

Classroom Observations (Visiting the Classroom)

MSP proudly has an “Open Door” Policy for parents. Parents are asked to refrain from visiting the classroom for the first 6 weeks of school, so that the class can build its sense of community. After that, parents are encouraged to visit as often as they like. Our school welcomes classroom observations by parents, grandparents, special friends of a student, potential parents, and members of the community. Spending time at school is a wonderful way for you to understand what your child is experiencing.

Parents who are coming to observe the classroom and/or work with their child may not bring their other child/ren.

Here are some important guidelines to ensure the smooth operation of the classroom for all the children.

Remember to use an *inside voice*.

Choose any chair and sit during your visit. Feel free to move your chair from place to place. You are also welcome to sit on the floor while your child does work on a rug. (We don't sit on the tables or shelves!)

Let your child lead. He/she will show you the things that are important to him/her. (Frequent visits will give you a good overview.)

Avoid correcting your child's mistake. Many of Dr. Montessori's materials are self-correcting, which means that a direct correction from an adult is not needed. When you see an error, you are observing what your child is in the process of learning. If you wonder how the Montessori approach would address a particular mistake, discreetly show the teacher what you are seeing and watch how she handles it. **Never correct another person's child.

Write down any questions, comments, or situations you would like to discuss. A teacher will be glad to schedule a time to talk to you.

Leave the classroom to talk on your cell phone or with another parent.

The time you spend in the classroom is a special time for your child to show you the work he/she enjoys. The other children will be told that this is private time for you and your child. This allows you to focus on your child and keeps your visit from disrupting all the other children's day.

Lastly, as adorable as the fellow students in the class are, do not pick anyone else's child up or hold them in your lap.

We hope you enjoy your visit!!