

Community Handbook  
2023/24



## **"Stimulating curiosity while developing independence in thought and action"**

We declare our commitment now and in the future to participate in a universal social movement that places children at the centre of society, recognising them as citizen of the world. Our mission statement reflects our belief in what a quality school should do. We wish to engender a love of learning as well as an acceptance of personal responsibility for intellectual growth and social interaction. We believe that Child's View Montessori Center offers educational opportunities for students unrivalled by any other school in Moose Jaw. Our core values of Confidence, Respect and Compassion, represent the characteristics which we hold dear and which we strive to instill and uphold in our administration, faculty and student body. The Montessori philosophy is based on a profound respect for each child as a unique human being. Our approach assumes that children are born intelligent, curious, and creative and are ripe to develop a sense of wonder and imagination. The goal is not to control, but to inspire our children to learn voluntarily. In its essence, Montessori is designed to teach children to think deeply, to think for themselves and to think about others. We believe that while learning the right answers will get a child past exams and eventually through school, learning how to think for oneself (in effect, learning how to learn) will get a child through both school and life. I invite you to join us at Child's View Montessori Center as we offer the opportunity for a vibrant and fresh vision of education for your child.

***"Provide your child with optimal learning environment, to develop his or her innate needs for exploration of the world in order to enhance the desire for lifelong learning. This will provide a solid foundation for the child's intellectual development"* (Maria Montessori 1876)**

Director,  
Yolanda Balaberda

## **About Our School**

Child's View Montessori Center is a not-for-profit organization. It is supported by tuition income as well as charitable gifts. Montessori schools are found in over fifty countries throughout the world, reflecting their universal appeal. Consequently, our curriculum reflects not only the universal developmental needs of children, but also the cultural diversity of humankind.

Child's View Montessori Center provides a well – equipped facility for the children. Within our facility there are two main classroom spaces as well as a fully fenced outdoor play area. The goal of the preschool classroom is to provide a nurturing environment where children can grow and develop at their own pace. The teacher in a Montessori classroom is a guide rather than an instructor and serves as a link between the child and the learning environment. The classroom's warm and relaxed atmosphere is ideal for your child's first learning experience. In this prepared environment, the children learn to explore and make their own discoveries about the world around them. Order in the environment is particularly important and a valuable saying in our class is "*A place for everything and everything in its place*".

In the classroom, children are given freedom to develop according to their own needs and tendencies within a carefully monitored environment. This freedom allows the children to build self-esteem and independence. The philosophy behind the program can best be described in Dr. Montessori's own words. We strive to "*help the child help himself*".

## Curriculum

### Music Class

Children receive instruction in singing, rhythm, and ear training with teddy bears being one of the learning "tools". Students progress weekly with Mrs. Cora through the **Music for Young Children** program. They all get opportunities to sing both individually and together as a group. Children do lots of movement activities that focus on responding to music phrases, themes and moods.

### World Explorations / Cultural Activities

Each month's activities are planned around a continent. Children will learn about the world we live in by exploring animals, landmarks and languages unique to each of our seven continents. Children learn about people, their countries and the world through food, music, pictures, flags, maps, artefacts, holiday celebrations and other cultural observations.

### Art and Crafts

Arts and Craft materials are available to children every day, however once a week we will do a more structured craft based on the theme we are studying. Children may choose gluing, painting, or drawing at the easel. We provide a wide range of puzzles and fine motor activities, ranging from simple to complex. As children progress, more challenging materials are made available.

### Practical Life

All activities connected with looking after one's self and one's surroundings belong to what Dr. Montessori called "Practical Life". These activities prepare children to care for themselves and the environment and give each child a sense of mastery and self-confidence. The main areas are care of the person (dressing, washing hands, and food preparation), care of the environment (sweeping, washing clothes, and gardening) and grace and courtesy (walking in the classroom, offering food, saying "please" and "thank you"). Montessori – trained teachers help children to develop coordination, concentration and good work habits.

### Sensorial

Montessori materials are designed to heighten the child's senses of sight, touch, sound, taste and smell. Children's senses are a key to understanding and classifying the environment. Through distinguishing, categorizing and comparing the concrete, children develop a foundation for understanding the abstract. We use wooden puzzles and equipment as much as possible. Everything is carefully displayed on low shelves to invite the child to use them and to appeal to the sense of order in the child. Specially designed Montessori material encourages different discoveries through all the senses.

## **Language**

Using simple alphabet cut-outs and sandpaper letters, children learn the sounds of letters and soon are linking letters to make words, then words to make sentences. Children first develop the fine muscle coordination necessary to master writing with the Practical Life and Sensorial materials. They soon progress to writing letters. Young children love to learn the names of all objects in their environment. We present real objects whenever possible. Phonetic sounds are also introduced through sandpaper letters, laying a solid foundation for word formation and reading.

## **Math**

The foundation of a love of mathematics comes not from rote lessons, but from the joyful experiences of seeing the shapes of objects, exploration with the hands and from movement. The formation of the mathematical mind, which will last a lifetime, begins with simple activities - collecting, sorting, sequencing, counting, comparing and discovering relationships and patterns through these activities. Sandpaper numbers help the children learn the symbols from 0 - 9. Using self-correcting materials, children learn not only number recognition and place value, but also to solve problems and to develop a visual image of mathematical concepts.

## **RULES AND REGULATIONS**

### **Age at Entry and Registration**

You can register your child at any time, as we offer an on-going registration (if space is available). We give available places to children between the age of 36 months and 6 years. To confirm your child's place within the school, one month's tuition is due in advance, even if you delay your child's start date. Registration is based on a minimum of one-year enrolment in the school. All complete applications for enrolment are accepted provided there is space on a first come first serve basis.

### **Waiting List**

To be added to our waiting list, an application form will need to be completed, then a tour scheduled. Once confirmation has been made that our program would fit your needs, a spot on the waiting list will be offered.

### **School Year**

The school year begins in early September and continues through mid June. Child's View Montessori Center follows a standard school year. Please check the school's web site for a full, detailed school calendar

### **School Hours**

Morning Session: 8:45 – 11: 30  
Lunch Break: 11:30 -12:20  
Afternoon Session: 12:30 – 3:15  
Full Day: 8:45 – 3:15

### **Extended Hours**

Before School: 8:00 – 11:30  
Before School with Lunch Break: 8:00- 12:20  
Afternoon Session: 12:30 – 4:00  
Full Day: 8:00- 4:00

Late fees will be charged by the minute for any time after 4:00.

## **Field Trips**

Throughout the school year some field trips will be planned to enhance student learning. On field trip days, regular classes are cancelled and your child will need to have a guardian with them for transportation. Due to the number of children we often take students in groups to these outings and if your child attends the full day program, they will choose which group to attend with (they will not attend both morning and afternoon tours). Dismissal will always happen from the location of the field trip and not from the school. In the event of late pick up from a field trip a fee will apply

## **Snack and Lunch**

Snack is supplied by each child's family and consists of fresh fruits and vegetables. Parents should send ample snack for their child and if they are with us for the full day, please send double snack

Each family also provides lunch for their own child. Lunch needs to include protein, dairy, grains and more fruits and vegetables. Depending on enrolment, we may ask that no peanuts or tree nuts be sent in to the school.

Water bottles are to come with each child to school every day.

Children will be offered a glass of milk with their snack.

## **Arriving at and Collection from School**

Drop off of children will happen at the main doors. In most cases children will proceed to the back yard for outside play time prior to starting class. Drop off can occur between 8:00 – 8:45 am (or 12:30-12:45 pm). Children must be dressed for the weather.

Half day pick up is at 11:30. Parents are asked to stay outside the main gate and we will bring your child out to you.

Full day (or afternoon) pick up is between 3:15-4:00. Please come to the back yard to collect your child.

## **Parent Partnership**

We welcome parental involvement; whether by being a member of our Parent Advisory Council, helping with outings, transportation and events, activities with the children or input to our policies. If you have any suggestions, please let us know – we may not always agree, of course, but we will listen carefully and discuss your ideas. We hold a minimum of one parents meeting each term. We contact parent through, phone or email, please check your email regularly. We also have a private Facebook group for currently enrolled families where we share pictures and information from inside the classroom. Invoicing and attendance is done through an online app, Brightwheel. Parent's must sign up for this free app.

### **Illness**

Please see CVMC Health and Safety guidelines for full illness policy.

Parents must not send a sick child to school and must inform the director as soon as possible, especially if the illness is contagious. Children with contagious diseases must not be brought to school until cleared by a doctor. Children with a heavy cough and cold are better kept at home.

### **Absence**

If your child will be absent from school for any reason, please inform us at 306 692 3533. Regular attendance at school is very important for the child's progress.

### **School Uniform**

Child's View Montessori Center has found uniforms to be an asset to a school program. Not only are they convenient for parents, uniforms can be more economical over time. As the child grows older, uniforms help eliminate comparison and competition in dress. Each student requires a daily uniform. The school uniform consists of navy blue bottoms and a school top. Please note they must be **PLAIN** navy blue bottoms (any design, embroidery or any kind of pattern is not acceptable). The school tops are available at the school for purchase. Please order early to receive items on time. In the winter months, if long sleeves are worn under the school top, they must be navy, white or grey in colour.

Children are provided with a school bag to be used for transporting lunch, snack and drink containers to and from school. No other bag or backpack is to be used. School bags will be laundered at school.