

# Montessori Center of Downriver - May Newsletter

## Help Me Help Myself: Montessori and Independence

If you could see your child when they first walk into their class, you may be surprised. You'd see them changing into their indoor shoes, carefully putting the outdoor shoes away, hanging their coat and bag, and putting their lunch box and water bottle in the appropriate spot. Even our youngest children here begin learning this routine.

The Montessori Method is one that is focused on giving children independence—in both big and small ways—so that they can help themselves throughout their life. Dr. Montessori herself once said that educating young children is educating themselves for independence.

We do this because when children do things for themselves, they feel a sense of accomplishment and pride, and their confidence grows. But when we anticipate children's needs and do things for them, we don't allow them the opportunity to problem solve and come up with solutions, and they even can begin to believe they aren't capable.

At school, children are provided many opportunities for independence throughout the day. But what can we do as parents? What opportunities can we provide and how can we actively encourage independence?

We can start small:

- Instead of carrying children, have them walk beside you.
- Let them pick their own clothes and dress themselves—even if things are mismatched and backwards!
- Wait for them to ask for help, rather than offering.

In the classroom, the prepared environment is another way teachers encourage independence. At home, a prepared environment may look like low hanging hooks for coats or a special snack box in the fridge.

If you're looking for more ways to provide independence, or if you have any questions or concerns, please always reach out! We want to be your partner in your child's education.



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## In the Classroom




**Ms Ashley**

In May, Ms Ashley's class will be learning about reptiles and working on a Mother's Day gift.



**Mrs. Dona**

In Mrs. Dona's class in May, the children will be learning about healthy food, health and fitness, as well as butterflies, flowers, and seeds.



### **Ms Paula**

Food prep will continue in Ms Paula's class in May. They've been making hot chocolate, grating cinnamon, and grinding coffee beans, and soon they'll be cutting cucumbers and carrots and juicing oranges.

May also means we'll be getting caterpillars so that the children can watch them become butterflies!

### **Mrs. Melissa**

In Mrs. Melissa's class, children will be learning about about insects, birds, and flowers.

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## **Welcome Jenni!**

You may have noticed a new face in the office in the afternoons. We are so pleased to welcome Jenni to the MCOB family!

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## **Notes**

1. Please [see here](#) for a list of recalled children's items.
2. MDHHS is providing Covid tests free to all schools and child care centers for staff and families. If you'd like any tests, there is a box in the vestibule—take as many as you'd like.
3. Reminder: Summer camp registration is open and spaces are limited. Fall registration is also open. The half-day preschool program is now full.

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## **Important Dates**

**May 14th:** Mother's Day

**May 29th:** Memorial Day (school closed)

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## **Local Events and Resources**

1. Paint with Me: Mommy and Me Activity: The City of Southgate Parks and Recreation and the Southgate Veterans Memorial Library are excited to present a time for mothers and their children to enjoy each other's company and get creative. Tuesday, May 9 from 5:30pm-7:30pm at the Southgate Civic Center (Party Room of Rink A). Registration is required. Call 734-258-3035.
2. Brownstown Parks and Recreation is celebrating National "Kids to Parks Day" Saturday, May 20th, at Thorn Park in Brownstown. Free Kids activities! Pet a kangaroo or wallaby with Carousel Acres, visit and learn with bugs on wheels, enjoy face painting, and all of our wonderful park amenities. Hot Dogs given out by Woodhaven-Brownstown Rotary at 11:30am while they last.
3. The first Sunday of every month means free admission to the DNR Outdoor Adventure Center. Each event will feature a specific themed activity adjacent to the Critter Room, plus guests will enjoy all the regular exhibits at the Outdoor Adventure Center. When you visit, you can also earn digital badges through Detroit Public TV's Digital Adventure Program.

#### **Wyandotte Library**

Friends of Bacon Library Plant Exchange  
Saturday, May 06, 2023, 9am-1pm  
This is a great opportunity to thin your ever-exuberant perennials, find a plant new to you, and meet fellow gardeners. If you are just starting out in gardening, stop by! Bring plants and garden items to trade or just come by and pick stuff up. Kids can plant their very own seeds to take home with them too!

The Maker's Space also has crafts out for Mother's Day from the 8th to the 13th.

#### **Riverview Library**

May 17th, 5pm to 6:30pm: Drop-in art night: Puzzle bracelets  
May 20th, 12pm to 1pm: Drop-in coloring day

#### **Gleaners**

Gleaners provides boxes of fresh food for anyone in need. No registration required.

#### *Yack Arena*

3131 3rd St.  
Wyandotte, MI 48192  
05/15/2023 9:00am - 11:00am  
05/26/2023 9:00am - 11:00am

#### *Ford Community and Performing Arts Center*

15801 Michigan Ave  
Dearborn, MI 48126  
05/02/2023 9:00am - 11:00am  
05/16/2023 9:00am - 11:00am

#### *Kennedy Building - Central Office - Ecorse Public Schools*

27225 West Outer Drive  
Ecorse, MI 48229  
05/02/2023 2:00pm - 4:00pm  
05/16/2023 2:00pm - 4:00pm