



Children's House Preschool/Kindergarten

Classroom Information

Thank you for your interest in Cedar Tree Montessori. Below is information about our observation and enrollment process.

Enrollment

At the time of your inquiry, we will provide you with a student application for enrollment. If you wish to apply for enrollment we ask that you please submit the following:

- A completed enrollment packet.
- \$50.00 non-refundable application fee.
- Your child's current Certificate of Immunization or Exemption.

Completed enrollment information (enrollment packet, application fee and Certificate or Immunizations/Exemptions) will be held until we do our internal re-enrollment process each February. When we know the number of openings we have in each classroom, we will fill these openings with our list of applicants. We balance our classes by age, gender and need. We will contact families who have submitted all the above application materials when there are openings. In the meantime, please contact us with any questions or to update your contact information. Thank you again for taking your time to learn more about us.

Alexandra Sands, Lead Teacher

Alexandra Sands is a Bellingham native and attended a local Montessori School until 2nd grade. After receiving her Bachelor of Arts degree from Whitman in 1994, Alexandra received her Montessori certification in 1996, in California. She taught in Casper, Wyoming for four years before returning to Bellingham to be near family. She opened Salmonberry Montessori School in 2006 and continued at Pioneer Meadows Montessori for three years until the birth of her twins in 2012. Alexandra enjoys being outside with her family; hiking, gardening, beach combing, and bike riding. Alexandra joins us with over ten years of Montessori classroom experience and we are excited to have her at Cedar Tree.

Our day includes...

- Practical Life
- Social Skills
- Music
- Movement
- Sensory Awareness
- Science
- Care for self, others, the environment and our Earth
- Hands on learning
- Language Arts
- Mathematics.

Location

Our Children's House Preschool/Kindergarten is located at 1326 N Garden Street within the Garden Street United Methodist Church. Our Elementary classrooms (grades 1-6) are located at 2114 Broadway.

Schedule:

Our afternoon schedule is reserved for our 5 and 6-year-old students or 4-year old's, who are showing readiness. Please consult Alexandra to determine the best schedule for your returning child.

Session	# of Days	Days	Price Monthly	Times
Half Day	3	T,W,Th	\$322.00	8:45 am - 12:00 pm
Half Day	5	M-F	\$377.00	8:45 am - 12:00 pm
Full Day	3	T,W,Th	\$452.00	8:45 am – 3:00 pm
Full Day	5	M-F	\$567.00	8:45 am - 3:00 pm

Observations

If you would like to come and see first-hand the methods, materials, and culture of our classroom, we invite you to schedule an observation. We have observations on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the morning. During your observation, we will take a moment to learn more about the unique needs of your child and your hopes for their preschool experience.

We welcome you to our Children's House preschool, classroom. We invite you to observe the classroom and see first-hand the methods, materials and culture of our classroom.

In order to see the classroom as it normally operates, we ask that parents stay seated and quietly observe so that you have an authentic experience of the day-to-day classroom feel.

You will notice that most of the classroom is sized for the children in it. You will see a classroom environment that reflects how children really work, play, and learn providing work spaces for individual and group activities at tables, on rugs, mats, and pillows. The classroom is set up so that each child can successfully navigate the classroom with curiosity and independence.

When you observe, look for these key elements of a Montessori classroom:

- Child initiated exploration in the classroom
- A child's secure sense of independence
- The industrious and joyful hum of the classroom
- The degree of concentration demonstrated
- The kindness and respect demonstrated to each other
- Children of varying ages working together
- Peaceful and calm body movements

Explain the teachers' role in the classroom?

The lead teacher's role in a Montessori classroom is less directive than is customary in traditional classrooms. A lead teacher's role is to guide children and observe each child's interaction with the environment. The teacher carefully prepares the classroom by providing stimulating objects and by removing obstacles to learning. Typically a teacher will give a lesson to an individual child or to a small group and then step back to allow the child to pursue the work independently. An assistant's role in the classroom is to help prepare and maintain the classroom, provide oversight to the classroom while the lead teacher is giving lessons, observe behaviors, model grace and courtesy and assist in each child's development of Independence.

Why the absence of dolls, trucks, dress up and other traditional toys?

Montessori classrooms provide children opportunities for life skills such as: baking, food preparation, planting and tending real gardens, sweeping floors and cloth washing. There is value in dolls, trucks and make believe, however the focus of their time at school is on real-life experience.

Why is it so quiet in the classroom?

Montessori teachers lead by example by using a quiet classroom voice. The goal is to cultivate a learning space that allows children to focus and concentrate on the work of his/her choosing.

Below is an area to write down observations or list any questions you wish to discuss: