



HIMS

Monthly News

ARTICLES, TIPS, PHOTOS, & MORE!

November 2021



A Little Patience

Teaching is all about patience. Not just the patience that comes to mind when you envision being the adult in a sea of five year olds. And not just the patience an adult needs when interacting with that pre-adolescent student trying to find just one more loophole. But also the patience needed to deal with the unknown. As educators we aren't totally sure the level of impact we are making until months or more likely years later. We don't know how our students will contribute to the world, what obstacles will fall onto their path, or who they will become as adults. We guide their education and hope that every lesson we give, every comment we make, every book we recommend, every bit of advice we dole out will help them ultimately become exactly who they are meant to be. The same is certainly true for parenting. It's exciting to imagine who our children will one day become.

This year I'm finding that being patient about the unknown is even more important than ever. We are definitely seeing some changes in behavior in children in general, and hearing from our colleagues at other schools that we aren't alone. An uptick in internet and social media use, a lowered frustration threshold, a constant need for social interaction, and at the same time more children reporting that they feel socially awkward. As parents and educators seeing our children go through this is, at best, uncomfortable. We want to jump in and fix things and "get back to normal". Right now everything feels intense and urgent. I keep reminding myself that our children are still figuring out the world and this world is changing quickly. As adults, we need to slow down and take a few breaths before jumping in to try to fix everything. We need to be patient and let time work its magic. Unfortunately, I think we need to live in the discomfort a little bit. I once read that if patience was easy, it wouldn't be a virtue. That's for sure!

In Montessori we truly believe in the value of independence, of making mistakes, and of letting children have challenges—socially and academically—to help them persevere. We believe this all of the time, but I think these days it's even more important to step back and wait. It's important to advocate for our children and to create a stable environment for them. We can do this and still give our children room to explore. We need to be at peace with not having all of the answers, nor all of the control.

I believe this is easier to do in ordinary times, and much harder in the middle of a pandemic! We don't know how the world will change, but we know it will, it's actively changing right now. We don't know all of the impact this pandemic will have on our kids, but we know they are and will continue to be impacted. We can help our children continue to thrive and grow by supporting them, encouraging them, loving them, and giving them a little time to work through the obstacles set before them. I don't know where our kids will be in twenty years, but I know the patience we grant them now will help them grow into who they want to be.

In this season of gratitude, I'm thankful to be a part of a community who values and centers the well-being of children. Wishing you all a great November and an extra dose of patience.

Warmly, *Aimee*

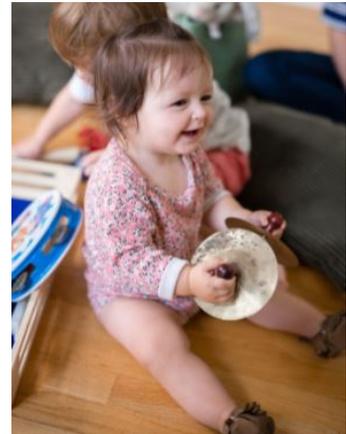
The Importance of Music

By April Crichfield, Willow Room Teacher

"There should be music in the child's environment, just as there does exist in the child's environment spoken speech. In the social environment the child should be considered and music should be provided."

-Maria Montessori

For some, music is a healing tool. Many studies have shown that music has an effect on the physical, emotional, and intellectual development of infants, and it has the ability to strengthen cognitive and sensory development.



Music allows the body and mind to work together, which enhances the learning experience. Music is a great way to teach children pre-math skills, because it allows them to learn rhythm! A young child rarely sits still while listening to music. At a very young age children learn to clap. This is one way that a child might react when listening to music. Clapping allows the child to develop rhythm, while also stimulating their motor skills. Some young infants might sway side-to-side, or move their head with the music, and again, this is allowing the mind and the body to work together. Once the child is able to stand, they will most likely enjoy dancing along with the music. Dancing allows the child to build his or her motor skills. Dancing is also a great form of expression!

Music is a great outlet for developing creativity. Young children are able to creatively dance, play musical instruments, and possibly even sing along to the music. Infants easily and effortlessly catch on to familiar songs. With time you might notice that they participate in finger plays during *Itsy Bitsy Spider*, or that they start singing "up above" while you sing *Twinkle Twinkle Little Star*. They might also begin to recognize when the song ends, and may clap and ask for more. This is because music is a great way to stimulate a young child's memory! Isn't it funny how we can easily forget what we ate for lunch last week or what our 3rd grade teacher's name was, but we never seem to forget song lyrics?

Song lyrics can be simple, complex, silly, and educational! The more your child listens to music, the more they are being exposed to language. Songs are great ways for children to develop language skills. Don't be afraid to allow your child to listen to a variety of music genres. You just might discover that your child enjoys 80's rock music over *Old MacDonald*.

Music isn't just fun and games, it's an educational piece for infants. Spend time each day singing and dancing with your infant. Your infant's creativity, language, pre-math skills, and motor development will benefit from it.

Thank you!



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Board Corner

Thank you all so much for another successful Annual Fund Campaign. We are continuously blown away by the generosity and unwavering enthusiasm of our community.

This year, we surpassed our goal of \$40,000 by almost \$16,000! In total, we raised \$55,763.11 - all of which will go directly back into the school to support our daily operations. Our Board participation was 100%, and both our staff and parent participation came in at around 84%. It is so inspiring to see that each branch of our community believes so wholeheartedly in our school mission.

Speaking of our school mission, there is some important long-term, visionary work going on right now in terms of our strategic plan. Once again, we are asking for your help! If you are interested in lending your thoughts to our planning process, [please sign up for one of our focus groups happening this month](#). Your voice is an invaluable part of our work!

Once again, a huge thank you to all of the Annual Fund donors listed on the previous page, as well as to every member of our community for all you do to support our school.

In gratitude,
Julie Thorn

Upcoming Closures:

***November 11th & 12th** All School closure for Veteran's Day

***November 24th** All School Noon Dismissal

***November 25th & 26th** All School closure for Thanksgiving Break



This Month's Contributors:

Aimee Allen - Head of School
April Crichfield - Infant Teacher
Julie Thorn - Board Chair

