving specific information to the child.



Dayspring Montessori Educational Center, Inc.

Dayspring Montessori Educational Center came into being in 1995 when Laura Bergeson and Julie Wand formed a partnership and opened the Montessori Elementary School of St. George in a remodeled home on 700 South. In 1998, the school was renamed and moved to its present location on 200 East. Our beautiful St. George campus includes a turn of the century home which adds to the historic ambiance of downtown St. George.



In the fall of 2005 Dayspring opened a Cedar City Early Childhood campus. This newly renovated facility also includes a historic home. The campus is located within Gateway Preparatory Academy, an Iron County charter school, at 200 East Thoroughbred Way, in Enoch, Utah. Dayspring remains a separate entity

and models that same educational philosophy and dedication to high standards found at the St. George campus.

We have a student body of well over one hundred. Children have every opportunity to reach their fullest potential in our schools. As our graduates extend their experiences to other educational environments, they take with them the love of peace, self-direction and thirst for learning that they gained at Dayspring Montessori.

Dayspring Philosophy

Dayspring Montessori Educational Center, Inc. focuses on developing the individual potential of each student. We believe that it is important that students “learn how to learn” rather than just amass academic knowledge (rote recall). Our attention focuses on individual development and on the provision of experiences that can optimize this development. In this way each child's options in the future are expanded.



“Whoever touches the life of the child touches the most sensitive point of a whole, which has roots in the most distant past and climbs toward the infinite future.”

Dr. Maria Montessori

Dayspring Montessori Staff Profiles 2009–2010

Julie Wand – Executive Director – Teacher Education Director/Instructor

Ms. Wand has Montessori teacher certification for children ages 3 to 12. She taught at the Maria Montessori Elementary in San Diego from 1983 to 1995, is a teacher and the Director of the teacher-training arm of Dayspring Montessori Educational Center, Inc. She is a presenter of workshops at many Montessori conferences and is a National Center for Montessori Education (NCME) consultant for Montessori schools. Ms. Wand has two children and resides in St. George.

Susan Green – 9–12 Teacher, Music Director



Mrs. Green attended Brigham Young University where she studied piano. She is an accomplished musician, and has been teaching at Dayspring Montessori since 1998. Mrs. Green is currently receiving her 9–12 Montessori Teacher Training. Mrs. Green is the mother of nine children and lives in Washington with her husband, Kerry.

Jenette Steurer – 6–9 Teacher



Miss Steurer grew up in Oklahoma and in 1993 moved to St. George, Utah with her family. She graduated from Pine View High in 1994. Ms. Steurer has studied early childhood development through Snow and Dixie Colleges. She received her 3–6 certification with Dayspring Montessori Educational Center, Inc. in 2006 and her 6–9 certification from the Teacher College of San Diego AMS in 2008.

Clarissa Ferguson – Teacher

Mrs. Ferguson graduated from Snow Canyon High School. She has attended Dixie State College and she is currently taking the Montessori Training for 3–6 year olds from Dayspring Montessori Teacher Educational Program, Inc. Mrs. Ferguson has worked as an assistant in elementary and early childhood classrooms at Dayspring since 2007. She lives in St. George with her husband, Drew .

Dina Keeler– Teaching Assistant

Mrs. Keeler received her Montessori teacher certification for 3 to 6 year old children from the Dayspring Montessori Educational Center, Inc. in 2004. She has been working on and off at Dayspring since 2000. She has worked in our Early Childhood, Early Elementary and Upper Elementary environments as well as the office and as a PE instructor. Mrs. Keeler has a Bachelors degree in Psychology. She lives in Central with her husband, Steve and 2 daughters, Marla and Jeannette.

Ms. Littlepage–Teaching Assistant

Ms. Littlepage graduated from Snow Canyon High School. She is currently attending Dixie State College. She received her Montessori Teacher Training Education from Dayspring in 2005 and became certified in 2006. She has worked for Dayspring since she was 13 years old and has worked in various classrooms. Ms. Littlepage lives in St. George with her family and is engaged to be married in September 2010.

Adi Bangerter – Toddler Teacher, Teaching Assistant

Mrs. Bangerter is a graduate of Dayspring Montessori. She has worked on and off for Dayspring since she graduated from Pine View High School. She has worked as an assistant in our elementary classrooms and a reading specialist in our lower elementary. Mrs. Bangerter has participated on our First African Christmas staff for several years, choreographing many of the dances. Mrs. Bangerter lives in St. George with her husband, Braden.

Gayea Esplin – Assistant Director, Teacher – Cedar City Campus



Mrs. Esplin received her Montessori teacher certification for 3 to 6 year old children from the Dayspring Montessori Educational Center, Inc. in 2004. She has been working as a teacher at Dayspring since 2002. Prior to coming to Dayspring, Mrs. Esplin worked as an Assistant in a Montessori environment since 1993. She lives with her five children and husband, Shane, in Cedar City, Utah.

Curriculum

Woven in with your child's academic program (i.e., reading, math, history, etc.) are lessons for holistic living and the broadening of horizons. In following Maria Montessori's vision, we believe these intra-curricular activities to be a vitally important part of your child's education.

Art

Dayspring students learn and improve upon the basic skills and fundamental principles of art. Opportunities are given to explore many different mediums through a wide variety of projects. Students will not be graded on their work, but are encouraged to reach their individual potential in artistic ability and knowledge. Art history is also an area of concentration. It is our hope that the children will gain an appreciation of art and use it as an avenue of expression in their lives.

Music

Children will spend time each week singing, learning about, playing instruments, and exploring basic music terminology. Music history will also be taught in an effort to raise their awareness about the fine arts in general. One of our goals in teaching music is to help children relate to and respect traditional genres of music.

Physical Fitness (P.E.)

Conditioning, coordination, and skills training are important to our P.E. Program, as well as fun! We focus on personal physical growth, rather than competitive sports. This is done through cooperative learning and assisting others to develop using a variety of

games, drills, dances and activities that will facilitate both physical development and good citizenship.

Practical Life Skills

There are four main areas in the Montessori definitional of “practical life activities”. They are: Care of self, care of the environment, grace and courtesy, and control of movement. Children are given age appropriate lessons in each of these areas throughout their Montessori years. Part of the curriculum included in the grace and courtesy lessons are the lessons on peace. Dr. Montessori believed that if society is to increase in good will and brotherhood, the change must begin with the children. We offer to each child the opportunity to learn cooperation, courtesy, respect for all life, integrity, an attitude of service, and love for all the earth and its inhabitants. We teach the language of peace and how to use words to solve conflict. Through structured experiences, meal times, class meetings and formal lessons, children gain the tools that are used to live peacefully and gracefully in an often-dissonant world.

Testing and Cumulative Files

Dayspring tests students who are ages six, seven and eight for reading skills using the Gates-MacGinitie Reading Assessment Test. For students age nine and above, the Stanford Achievement Test is used. Both tests are administered in the spring. The SAT Test is one indicator of academic progress. It is an achievement test to see how students compare with other students their age across the country. All these measuring tools are used to assess your child’s academic progress. Be aware that students do not receive letter grades for their work until level 6 (approximately ages 11-12).

Each student has a cumulative file which includes school Progress Reports, showing academic and social progress and notes on their classroom performance. This cumulative record is passed on to each new teacher or school in the child’s educational career. Parents have the right to these records at any time.

General Policies and Procedures

Attendance/Sick Policy

Students must attend 90% of the academic days. Failure to do so will result in the possibility that your student may not advance to the next academic level.

Please call the office if your student will not be attending school for any reason. We appreciate early knowledge of any communicable illness your child may have, so we can monitor symptoms in other students and notify parents of children who may have been exposed.

If your child experiences the following illnesses/symptoms, please keep them home. If they are at school and experience any of the same illnesses symptoms, a guardian/parent will be called and the child will be taken to the office where a supervising staff member will attend to the child’s needs until the child is released to the parent/guardian.

This list includes, but is not limited to the following illnesses/symptoms:

- | | | |
|---------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| *Chicken pox | *Conjunctivitis | *Diarrhea |
| *Diphtheria | *Fever of 99 or higher | *Hepatitis |
| *Impetigo | *Measles | *Meningitis |
| *Mumps | *Head Lice | *Rubella |
| *Tuberculosis | *Vomiting | *Scabies |
| *Strep Throat | *Pinworms | *Profuse nasal discharge |

PLEASE NOTE: Your child MUST be symptom free for at least 24 hour before returning to school.

Immunization Policy

Dayspring Montessori adheres to Utah State Immunization requirements and policies. We MUST have, in your child’s file, a current immunization record or the Utah State Immunization Waiver Form.

Sign-In/Sign out

If you need to take your student from school during school hours, please sign them out at the office and personally sign them back in at the office when they return to school. Upon picking up or dropping off your student, the office manager will escort him/her to and from class. Please do not take your child directly from class or drop your child off directly to class. Always notify the office of your students coming and going. The authorized attending adult must personally sign their signature at both such occasions, as the sign-in sheet is an important legal document. It is also used in emergency situations, helping us know the whereabouts of every child.

If anyone other than those listed on your student’s information sheet is to pick your child up from school, please call or send a note to our office. Your student will not be released without your authorization.

Early Drop-Off

Full day and half day AM students may not arrive at school earlier than 8:00 AM. Likewise, half day PM students may not arrive at school earlier than 12:00 PM. Teachers and staff are in their classrooms, but are preparing their lessons and cannot be responsible for students before 8:00 AM or 12:00 PM for half dam AM & PM students.

Please do not drop students off early expecting the child to “tend themselves on the playground”. We are not legally responsible for your child outside of their assigned session times. Our gates are kept locked until 8:00 AM and close at 3:15 PM unless you have signed your child up for our after school care program.

Late Pick-Up

Students must be picked up after school during your student’s appropriate time period (11:00–11:15 AM or 3:00–3:15 PM). There will be a charge of \$10:00 per child per fifteen minute increment, payable at the time of pick-up, for the care of

each student who I left beyond the pick-up time. In the case of carpools, the person driving the late car pool that day will be responsible for this late fee.

Driveway Etiquette

Please be courteous to the other drivers during drop off and pick up by pulling forward on the circular drive as far as possible, and by not leaving your car. **It is in no circumstances acceptable to leave your car unattended in the driveway. Likewise, do not leave your car unattended and running in the parking lot even if it is only for a moment.** The staff will place your child(ren) in the car and belt them in (if needed), thus making for a smooth departure. We request that you turn right out of the driveway to safely expedite the exit process. Please watch for children and oncoming traffic! For safety reasons, we ask that you postpone all cellular phone calls while you are through the driveway. A teacher will kindly ask you to end your call if she sees it is a distraction to your driving awareness.

Dress Code

Dayspring Montessori Educational Center adheres to the highest standards of dress and grooming for students and staff. Appropriate clothing consists of clean, conservative and comfortable clothes. At the Director's discretion, anything that distracts the children from the academic environment will not be allowed. The student will be sent home until school standards are met.

The following list includes, but is not limited to the sub-standards:

- *Tattoos, whether real or temporary
- *Ear gages or excessive jewelry
- *Torn clothing
- *Hats
- *Revealing clothing (i.e. shorts, spaghetti straps or exposed underclothing)
- *T-shirts with inappropriate pictures or sayings-(rude, hurtful, or violent)
- *Unusual (dyed) hair colors and hair styles, bangs in eyes, or anything else that is distracting to other children
- *Gang-style clothing (i.e. chains, overly sagging pants, etc.)

On P.E. days, children must wear clothing and shoes that are appropriate for vigorous athletic activity. Such as:

- *Tied or Velcro shoes
- *Socks
- *Shorts under skirts
- *Pants that are not overly baggy (i.e. will not fall down while running)

Students will still be expected to participate in some form of physical activity, even if appropriate attire is not being worn for whatever reason, unless the parent or doctor provides a note excusing the child from P.E. for the day.

Lunch and Nutrition for All Day Students

Children enrolled at Dayspring bring their own lunches, thus ensuring that individual dietary needs will be met. Please plan lunches that will provide good nutrition for enhanced afternoon performance. Be aware that microwaves are not available for heating food. Also, candy, tea or coffee (cold or hot), and soda (caffeinated or not) are

not allowed in lunches or as snacks. If such items are brought, they will be held in the office for the student until the end of the day.

Students are required to bring their own **placemats and utensils (that fit into your child's lunchbox)** for sanitary eating. The school will not provide any place settings for your child. Having proper place settings teaches responsibility, grace and courtesy.

Food not eaten by your child will be placed back in their lunch container so that you may monitor his or her eating habits. Closeable containers are (i.e. Tupperware) are good for this purpose.

On the days that Dayspring provides a lunch entrée for the children, please also pack other items in their lunch. They will still need snack items such as vegetables, fruit, yogurt, crackers, a drink etc.

Religion

Dayspring is a nondenominational private school. In accordance with the teachings of Maria Montessori, we encourage the spiritual expression of each child, according to their own beliefs. The utmost respect is given to each family's belief structure in our lessons, discussions, and prayers.

ECC Specific Policies

Clothing and Dress Standards

1. The ECC is a learning environment where your child will learn to independently take care of him or herself. This includes being able to go to the bathroom with the assistance of an adult. We have found that to facilitate this independence, it is helpful

if your child does not need to: unbutton pants, take off overall, take down tights, or undo belts before and after going to the bathroom. Easily removable clothes include: elastic waists, Velcro, and zippers. Please note: This is not required dress code but it may make your child's bathroom experience easier and will eliminate frequent accidents.

2. During the year your child will be working on various hands-on activities. Due to the nature of the Montessori environments of art and practical life, your child's clothes may get soiled.
3. Please put your child's name, clearly printed, on their belongings prior to coming to school. Also, remember throughout the year to check lost and found.
4. Please do not bring backpacks, purses, or small bags in the ECC. If you child brings any of these items to school, they will be held in the office until the end of the day .
5. Dress code-See General Policies and Procedures.

Observations and Visits

1. Pick up and drop off-See General Policies and Procedures.
2. For the safety of the children, it will be required for all visitors or observers to wear a visitor's badge. You will receive this badge when you check in at the office. Please note: This badge **must** be worn if you will be around the children. If you do not have a badge on, you will be directed to the office to check in and pick one up before resuming your time with the children.
3. As a courtesy to the children' environment, please help us keep the ECC a cell phone free environment. During all observations or visits your phone **must** be kept silent. If you need to answer a call, you will need to leave the building. If you answer a call within the building you will be asked to leave.

Lunches

Here are some recommendations we have found make for a peaceful and easy lunchtime:

- Placemats should easily fit in your child's lunch box and lie flat upon opening. Example: Plastic placemats tend to curl at the edges after being rolled in a lunch box.
- Foods that need to be peeled are hard for children to eat independently. These include but are not limited to: oranges, boiled eggs, shelled nuts. These can be peeled at home and put in a plastic bag.
- Drinks with "pop-up" or "sports tops" are easiest to drink from and eliminate spills that could ruin your child's lunch.

Birthdays

Our birthday celebration at the school is particular to the Montessori philosophy and is a lesson in itself. We do not celebrate in a typical manner. The children do a “celebratory walk” around a light at circle time. This light represents the sun and each time around the sun represents one year of your child’s life here on the earth. A traditional birthday song is sung in class and the celebration is over. However, you may choose to bring in “treats” or favors to celebrate with your child and his or her classmates. Listed below are our requirements and policies:

1. Snacks must be healthy (ex: apples and caramel, oatmeal cookies, bran or other muffins, etc.).
2. Inappropriate treats include but are not limited to: cupcakes, cake, any candy, sugary and frosted cookies. Please no drinks.
3. Your child must be able to independently serve and eat his snack.
4. We will provide all paper good such as napkins, paper plates, etc.
5. Treats must be similar in size, shape, color, etc.
6. Snacks need to be approved with a teacher at least two days before celebrating. Call the office to reach the staff.
7. Any “party favors” need to be similar in size, shape, color, etc. (ex: no boy/girl color schemes)
8. Crowns, wands, balloons, hats, noise makers, or any similar items are not allowed.
9. If you are having a birthday party for your child outside of school, you will need to mail or deliver invitation to attending students. Please do not send invitations to school with your child to pass out to friends. Invitations brought to school will be kept in the office until the end of the day. Addresses and phone numbers of Dayspring families can be found in the current year school directory to make arrangements. Thank you for respecting this policy.

Discipline Policy

The staff of Dayspring Montessori follows the principles and practices of Dr. Maria Montessori in relating to children. We recognize the characteristics of the individual child in each plane of development and cooperate with, rather than hinder, a child’s natural directives, Independence for each child is a primary goal. One of our major responsibilities is to assist our student on their pathway to independence.

Children have the right to be treated with love, respect and dignity. Physical and/or verbal harshness, abusive criticism, disrespectful commands, teasing, overreacting to misbehavior, excessive disciplinary measures, and other similar behaviors do not have a place in any Montessori classroom.

Standard Montessori practices for discipline, class control and changing negative behaviors are followed. Children will not be subjected to any form or corporal punishment including, but not limited to, hitting/spanking, slapping, grabbing, shaking, yelling, withholding food, ridicule, embarrassment, or humiliation. Each teacher is responsible for administering problem-solving and critical thinking lessons to their students. Children learn how to model appropriate behavior, and why such actions are important and beneficial. Problem solving is part of the curriculum, along with peace, grace and courtesy. We do not expect a child to simply know how to “work it out” by themselves, without being taught this life skill beforehand. Children are shown how to talk to each other, how to ask for things, and how to disagree respectfully. Our expectation is that children and adults at Dayspring Montessori will respect each other and treat one another with dignity.

The following behaviors are not accepted:

- Inappropriate language, including but not limited to: swear words, “shut-up”, “stupid”, “idiot”, or any insulting hurtful words directed to another child or adult. Inappropriate content within conversation is also not allowed.
- Behavior that is continuously distracting to the other children including, but not limited to: temper tantrums, rolling on the floor during lessons, touching when asked to stop, tickling, etc.
- Hitting, biting, yelling, slapping, kicking, or physically hurting another person in any way or theft of any kind.

The disciplinary procedure if these rules are not followed is:

1. First time offense–The child is immediately sent to the office who will talk to the administrator and an incident report is filled out.
2. Second time offense–The child is sent to the office and a parent/guardian is notified by phone and a second incident report is filled out.
3. Third time offense–student, teacher and parent are called together for a conference and a plan of action must be decided upon and documented. This documentation is signed by student, teacher and parent.
4. If the problem persists and it is affecting other children and their learning experience, or they are in physical danger, the child will be suspended or expelled at the director’s discretion.

*Student violations are cumulative, not categorized. Three violations of any kind will bring stated consequences.

Health and Safety

Supervision and Safety Policies

Dayspring has in place strict policies regarding the safety of your children while on campus and while participating in off-campus school-initiated activities. Our teachers and staff are trained to supervise children and manage safety issues in the classroom, on the playground, during lunchtime, at arrival and dismissal, during off-campus school-initiated activities, during monthly fire drills, and in the case of strangers on campus. They are also trained to supervise ill children, emergencies and accidents. Ongoing staff training is a required part of employment at Dayspring to insure the continued safety of all of our faculty and student body.

Medication

Dayspring will not give prescription or over-the-counter drugs to any child unless it is in the original container WITH a document from the physician outlining dosing requirements.

This includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- | | | |
|----------|------------------|--------|
| *Tylenol | *Aspirin | *Advil |
| *Alavert | *All cough drops | |

If your child is not feeling well, and is in need of medicine, you will need to come to the school to administer it to them. Children are NOT allowed on campus in possession of any medication, over-the-counter or otherwise.

Allergies

All allergies to food medication, or bee stings, etc. must be listed on the Student Information Sheet. If your child requires medication for such conditions, the prescription can be kept at the Dayspring Montessori Office and administered when necessary as long as the child is enrolled. Parent and physician authorization are required to dispense medications. Authorization forms are available in the office.

Critical Illness or Injury

In the event of critical illness or injury, 911 will be called. A certified staff member will administer first aid and contact parents immediately. All staff members are required to have a current first aid certification. Please be sure phone numbers in your student's file are current so you can be easily reached in such cases.

Emergency Procedures

The Dayspring Montessori staff is trained in emergency procedure. Fire drills are held regularly. Should an actual emergency requiring evacuation occur, the director would attempt to notify you as soon as possible.

Reporting Child Abuse

The State of Utah requires both public and private schools to report any suspected incident of child abuse or neglect. We are legally obligated to comply with these guidelines.

Homework

We encourage the children to use the hands-on learning materials here at school, as well as to make maximum use of their time in the classroom. We understand that the process of learning is much more important than the finished product. In traditional school oftentimes, homework is used to reinforce concepts taught earlier that day. At Dayspring, the children work on the concept and the reinforcement at the same time with the concrete material.

Occasionally homework is also used as an appropriate means for concept mastery and acquisition of independent study skills. Listed below is a sampling of assignments you may see coming home for your child to work on. Please limit your involvement, so that it is the student who will gain the full benefit of the work.

Practical Life Activities

- Daily reading (aloud and silently)
- Book reports and projects
- Spelling and Dictionary skill enhancement
- Math fact memorization
- Internet and library research projects
- Student-selected independent studies and projects

We have high expectations of each child. We encourage them to strive in all areas and to stretch their limits with a challenging curriculum. Dayspring will endeavor to support and enhance, rather than detract from, your family life and relationships. Please contact the director if you have any concerns about the stress level of your student.

Parent Involvement

Parents are welcome to visit and observe their children at any time. We request that when you decide to observe any Dayspring classes, please call and make an appointment first. When you arrive, come to the office and check-in with us. You will receive a visitor's badge and a clipboard with observation guidelines. It is important that the children are able to remain focused on their work and are not distracted by your presence. We also require that, when observing or visiting a classroom, **your cell**

phone must be silent. If you need to answer a call, you will need to leave the building to do so. If you answer a call within the classroom you will be asked to leave. The activity level of the classroom as whole may appear busy, but each individual child is actually focused and working.

Parent participation in the school's activities is highly encouraged. We invite parents, relatives, and friends to be involved in our activities and events. Please feel free to discuss any questions you have with us.

Parent Nights

Parent nights will be held regularly during the year. Parental attendance will help you better understand the Montessori philosophy and curriculum. **Please refer to the calendar at the beginning of your parent handbook and enrollment packet for specific dates.**

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-Teacher conferences are ongoing throughout the year. We do not set aside a special time for these to be held. Rather, we encourage you to meet with your student's teacher on a regular basis to discuss the progress of your student and to see his/her portfolio of work. Please call our office for an appointment that is convenient for you and the teacher. We encourage open and frequent communication between parents and staff.

MSAC

Dayspring Montessori Educational Center, Inc. was certified by The Montessori school Accreditation Commission on November 9th, 2005, and maintains a yearly report for continual growth and expertise.

Volunteer Program

Volunteers are always needed and welcomed. There are opportunities to serve in many various capacities. If you are interested in donating your efforts as a volunteer during the school year, please fill out the Volunteer Survey Form (see your Enrollment Packet), or contact our office. Your assistance will then be requested as such needs arise. Your volunteer efforts are crucial, and there are ways for everyone to be involved.

Recommended Reading

Over the years we have been asked for sources of information about the Montessori educational methods and regarding parenting. The books which Dr. Montessori has written are the first we suggest. However, there are many other books written about her and her philosophies that would be great additions to any library. Listed below you will find some of these books helpful and enlightening.

- The Absorbent Mind, Maria Montessori–New York: Dell Publishing Co., Inc., 1984
- The Montessori Method, Maria Montessori–New York: Schocken Books 1984
- The Secret of Childhood, Maria Montessori–New York: Ballantine Books, 1991
- The Discovery of the Child, Maria Montessori–New York: Ballantine Books, 1990
- Maria Montessori: Her Life and Work, E.M. Standing–New York: New America Library, Penguin Books, 1984
- Montessori, A Modern Approach, Paula Polk Lillard–New York: Schocken Books, 1972
- Books from the Gesell Institute of Human Development:
 - Your One–Year Old
 - Your Two–Year Old
 - Your Three–Year Old
 - Your Four–Year Old
 - Your Five–Year Old
 - Your Six–Year Old
 - Your Seven–Year Old
 - Your Eight–Year Old
 - Your Nine–Year Old
 - Your Ten– to Fourteen–Year Old
- Positive Discipline, Jane Nelsen, Ed.D., New York: Ballantine Book, 1996
- Montessori, The Science Behind the Genius, Angeline S. Lillard, PhD