Welcome to our classroom....

There are a few things we would like you to know during your visit.

You have entered an environment that has been specifically created for this age group. This classroom includes certified Montessori teachers and materials which you can see. What cannot be seen are the ground rules that make this all work.

These ground rules are meant to protect a child’s right to work undisturbed and without distractions and interference. To help us maintain the peacefulness of the environment, we need to ask you to remain seated when you observe to avoid unintended diversions.

As you watch the children and teachers at work, here are some things to look for in a Montessori classroom:

* See a child ask the teacher for assistance and/or see a child ask a friend for help.
* Notice children working alone and those working together.
* Notice the children’s concentration and focus when working.
* Notice children choosing activities, and then notice them putting the activities back on the shelves.
* Notice the places where children can socialize or relax—the library, the science table, the snack table, the peace table.
* You may notice a younger child observing the work of an older one. This is ‘passive’ learning.
* You may notice how a teacher assists with conflict resolution.
* Our focus this year is on the hands. Do you see examples of children using their hands/fingers?

You may leave the room at any time to talk with Kathy in the office.
Our primary goals for our children—

- To know school as an exciting, positive experience.
- To begin a lifetime of love and enthusiasm for learning.
- To increase individual independence and self-confidence.

Our secondary goals are as follows:

- To develop good work habits with the goal of completion of an activity—beginning, middle, to the end.
- To increase concentration and attention through the use of the materials.
- To develop problem solving skills by having the freedom to explore and experience the answers.
- To develop social skills and learn to cooperate in a group, learn empathy, and to respect others.
- To increase small motor skills and hand/eye coordination through practical life activities.
- To develop cognitive skills by grouping, classifying, and identifying information.
- To increase visual, auditory, and tactile perception through the sensorial exercises.

All of the above goals continue in the mixed-age classroom.

You may leave the room at any time to talk with Kathy in the office.

Thank you for visiting!