



A Further Look Inside Our Greenhouse Classroom

After 4 weeks of practicing our new farm school routine, the children have really started to take ownership of and feel comfortable in their space.

Everyone has been working a lot with basic coordination skills, which are the key to gaining independence and adaptability according to the Montessori philosophy of brain development.

We are seeing the children spend more and more time with the arranged practical life activities as well as increasingly interested in keeping things ordered in our ever-dynamic classroom.

A unique insight of Montessori philosophy is the Sensitive Period for Order observable in children 1 - 4 years old. Our morning work cycles have become evidence of this natural phenomenon.



Our students working hard doing art, building, and transferring, each taking responsibility for their chosen activities.

It is not just WHAT we say but HOW we say it

The transition from preverbal to verbal communication is a fundamental process that takes time, practice, and appropriate modeling to master. Around the age of 2, children start to crave verbal modeling that helps them to express their needs and desires in an effective manner.

As adults, our tendency will be to get them what they need as soon as possible. These are often the best opportunities to create a teachable moment about polite communication.

One of the easiest ways to break tension and have a positive response is to model kind words and a happy voice. Your job before they were verbal was to interpret their needs for them. The best thing we

can all do for them, is to teach them the communication skills that will further their quest for independence.

At busy times or at the simplest requests, it can often be easier to respond to a child's implied desire automatically, but whenever possible, this is the time to practice the skills that will further their social development.

Once children are verbal, there are still endless opportunities to practice the type of communicating we all wish was the norm. Many observers of Montessori classrooms have noted how impressive it would be if adults could solve their conflicts as well as children who have been empowered to do so. Even

the youngest kids will spontaneously demonstrate their empathy for one another when they have been repeatedly exposed to positive communication techniques.

One of the primary values of a multi-age group is how proud the older students become of modeling and teaching the younger children as well as how attentive the younger ones are to how the older children operate.

In the classroom, anytime something is expressed physically, louder or more intensely than necessary, we consider this to be the most important lesson of the moment: to treat each other with kindness.

We offer a hand, a hug, or try again with a smile in our voice and everything else grows from this practice.

Parent Night Info

Come meet at Ecusta Brewing
from 6 p.m. - 7 p.m. this
Saturday, Feb. 3!

We would like to discuss
fundraising opportunities,
newsletter topics, and future
gatherings. If you cannot make
it, please feel free to send any
ideas on these topics our way!

Farm Needs

If you have extra plastic bags,
please send them with your
kiddo to school!

Also, we would like to start a
general clothes bin so that we
have extras in the program. Any
shirts, pants, or socks that do
not fit anymore, or you are ready
to get rid of, will be of great use
to us!

SPRING BREAK

We want to remind you that we will be closed for regular programming March 26 - April 6. We will be operating a 4-day farm camp April 2-5, during Transylvania County School's Spring Break. This week will be separate from the semester's cost but we are offering you a special discount, if you commit by February 15. Your cost for the week would be \$90. The general Early Bird Discount will remain available until March 1 for \$100.

Please reach out with any questions or thoughts.



Monday
Explore with all
five senses!

Tuesday
Water is Life

Wednesday
All about
Plants

Thursday
Bugs, Bugs,
Bugs!

Label EVERYTHING that comes to the farm

* This will help us keep track of everyone's belongings. Part of of program is to help your child learn to take care of themselves and their belongings.

Due to the nature of farm school, we ask that you don't send special items to the farm as they could become lost or damaged.

Great Opportunity!

Smart Start of Transylvania County reached out to us to let us know that they offer the **Dolly Parton Imagination Library** program and are trying to enroll as many kids as possible, ages 0-5. The program mails age appropriate books monthly to kids, ages 0-5 at **no cost to the families**. You can easily enroll your family online at this link:

<https://imaginationlibrary.com/>

On the first page scroll down and click "Can I Register my Child?"

If you are on a 4-week payment plan the next payment is due on the first day of attendance next week (Feb 5 - 9).

Date Reminders

- PARENT NIGHT
Saturday, February 3
6 p.m. - 7 p.m.
- Spring Break Camp Sign-Up
By February 15 for \$90 rate
By March 1 for Early Bird \$100
- CLOSED for regular program
March 26 - April 6
- Spring Break Farm Camp
April 2 - 5

As always, please keep
communication open.
Come to us with ANYTHING!