



Parent Newsletter

August 2013

Dear Parents,

Communication is one of the essential keys in maintaining good relationships with the people who care for your children. In my role with SAMA, I often have to support parents and directresses in schools through incidents that I feel could have been prevented if both parties had truly listened to one another with understanding, empathy and shared time.

I recently returned from an international Montessori conference where time was set aside and prepared for parents to attend workshops, too. On offer were courses given by Montessori educators and child experts on how parents could help their children grow into confident, independent, caring and self-motivated people.



In our school we are piloting a Montessori parenting course. Couples are asked to commit to attending the course once a week over four weeks. At these, the key concepts of Montessori education are shared and we encourage discussion on the different areas of their children's development. We offer ideas on involving the child in the home and family life, and how to set up the home in a practical way for the child's development of independence and movement. It is encouraging to see the support contributed and shared among the parents in this group – and the sense of relief in realising that they are not alone.

Our facilitator, a Montessori mom and educator, asked at the beginning of one evening the parents' thoughts on what was good about being a parent, and what was difficult. These were some of the positives: "seeing my child's personality appearing";

“their unconditional love”; watching their joy in seeing everything new and the joy of experimenting”; “our child’s excitement at ordinary, everyday events and my arrival when I get home each evening”. I know you all share these sentiments.

Please become involved in small ways with your schools. Attend the parent evenings; the staff, too, has long days and it is a sign of their dedication to and interest in your child that these evenings take place. The common benefactor, of course, is your child or children. There is extensive literature available to help you understand what to expect from your child’s Montessori school; just ask.

An observation in your child’s classroom is valuable; it answers niggling questions and gives insights to the child’s morning. Our schools should encourage this and give you guidelines on how to passively observe in the classroom.

Through shared time together with your school directresses, you come to understand one another. So often the misuse of a word or expression is wrongly interpreted – and even more easily if this is through an email. Look at the school’s protocol, respect the way it has set up a system for smooth and safe running of the school, and ask questions when you are not sure. Schools may not compromise on safety, health and mediocrity with the children, so know your rights and responsibilities at the school in which you are an involved parent.

“Whenever we touch the child, we touch love. It is a difficult love to define; we all feel it, but no one can describe its roots, or evaluate the immense consequences which flow from it, or gather up its potency for union between men. Despite our differences of race, religion, and of social position, we have felt, during our discussions of the child, a fraternal union growing up between us... Love, like that which we feel for the child, must exist potentially between man and man, because human unity does exist and there is no unity without love.”

Maria Montessori, *The Absorbent Mind*

Warm regards
Jacquelyn Price

CONTACT US

www.samontessori.org.za

admin@samontessori.org.za

tel: 041 367 4936

cel: 072 609 5979

fax: 086 561 8774

IMPORTANT DATES

24 September

Heritage Day

(National Braai Day)



Listen earnestly to anything your children want to tell you, no matter what. If you don't listen eagerly to the little stuff when they are little, they won't tell you the big stuff when they are big, because to them all of it has always been big stuff.

~Catherine M. Wallace~