



School Supply List for 2023-2024

Children's House

In Classroom School Supplies - ALL Students

Please clearly label all items with your child's name. These will remain at school for the school year and will need to be replenished as necessary.

- ☐ **One pair of Rubber-Soled Indoor Shoes** *- For use in classroom
- ☐ **One Small Mug or Cup** - Help your child choose a *small* (6-8 oz), easily identifiable cup to use for drinking water at school. Please label with your child's name on the side or bottom of the cup.

Emergency Items - Please place the following items inside a Ziploc bag labeled with your child's name. *We will return items at the end of the school year.*

- ☐ A reassuring note from parents
- ☐ A family picture

Note about clothing and shoes: *- Clothing can be an expression of a child's development and personality. We support children to dress themselves in clothes and shoes that are comfortable and that they can use with ease (as they are able). Children need to be able to push up long sleeves to wash their hands, pull pants down and up to use the bathroom, sit comfortably on the floor to work and be able to cross their legs for circle time. Loose or stretchy clothing often works best to allow freedom of movement in the classroom. It can be helpful to designate certain clothes as "school clothes" that your child can choose from in the morning. Please wait until your child can tie their own shoes before sending shoes that tie with laces.

During your child's school day, please avoid clothing and shoes that feature media characters on them. These characters and stories can be exclusive to those not familiar with a certain show or movie, a distraction to children and limit creativity. We appreciate your support.

More Montessori Information - *Why we do what we do

You may have noticed that there are a few unique items listed on the school supply list. These are traditional to a Montessori classroom and support specific goals.

Inside Shoes/Slippers

A Montessori classroom traditionally has children and teachers/guides wear different shoes or slippers for use in the indoor space. This practice promotes cleanliness in the classroom and creates an active transition between the outside world and the inside space. The act of removing outdoor shoes and putting on a different pair of shoes that is specifically designated for indoor use signals children to switch gears in rhythm and place. It is a visual and physical gate between the two spaces and reinforces the change in behavior and expectations that are part moving from outdoor to indoor.

Shoes that allow independence:

Encouraging independence in children is a core principle of Montessori education. It fosters confidence, teaches a child responsibility for themselves (and their space) and builds important life skills. One of the key goals of Montessori education is to teach children to be able to do things for themselves. In a Montessori classroom, independence is an ongoing and organic process. As a child learns to pour water, put on their own shoes and clean their own workspace, they become more confident and independent, all of which lead to ongoing benefits throughout their childhood and life. Students are provided with daily opportunities for independent and self-directed learning and the independent task of being able to put on their shoes supports and encourages this independence. Please support your child's independence by providing them with shoes that they can put on and take off independently (rubber boots, crocs, some non-tie shoes). Let your child demonstrate putting their shoes on/off and you will know right away which shoes are good school shoes.