

Inspiring Parents to the Montessori Way

What do you hope parents who have chosen Montessori understand? Likely it's for the parents to embrace the Montessori approach and to partner with the school for the ultimate benefit of the child. When such a partnership is working well, parents are happy with their choice, value the school's goals and philosophy, and are apt to express support through participation in school activities and re-enrollment.

How can we foster parent-school collaboration? How can we build connections before, during, and long after enrollment? While many Montessorians are skilled at working with children, they find themselves at a disadvantage when working with parents. All members of a school's staff—lead teachers, assistants, after-school caregivers, administrators, maintenance workers--play a part in fostering positive parent interactions.

So then, what are some of the essential elements of a successful relationship with parents? And why is it important to you? Our discussion will include:

- the importance of appreciating the perspective of parents
- how to listen to parents so we can understand them
- how to get the cooperation of parents right from the start
- specific ways you can make a difference that inspires parents to embrace the Montessori perspective.
- daily interactions and how they influence parents' view of the school and its staff
- conducting meaningful parent conferences
- some ideas for dealing with challenging situations
- the influence of the school's internal staff relationships on children and parents
- dealing with the impact of social media, cell phones, and other electronic devices on child-parent and parent-teacher relationships

There will be time for your specific questions. Join us on the journey to great parent relationships!

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fostering the authentic life of children and their families in the American culture

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