

## Montessori is...

The belief that, if allowed to develop openly in a prepared environment, tiny humans already possess the psychic capabilities to absorb and learn exactly what they need in any given moment.

"How does he achieve this independence? He does it by means of a continuous activity. How does he become free? By means of constant effort. ...we know that development results from activity. The environment must be rich in motives which lend interest to activity and invite the child to conduct his own experiences." (*The Absorbent Mind*)

"These children reveal to us the most vital need of their development, saying: 'Help me to do it alone!'" (*The Discovery of the Child*)

## A look into our philosophy and practices

The combination results in a uniquely complete, developmentally atune, early childhood program. We see evidence of this every day when the children spontaneously display signs of their growth and learning physically, socially, and intellectually.

The previous 4 issues hold brief but in-depth views into our educational philosophy. We highly encourage everyone to go back and look at these for deeper understanding of how we interact with your children and why. Below is a summation of the main topics from these issues.

Also, we are very interested in your feedback on topics for future issues. Email [altheadunn@pisgahcollective.com](mailto:altheadunn@pisgahcollective.com) with any requests.

### It's not just WHAT we say but HOW we say it

(Issue 2/February)

\*The most important lesson of any moment is to treat each other with kindness.

\*We model communication skills that will further their quest for independence.

\*By the time they are two, it's important the adults in their lives hold them responsible for respectful communication, otherwise we are withholding tools they need for further social development

### Tell them what they CAN do

(Issue 3/March)

\*Positive redirection and language modeling are the most effective ways to resolve the inevitable conflicts of early childhood.

\*Subtle changes in the words we choose as adults can make a big difference in the level of success and understanding on the part of the child.

\*When possible, give a list of at least three other options.



"Free choice is one of the highest of all the mental processes."  
- Maria Montessori

Our daily practices blend the tradition of Montessori educational principles with authentic experiential outdoor opportunities.

### Freedom within limits and the value of conflict and conflict resolution

(Issue 4/April)

\*The full potential of growth is possible when children feel the security of clear expectations and boundaries.

\*There are three basic limits of freedom that are true throughout our lives: respect for oneself, others and the environment.

\*The adult village surrounding each child should strive for consistency in interpretation and reinforcement of this balance of freedom within limits

\*Each new freedom comes with attendant responsibilities.

### Curricular overview

(Issue 5/May)

\*We offer the traditional early childhood needs of stories, music, art and free play.

\*Along with Montessori inspired Practical Life and Sensorial experiences.

\*As well as farm inspired gardening and scientific discoveries.

# Family Potluck

**Where: Just Ripe Farm**

**When: Wednesday, September 12**

**5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**

Join us at the farm for a casual meet and greet style gathering! You can bring something to share but do not feel obligated. Please drop-in for a quick hello, or stay as long as you want! Invite other friends and family to join, anyone is welcome. This is a chance to meet other families, talk to the teachers, and see your kiddos in their classroom space.



*During the first week of fall semester we reconnected with old friends, met new ones, and learned about all of the engaging activities available in the greenhouse and at the farm.*

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



We started in August 2017 with 3 students in a 2-morning a week program. Now we offer 5 mornings per week as well as some afternoon programs. Between regular and special programming, over 80 kids have passed through our greenhouse classroom. The growth and support have been incredible in just a year. We are so excited to see what our second year has in store!

## Label EVERYTHING that comes to the farm

\* This will help us keep track of everyone's belongings. Part of our 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. 😊

## Important Dates

**FAMILY POTLUCK**

**Wednesday, September 12**

**5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.**

Casual potluck meet and greet! Come visit our classroom and meet other families. Stay the whole time or just pop by to say hello..

**FALL FESTIVAL**

**Saturday, October 13**

**12 p.m. - 5 p.m.**

Community event at Just Ripe Farm. More details to come at a later date.

**STONE SOUP**

**Wednesday, November 14**

**5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.**

Our 2nd annual Stone Soup Celebration at the farm.

**CLOSED**

**November 19 - 23**

**LAST DAY OF SEMESTER**

**December 21**

The first Payment is due by September 4.  
The second payment is due by October 1.