



Pre-School Checklist

School Name	The Montessori House		
BASIC INFORMATION			
Location	426 Knickerbocker, Tenafly, NJ		
Phone	201-816-8343		
e-mail	admissions@themontessorihouse.com		
Website	www.themontessorihouse.com		
State License #	NJ – O2MON0007		
Other School Credentials	Full Member School – American Montessori Society		
Director	Maria Morningstar		
Age Range Accepted	2-1/2 to age 6 (1 st Grade)		
Number of Students	100+		
Number of Teachers	12 plus specialists for Spanish and Art		
Number of other childcare staff	2		
Number of office staff	2		
Did the school show you all its school and teacher credentials?	Yes		



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CONVENIENCE			
What's the main emphasis of the programs (e.g. daycare, elementary school, early childhood education, etc.)	Early childhood education: Pre-School, Kindergarten, and First Grade		
Program for my child	Half-day and Full-Day School		
Program Schedule	5 days per week Full Day 8:30 to 3:00 Half-Day a.m. or p.m. After-school instruction in: Piano, Music, Art, Chess, Cooking, Reading After Care available to 6 p.m.		
Program Ages	Full-Day or Half-day age 3 to 6 (1 st Gr.) Half-day only ages 2-1/2 to 5		
Distance from home/work			
Parking available for drop-off/pick-up	Yes		
Office staff available for questions, phone calls and emergencies	Yes		
Does the school offer a summer program?	Yes		
Does the school offer care during vacations or holidays?	No		
Do we know anyone who attends the school?			



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EDUCATION PHILOSOPHY AND METHOD			
What is the education method used by the school?	Montessori Method		
What resources do they have available describing the education approach	Pamphlets, books, association websites		
Did they communicate a commitment to and command of their approach?			
What are the educational outcomes of their approach?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent learning by child • Each child moves at own rate with teacher guidance • Self-reliance and self-control • Child motivated from within • Generally quicker development of academic skills like reading, writing and arithmetic 		
Did the school show you it credentials or licensing in this educational method?	Yes, Full Member School of the American Montessori Society		
Did the school show you the individual teacher credentials?	Yes, by the American Montessori Society		



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QUALITY			
Teaching Staff			
How many students per teacher in my child's program?	10:1 or less for age 3 and over 8:1 or less for age 2-1/2 program		
What percentage of teachers have credentials	80% have American Montessori Society Credentials		
How do teachers interact with children	Friendly, patient, caring Teachers never raise their voices		
Classroom Environment			
How many children and teachers are in room?	Age 3+ program 21 to 28 kids and 2 or 3 teachers Age 2-1/2 program 8 kids and 1 or 2 teachers		
Are the classrooms clean?			
How noisy is it?	Surprisingly quiet		
Are there sufficient materials?	Yes		
Are there windows and good light?	Yes		
Toilets			
Are the bathrooms clean?			
Must children be potty-trained to attend?	Most are. Those who aren't, are working on it at school and at home.		



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QUALITY

Snacks & Lunch

Does the school provide food or drinks?	School provides healthy snack: 1) no sweetened foods, 2) minimally processed foods, 3) balance and variety. Snacks include fresh fruit or vegetables. School provides unlimited spring water. Full day students pack a lunch.		
What guidelines does the school have for food at school?	Nut-free. Parents may not send drinks to school. Parents are encouraged to send a healthy lunch. No sweetened foods are served regularly in the classroom, (not even for birthdays).		

Safety and Security

How do visitors gain access to the school?	Front door is locked with video monitor/intercom for identification before admittance. Classroom floor locked separately.		
How are classrooms monitored?	Closed-circuit TV for parent observation & office staff monitoring.		
Playground	Soft surface (wood chips), fully fenced with childproof gate latches.		
Do teachers have current first-aid/CPR training	Yes, all teachers have current first-aid/CPR certification.		
Dismissal Policy	Only to persons pre-authorized by parent/guardian.		
On-line privacy	Do not name child in a photo on our public website. Never identify parent by last name on our public website.		



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PARENTS and the SCHOOL			
How does the school communicate with parents?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • e-Mail • NEWS section of website • Announcement Board at drop-off and pick-up • Phone, US mail, school folders • Scheduled and ad-hoc conferences 		
May parents join or observe the classes?	<p>Parents observe on closed-circuit TV.</p> <p>Parents may volunteer to present or participate in special programs in the classroom.</p>		
Are parents expected to participate in fundraising?	<p>Generally not. However parents are invited to participate in fund-raising for scholarships through the separate parent-sponsored and supported Friends of Montessori Foundation.</p>		
How else are parents involved with the school?	<p>Numerous parent committees for: Fund-raising, Nutrition (manage in-class snack program), Festivals, Gardening, Cultural programs, and more.</p>		



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TUITION & FEES

What is if the total cost of tuition and fees for my child?	(see chart accompanying application)		
What's not included?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lunch • After Care from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. • After school classes: Music, Art, Chess, Reading, Food • Summer Camp • Transportation 		
How can tuition be paid?	Cash or check. No credit card.		
Does the school offer scholarships or financial aid?	Families may apply to the Friends of Montessori Foundation for support based on financial need.		

TRANSITION

How does the school phase-in new students?	<p>2-1/2 year old students phase in over several weeks to ensure a gentle separation from home and parents.</p> <p>For our 3+ programs, new students attend the 1st week of school alone, and are joined by returning students in week 2.</p>		
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