



MONTESSORI PROGRAM CHILD READINESS GUIDELINES

All children in the KTS Montessori Program should display the following skills:

- Students are toilet trained and do not wear any diapering device at school, including during nap times. Children independently know when to go, how to go, and can independently clean themselves. Montessori staff will provide developmentally appropriate assistance to students when necessary, such as prompting, helping to button pants, and hand washing reminders. Parents are encouraged to dress their children in clothing that they can easily manipulate to facilitate toilet use (e.g., sweat pants). It is also expected that younger children will have the occasional accident, however, consistent accidents indicate that the toilet training process is not yet complete.
- Students can consistently follow instructions, both in the classroom and when outdoors.
- Students can walk responsibly to the park or any other destination with other children, following instructions, walking with a partner or independently in a line, and abiding by neighbourly rules of respect and traffic rules.
- Students can independently get themselves dressed for both indoor work time and outdoor playtime (i.e., can put on shoes, socks, pants, coat, boots, hat, and mittens). Developmentally appropriate assistance will be demonstrated and provided, such as starting zippers, helping with snow pants over boots, and putting on second mittens.
- Students are able to behave appropriately in a classroom setting. This includes: working independently and not demanding consistent one-on-one attention/redirection from teachers; refraining from physical actions against other students, teachers, or classroom materials (biting, kicking, hitting, pushing, throwing, knocking down someone's work); not engaging in negative behaviours to get attention; regulating emotions at a developmentally appropriate level (e.g., does not have extended tantrums).
- Students are able to separate from parents/caregivers and be comfortable in the Montessori classroom. While it is anticipated and normal for a child to express some level of anxiousness or tears when entering our program for the first time, children should be able to adapt relatively quickly to the new routine and develop a level of comfort and security in our classroom, without parents or other caregivers. Visiting the school prior to starting, having children visit KTS for a brief orientation the day before they start school, and only having 1 or 2 new students start each day, all contribute towards a smooth transition. We also encourage parents to give children a friendly, warm, and brief good-bye so that the Montessori staff can comfort your child and so your child can take comfort in your confidence.

In preparation for the start of school, we encourage parents to work with their child to practice independent toileting (including wiping and knowing when they need to go) and dressing independently. When buying uniform items, please keep in mind that clothes and shoes that are easy for your child to put on and take off are best. Please also work with your child so that they become aware of appropriate walking behaviour, including following traffic rules and taking safety precautions.