



WESTWOOD MONTESSORI CELEBRATES THE CHILD

Faye Lundberg, teacher and founder of the Westwood Montessori School, engages her students in the classroom.

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The Westwood Montessori School opened its doors to children 2 years ago. Its mission is rooted in philosophies dating back to the early 1900's, which celebrate the mind of the child and independent learning.

Faye Lundberg, director of Westwood Montessori, has over twenty years of experience in teaching Montessori, and was very excited to bring her knowledge and expertise to Westwood.

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learning pace while being exposed to many different areas of learning. According to Lundberg, many children learn to read within the Montessori classroom because they are exposed to language and reading becomes the natural progressive step for them.

One of the myths of Montessori education is that the classroom is either overly structured or it is chaotic. Rather, the classroom strikes a balance where children have the freedom to make their own choices, but make those choices within a certain structure. Another myth claims that a Montessori education is only for the gifted child, or the special needs child. As explained by Lundberg, the aim of Montessori education is

"I had always wanted to open my own school," she explains. "I feel that Montessori is the best kept secret for pre-school." In bringing a Montessori pre-school to Westwood, she hoped to spread the philosophy and offer Westwood parents more choices in early education.

Westwood Montessori is located on High Street behind Westwood Optical and next door to Starbucks. The school enrolls children from two years nine months through the age of six.

to have all children be successful. The philosophy emphasizes cognitive and social development and promotes independence, self-directed learning and self care. All children, regardless of age or ability, find an environment in which they can achieve.

Lundberg teaches her class along with an assistant teacher. Next year, there will be an added morning session and options for an extended day, which will include lunch, rest and play. While the optimum Montessori experience is a three year cycle, many children, according to Lundberg, still benefit from one or two years in the program.

Among the benefits of a Montessori pre-school, she says, is a child's attitude toward learning. "They develop a love of learning. They are excited about school."

The mixed age grouping in the classroom promotes a "family" classroom environment, where older students serve as role models and the younger students can benefit from watching their older classmates.

The class meets five days a week for three hours each day. The children use manipulatives and materials which are designed to have specific aims. Math, language, geography, science, and practical life skills, such as buttoning, zipping and tying, are all

part of the Montessori curriculum. In the Montessori classroom, the materials and how the child uses those materials are the focus.

The teacher's role is to observe, facilitate learning and show the children the next step in the process of learning. Lundberg notes that one of the principal tenets of Montessori education allows for teachers to "follow the child." Children set their own

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According to Lundberg, a basic Montessori belief is that "children are intrinsically excited about learning and are motivated to learn." The Montessori approach provides the materials necessary to fulfill that motivation.

In addition, Lundberg feels that the Montessori classroom encourages healthy and positive attitudes amongst the children. "I think children in a Montessori school learn to be compassionate and kind individuals," she explains. "It's a non-competitive environment. Children readily help one another."

Lundberg encourages prospective parents to see and experience her Montessori classroom. To learn more about the Westwood Montessori School, or to make an appointment to visit, call the school at 781-329-5557.