



FATIMIYAH MONTESSORI SYSTEM (FMS)

NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER, 2014



The most important period of life is not the age of university studies, but the period from birth to the age of six, for that is the time when intelligence itself is being formed and carried on throughout a lifetime.
~ Maria Montessori

Dear FMS Families,

It's wonderful to see how well our Montessori students have settled into their new environments. They come to school smiling, and filled with enthusiasm to enjoy the Montessori activities. The classrooms are buzzing with activities, arts and crafts and the little ones, who are so engaged in exploring and being creative.

As you read this newsletter, you will get an overview of the previous months' achievements.

Our focus through all learning is the development of concentration and independent working routines; our classrooms are student-centered, where student learning is at the heart of our written and taught curriculum.

Compounded with all the excitement and anticipation the holiday season brings, please be mindful of children's routines and take time to enjoy the simple pleasures of the season.

One of the simple pleasures of daily routines is a special reading time. Enjoy these moments with your precious little ones. I wish you all a happy and healthy holiday season.

Afsheen Agha



Montessori Junior

The students have mastered basic practical life exercises of pegging, weaving, buttoning, sponging, pouring, spooning, polishing and washing. Year 2 students are also refining their movements and senses through advanced polishing and washing exercises. These practical life exercises are helping them to develop their concentration, which is a key factor required for reading and writing exercises. The students have started writing a few English alphabet in cursive. The introduced letters are u, l, t, m, c, s, i, and d. Students are at different levels in writing according to their level of developed movements.

Fifteen Sight vocabulary words have been introduced to them for helping them to be able to read simple storybooks. The same strategy is being followed in Urdu.

In Maths, the students are learning to make quantities and relating them with their symbols from 1 to 9. Basic shapes have been introduced so far. Grace and courtesy lessons are also introduced to teach social skills. Sports activities focus on the development of large physical movements.

In Quran and Islamiyat they are learning about cleanliness, taking advise, shukr, friendship, brotherhood, qibla, namaaz-e-Jamaat, unity, arrogance and respect of parents.

READING TO YOUR CHILD

HOW TO READ

Before you start to read, allow the child to get settled. Let them take as much time as they need to get comfortable. Some need more time than others. Hold your child close to you while you read, either on your lap or by your side. This will make the story or poem even more special for them.

Be sure there are no distracting noises such as television or radio in the background during story time, so that your child can direct all of their attention to the story or poem. As you read, be dramatic! Change the tone of your voice to fit each character. You can use your own voice for the main character, and a higher and lower voice for the other characters.

Remember not to read too fast. Stop reading now and then and ask your child "What do you think will happen next?" or "Where would you like to be in this picture?" Young children often want to talk about the pictures or about experiences they remember that relate to the book. Let them talk! It is not always important to read the story straight through without stopping, especially if a child wants to tell you something. You may get to know your child better by listening to their stories. Often

stories and pictures draw out strong emotions in children, and they need to talk about how they feel. Sometimes it is all right to read a story that is a little bit above the child's thinking level. This will challenge them to wonder and think more. It is not a good idea to read stories to children that might upset them emotionally. For instance, a scary story about monsters in the dark might upset a child who is afraid to go to bed at night. Young children do not yet know the difference between real and pretend, and they may believe that monsters live in their rooms.

Tell your child who the author and illustrator are. Young children often do not realize that stories and poems are written by people. Allow some time after you read the story or poem for the child to talk about it.

WHEN TO READ

Anytime is a good time to read, as long as the child is in a good mood and wants to hear a story. Children should not be forced to listen to a story if they do not want to. You can set aside at least one special story time each day, and let your child decide whether or not they want to use that time for reading.

Montessori Senior

The students are working with advanced Practical life exercises and sensorial material to be able to develop concentration and refine their senses.

English Language

They have started writing three and four letter phonetic words. Movable Alphabet; a box of letters; is helping them to master these words. Few phonograms sh, ch, oo, ee, ea, all, ar, ck, and th have also been introduced. They have recently started writing simple sentences and will continue to develop the skill of writing creatively during the next three months. They have learnt 40 sight vocabulary words and will further build on their vocabulary to be able to read simple storybooks. They can be encouraged to read books at home.

Urdu Language

The students have also practiced two letter and three letter words during the month of November and December.

Vocabulary

English and Urdu vocabulary is given through vocabulary baskets, play corners, flash cards, soft board and thematic vocabulary activities and cards.

Maths

The students are working with number from 1 till 100. Decimal system has been introduced and the students are making tens with the help of material. They will master number from 1-100 in the next two months. They are also writing number in words from 1 to 20. The students are also practicing the concept of addition and subtraction through concrete objects and with pictures.

Quran and Islamiat

The students are learning about tawheed, hijab, peace, best creator, sacrifice, increasing knowledge and water. The students comprehend the meaning of the given ayaats and are able to memorise them. The Montessori Directress present in the room reinforces the concept during the day so the students realize that Quranic values are part of our lives.

Art:

Art activities are kept in the environment in such a way that the students work with the material independently. They are required to take ownership of their work. They are taught how to clean the material after using them.

Class 1 & 2

Class 1 & 2 are a part of Montessori system therefore, Montessori reading and writing program has also been implemented in these classes. The students are reading phonetic word booklets along with phonograms. Every week they get sight vocabulary words to learn and an assessment of these words is held on every Monday. They are given practice of creative writing and comprehension passages on regular basis. It is important to note that the purpose of creative writing is to develop fluency in writing down their own thoughts therefore, the teachers are not allowed to highlight the errors in spellings and grammar during creative writing time. Both the classes begin their English lessons by writing a sentence of the given word.

To improve the mental capacity and fluency in mathematical calculations, they are given the practice of mental Maths questions on daily basis. The mathematical concepts are taught through concrete material.

General Knowledge lessons are focused on hands on activities and scientific experiments.

The students are learning how to recite Quranic Ayaats with the help of Quranic Quaida. Art and computer lessons are also helping them to enhance their creativity.

Workshops/Meetings for Parents

An orientation meeting was held before the beginning of the session in August 2014. The purpose of the meeting was to orient the parents with Montessori philosophy of teaching. During the first week of December 14, two presentations were held for the parents to orient them with Montessori reading and writing program. On parents' request a workshop is scheduled on 20th December '14 for teaching English language through phonics and the formation of cursive letters.



Acting Principal: Sakina Nanji
 Academic Coordinator: Afsheen Agha
 Assistant Coordinator: Naseem Fatima
 Administrative Assistant: Kausar Salman

TEACHERS OF SUNFLOWER

- 1 - Asma & Sukaina
- 2 - Musarrat & Laraib
- 3 - Sharmeen & Kaniz
- 4 - Sameena & Zainab
- 5 - Seema & Farwa
- 6 - Sana & Narjis

TEACHERS OF MARIGOLD

- 1 - Riffat & Farheen
- 2 - Erum & Tehreem
- 3 - Shazia & Batul
- 4 - Sadaf
- 5 - Mona & Anila
- 6 - Mehak & Rosmeen

TEACHERS OF BUTTERFLY

- 1 - Saira & Aeliya
- 2 - Siddiqa & Farhat
- 3 - Maria & Kausar
- 4 - Sabera & Aliza
- 5 - Azra & Sabera
- 6 - Kanwal & Sukaina