

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 us, 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-knot 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. Generally, we greet at the front door from 8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. If you arrive after that, please just ring the doorbell and wait for someone to open the door.

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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: 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, except if we have a morning car line.
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.
Sidewalk: Everyone should walk on the sidewalk. Please do NOT walk on the rocks.
- 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. First, the Nutrition (Snack) 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). Next is the International Festival in October (more info to come). After International Festival, we have Fall Celebration and the Thanksgiving Feast. During the year, we'll notify you when we can invite volunteers for other activities. Watch for messages about 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 you a daily report. The drive home from school is a great time for YOU 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 are not private, and no matter how brief, generally slow down the process for all the waiting families.