



Individualized Education for Independence

While we believe much of the following to be true throughout our lives, it is especially pertinent to the first 6 years of life. One of our primary inspirations from the Montessori theory of development is that of 'following the child.'

From montessoriforeveryone.com "Follow the child' does not mean let the child do what he wants. It is simply an acknowledgement that the child has his or her own pattern." We are constantly observing each child in our care, in order to ever increasingly understand their unique patterns.

This knowledge informs everything from knowing which skills they possess and which they are ready to practice, to how we help them to resolve conflicts, to simply recognizing when they may be particularly sad, tired or hungry. This is how we know how to set them up for success and thereby help them to develop confidence in their independence.

Setting someone up for success in any given scenario is an extremely personalized pursuit. Sometimes, it may mean withholding direct assistance when we are confident a little more time will provide the desired outcome. Conversely, it can also often look like offering a solution that is initially rebuked and patiently finding a way to convince that there is an easier way.

Examples here are endless; take a moment to think of some from your interactions with a child, or an adult for that matter!

Historically, educational curriculum has sought to conform students to arbitrary themes, benchmarks, schedules, etc. Many of the justifications for this were well meaning attempts to provide young people with the skills needed to be productive citizens. However, as time has shown, these externally derived goals have most often failed to produce the kind of creative, autonomous thinkers that can be successful in our complex, ever-changing world.

By not only allowing for, but celebrating our students' idiosyncrasies, we not only get to enjoy them more, but we partner with them to provide each with what they need when they need it. Keeping in mind their very young ages, often what they need is distinct from what they want. By knowing them as individuals, we learn what works to communicate this difference to them and they learn to trust us as having their best interests at heart.

Our concept of equality means meeting everyone where they are, and only from where we are can we move forward; what a world this could be if everyone kept this in mind. Our community of students, teachers and families are so lucky to have each other and find new ways of supporting one another all the time. We are proud to be a part of the change we wish to see in the world!



In this example, a younger student chose a beading work with small beads. We brought him these larger ones and the resulting success led to extended concentration and joy in his accomplishment."

One of the benefits of freely chosen, individual activities is the attendant responsibility to manage their materials and clean up when they decide they are all done. As a multi-age program, this changes as we recognize an individual is ready for another level of independence in completing a work cycle.

THIRD ANNUAL STONE SOUP CELEBRATION
Wednesday, November 20
4:30 - 7 p.m.

Join us at the barn for a celebration of community with a telling of the story "Stone Soup" and a shared dinner cooked on the fire. Families are encouraged to sign up for an item to add to the soup and to bring the whole family (email to follow)! If you cannot make it for the whole event PLEASE feel free to drop in and say hello! We are looking forward to a fun evening with everyone. Storytelling will begin as close to 5:30 as possible.

LABEL EVERYTHING!

As an increasing number of personal items are coming to school (extra layers, shoes, etc) please remember to label, at least with initials, all of it. This includes gloves and mittens! Please help us keep your child's things in order and allow them to get comfortable efficiently.



REGISTER FOR FREE

FAMILY TOOL KITS

For families with children ages 0-5

Scan the code or visit the web address below.



getset-tc.org

Kits include activities, resources and family fun!



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"Mud, mud, mud is so fun.
You mix dirt with water,
and you get MUD"

Important Dates

Fall Photo Week

November 6 - 8

Kaelee Denise will come to school during these mornings to snap candid as well as individual school photos. More info will be provided closer to these dates.

STONE SOUP CELEBRATION

Wednesday, November 20

4:30 - 7 p.m.

Mark your calendar for our third annual Stone Soup event where our community comes together to cook and eat a meal together. More details to follow.

CLOSED

Thanksgiving Break

November 25 -29

Last Day of Fall Semester

December 20

First Day of Spring Semester

January 6

Fall Payment #4 Due:
Friday, November 15
Final Fall Payment #5 Due:
Friday, December 20