

The Montessori House

Pre-School for Discovery and Growth
Telephone: (201)816-8343 Fax: (201) 816-8313

426 Knickerbocker at Riveredge Rd.
Tenafly, NJ 07670

Top 10 Tips for a Great School Year

1. **Set a happy tone for your child's day! Stay calm, and make a happy, quick, quiet exit at the front door (or playground).**
2. **Dress your child in easy-to-wear clothing and shoes.**
3. **Be on time.**
4. **Role model staying safe and following the rules.**
5. **Find a friend.**
6. **Be involved, and make a difference for your child.**
7. **Let school be school and home be home.**
8. **Raise the bar, and be happy about your child's emerging independence.**
9. **Don't ask your child what he/she did at school today.**
10. **Questions? Please ask, but be aware of when and where you ask.**

Top 10 Tips for a Great School Year (explained)

1. **Stay calm, and make a happy, quick, QUIET (no excessive talking or promising) exit at the front door (or playground).** Quick goodbyes make for quicker happiness for your child. Here's how to do it: quick kiss before getting to the door; happy wave at the window, quick walk away. Don't wait for your child to finish waving first – it won't happen.
2. **Dress your child in easy-to-wear clothing.** Anything with an elastic waist band is best. NO belts, suspenders, or anything that ties, clips, clicks, or slows down your child when he/she is trying to go to the bathroom without having an accident. Also, double-know shoe ties or use Velcro shoes.
3. **Be on time.** Children love to enter school, on time, with friends. They don't like to walk into a classroom where everyone is already at work. Also, coming late means children miss cultural lessons.

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- 4. Role model staying safe and following the rules.** Many of the rules at school are to keep the children safe; everyone needs to follow those rules to ensure safety. Please role model for your child and other parents how to follow rules and stay safe.
Parking: Spaces are available ONLY along the “back” of the building, just after you turn into the parking lot from Riveredge Rd. Spaces along the “front” of the building, heading toward Knickerbocker Rd., are not available for MH parking. Car engines must be turned off when the driver is out of the car. There are no child drop-offs or parking along the sidewalk in front of the school.
Arrival: Children must be accompanied by an adult and standing on the sidewalk (not on the grass or ramp) until a teacher receives them for arrival.
Dismissal: Adults must hold children’s hands at dismissal until children are placed in their cars; no playing in the parking lot, or on the rocks or grass.
- 5. Find a Friend.** Chat with other parents. You have at least two things in common: kids and school!
- 6. Be involved, and make a difference for your child.** There are many opportunities to get involved at school. The Nutrition Committee, which determines the daily snacks, is a very active committee, so please send Ms. Maria a note if you’d like to join. (office@themontessorihouse.com). During the year, we’ll notify you when we need volunteers for other activities, including monthly Art Appreciation, holidays, and special occasions. The first two every year are the Fall Celebration and the Thanksgiving Feast. Watch for our messages in the next few weeks about how to help with these!
- 7. Let school be school and home be home.** School is a place for lessons, learning, and having fun with friends. Home is a place for families to be together, play games, sing songs; it isn’t supposed to be a continuation of school. While of course children learn at home, any continued academic lessons at home frequently lead to children losing interest in learning. We want them to love their lessons and love learning. That’s the secret to success, academically, socially, and emotionally.
- 8. Raise the bar, and be happy about your child’s emerging independence.** Children love to do things for themselves, so please give them the chance to do so. They still need your help for some things, but letting, even helping, them become independent makes them very happy.
- 9. Don’t ask your child what he/she did at school today.** This is the hardest thing to do, but it will make your child feel much better. Maria Montessori discovered that children frequently view school as their own secret treasure, a special place with unique activities just for the children. The children want to experience those activities without having to give a daily report on them. The drive home from school is a great time to tell your child stories about YOUR day.
- 10. Questions?** Please contact Maria by e-mail with any questions or concerns.
Meetings at arrival or dismissal, no matter how brief, generally slow down the process for all the waiting families.