Keystone Montessori

Observation Guidelines

Date:

Class Observing:

We are happy to have you observe one of our classroom environments today!

To preserve the natural rhythm and flow in the environment:

* Please turn off your cell phone
* Please remain seated
* Please avoid initiating conversation with the children or teacher

During the observation, please write down any questions that occur to you. We will be happy to answer them when we meet for your conference.

In the Montessori classroom, the environment is an integral component of the learning experience. Consider the following during your observation:

* Children are free to move about easily
* Materials are easily accessible; displayed at eye level and within reach of the child
* The variety of ages and activities in the classroom

Focus on a child or group of children. Observe their approach to work and consider:

* What makes the atmosphere conducive to learning?
* How do the children show independence, responsibility and consistency with their work?
* How do they interact with the materials?
* How do they work? (e.g. enthusiastically, cooperatively)

Consider the role of the guide in the classroom. Montessori guides are a catalyst for the children’s learning; they link the child with the activity.

* Observe how the guide uses patience, enthusiasm, and re-direction with the children when necessary
* How the guide encourages independence and self direction
* A sense of respect between the adult and child
* The guide’s awareness of individual needs and interests