



Pre-School Checklist

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| 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 | 70+ | | |
| Number of Teachers | 10 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: Art, Chess, Cooking, Reading Before Care from 8 am. After Care available to 6 p.m. | | |
| Program Ages | Full-Day or Half-day for all ages (2-1/2 to First Grade) | | |
| 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 20 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. We change diapers at school. | | |



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QUALITY

Snacks & Lunch

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| 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

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| 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 and text and phone • NEWS section of website • Announcement Board at drop-off and pick-up • 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> <p>Twice each year parents invited to work with child in 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. • Before Care from 8:00 a.m. • After school classes: 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 limited support based on financial need. | | |
| TRANSITION | | | |
| How does the school phase-in new students? | <p>2-1/2 year old students phase in over two to three 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> | | |