



## Our Unique Take on Montessorian Insight

We invite everyone to revisit or check out our previous issues relating to our application of Montessori's method:

*(All of the following quotes are Dr. Maria Montessori's own words translated from Italian)*

[2.7 Our Montessori Inspiration](#)

[3.3 Individualized Education for Independence](#)

[3.10 Education for Peace](#)

The outdoor nature of our program is the paramount way we have adjusted the principles of Montessori education to our time, place and community. There is mounting evidence of the value of outdoor education (please see reverse for our next group reading opportunity to discuss nature deficit disorder!) and we are all lucky enough to call the Blue Ridge our home. Our hope for Pisgah Collective is that by sharing our love of this beautiful area, we will help instill an understanding of stewardship and responsibility in our students throughout their lives.

***'Through practical exercises...the children develop a true "social feeling," for they are working in the environment of the community in which they live, without concerning themselves as to whether it is for their own, or for the common good.'***

By giving our students the opportunity to be outside year round, we provide a plethora of experiences wherein they are a part of their own comfort and care, as well as a wide variety of inspiration for the various plans and projects they initiate.

***'...the freedom he enjoys comes from these steps towards independence taken in turn...***

***Truly it is nature which affords the child the opportunity to grow; it is nature which bestows independence upon him and guides him to success in achieving his freedom.'***

When Montessori refers to nature, she largely means the innate powers humans pass down generations, however she also saw the importance of children's connectivity to their surroundings and considered an awareness of these connections to be a large part of how they develop. When humans feel safe and integrated, the ways in which we manipulate the world around us are informed by a sense of care and desire to improve things anyway we can.

***'Order and discipline must be aimed at the attainment of human harmony...'***

Order and discipline are key concepts in Montessorian pedagogy. Along with the relationship between freedom and limits, following the child, and many other important insights from her time spent observing children, the attainment of an internal order and discipline was perhaps one of the more surprising things she was able to attribute to young children.

At Pisgah Collective, we take great care to provide appropriate limits in order to maximize our students' sense of freedom, thereby aiding as best we can their personal work toward a sense of internal order and discipline that will serve them in innumerable ways throughout their journey.

We model prosocial language and behavior and due to our understanding of and relationship with each of our students, we are able to provide them with many chances to try things again. We can also note when an individual would be better served with some time to reset rather than insist that they adjust to our adult timeframes.

***'The characteristic of children under 6 years of age is that it is almost impossible to teach them; children of this age cannot take from a teacher. Therefore they are considered to be too young to go to school and therefore education does not begin until 6 years of age. Another characteristic of this age is that the children know and understand a great deal. They are full of knowledge. This would seem to be a contradiction, but the truth is that these children must take knowledge by themselves from the environment.'***

Our classroom, play yard, and garden are all designed to meet the various needs and interests of the individuals in our care. They have many intriguing activities, works, and tools, all accessible to them at all times. We involve them in managing their personal belongings as well as care for our shared items. These simple things help all of our students (even those under 2!) to feel capable and excited to explore, learn, and grow no matter what each day brings our way!

***'To the young child we give guides to the world and the possibility to explore it through his own free activity.'***

Maria Montessori meant for practioners to adapt her teachings to their individual communities and our program continues to evolve and grow along with the needs of our students and families.


As always, we welcome questions and feedback anytime. Please don't hesitate to reach out.

## Seasonal Shift Towards Spring

This month holds the vernal equinox and welcomes spring while remaining firmly rooted in the winter. The excitement that comes with experiencing this shift toward summer is abundant at the barn!

Sending your child dressed in layers will help us during the drastic temperature fluctuations this time of year! T-shirt under long sleeves under a sweater under a jacket works great. If your child is in snow bibs or rain pants, please ensure they have proper pants underneath for when they delay! Especially on wet days, layering pants is also very helpful and will streamline changes. This also allows for the students that are able to practice this process more independently.



We will all work together to keep your kiddos comfortable and need your help to ensure they are prepared. Please utilize the parent group and Pisgah Collective Family facebook page for tips and tricks from other families and never hesitate to email and ask us if you have any questions.



**UPDATE**

Next week marks our non-profit's 1 year anniversary!! We are so grateful for all of the support and proud of the accomplishments so far. We have been able to offer more scholarships than ever before, begin converting our greenhouse into a useable classroom space, and are excited to host the greenhouse gallery event for the success of the Holiday Hoopla fundraiser!

Our anniversary event is **Monday, March 22 from 5-9 p.m. at 185 King Street.** Please join us in fundraising and celebrating by playing trivia!

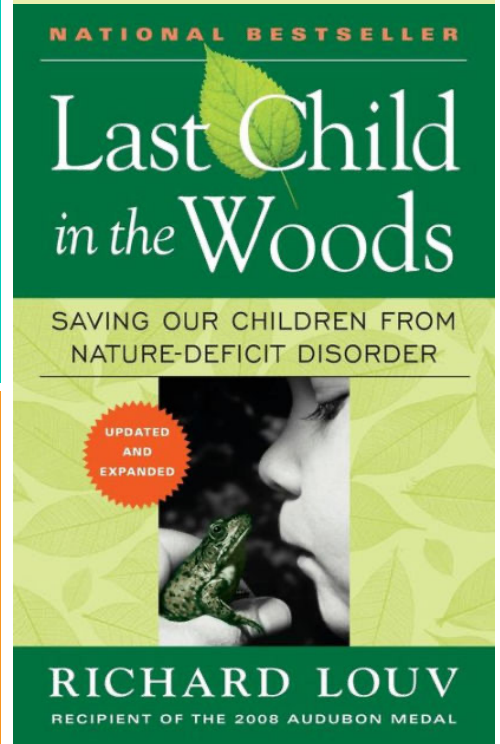


## SEASONS SONG

There are many different seasons  
In the Spring trees bud  
In the Summer trees bloom  
In the Fall the leaves change  
In the Winter they snooze  
Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter  
Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter  
There are many different seasons

## SUMMER READING

We are excited to announce our staff will be reading Richard Louv's Last Child in the Woods this semester. Louv coined the phrase "nature deficit disorder" and we would love for any interested families to join us for a discussion sometime this summer.



## Important Dates

- Early Enrollment Deadline  
Friday, March 5
- Trivia Night Fundraiser  
Monday, March 22  
5-9 p.m. at [185 King Street](#)  
Trivia will be from 6-8 p.m. Tables must be reserved ahead of time online and all proceeds will go to Friends of Pisgah Collective in support of our program!
- CLOSED: Spring Break  
April 5-9
- Save the Date: May Day Event  
Saturday, May 1  
\*Stay tuned for more info\*
- Last Day of Spring Semester  
Afternoons: Thursday, May 13  
Mornings: Friday, May 21

**Spring Payment #3 Due:**  
Wednesday, March 10  
**Spring Payment #4 Due:**  
Wednesday, April 14