



The Montesori Studio

INSPIRING JOYFUL LEARNING



Anna Digby
Owner and Teacher

Dear Families,

Selecting a program for your child can be nerve racking. I am a parent myself and, quite honestly, could not find a program that checked all of our boxes. That is why I created The Montessori Studio.

I designed our program in response to some of the unmet needs I noticed at the centers where I have worked. From small group sizes to independence and nutritional needs, I've designed a program that combines classic Montessori principles with the latest in educational research.

This guide gives an overview of our program and highlights some of the things that makes The Montessori Studio unique. Of course, please reach out if you have any questions- I am always happy to help.

Anna



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About The Studio



Our Philosophy

At The Montessori Studio, we strive to cultivate a nurturing and inclusive learning environment where each child is empowered to explore, create, and grow.

Guided by Montessori principles, we work to foster independence, curiosity, and a genuine love of learning. We are attentive to details and intentionally design classrooms, enrichment spaces, and outdoor areas to encourage and nurture academic development as well as emotional, social, and practical life skills.



What is Montessori Education?

Montessori education is based on the idea that children learn best through hands-on, self-directed activities. The Montessori method encourages independence, curiosity, and academic growth by allowing children to explore and learn at their own pace with carefully designed materials. Teachers, known as "guides," provide personalized lessons based on each child's interests and readiness. Montessori education nurtures a child's natural potential, fostering independence and preparing them for both school and life.



Meet Your Teacher

As the sole teacher in a small home based program, I have the opportunity to get to know each child and their family in a way that simply isn't possible in a larger center. Of course, this relationship also requires a lot of trust from families. I'd love to share about my background, qualifications, and teaching philosophy to help you decide if our program may be right for you.

Education

I hold a Master of Arts in Teaching from Pacific University, with a focus on math instruction and teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages. I have my Montessori Diploma at the Children's House level, having completed over 900 hours studying Montessori philosophy and refining my teaching practice.

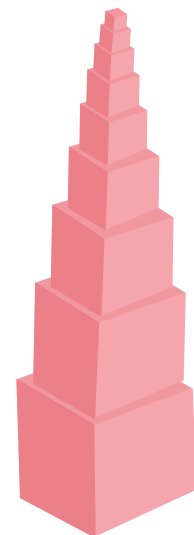
Certification and Experience

I am a licensed Oregon teacher and am actively enrolled in the Department of Early Education's online registry for early childhood teachers. I have over ten years of teaching experience in public and private school settings.

Teaching Philosophy

I focus on fostering independence, curiosity, and a love of learning through hands-on, individualized experiences that let children explore at their own pace. I believe that all behavior is communication and is often the result of an unmet need.

By working closely with families, I aim to help each child build confidence, problem-solving skills, and a strong understanding of the world. I believe this partnership is key to helping children thrive.



Our School

Located in a quiet, tree-filled neighborhood in Tigard, The Montessori Studio provides exceptional Montessori programming for a small community of families.

We are a Registered Family Care Home with the Department of Early Learning (license # RF539855). Our school is on the ground floor of our home and features a Montessori classroom and separate inside play space for free time and days when we can't go outside .

Our outside space is fully-fenced and expansive, featuring a play structure and native landscaping. We provide opportunities for nature play and spend time outside in all types of weather.

A huge feature of our campus is our extensive gardens. We grow vegetables for our snacks and meals and flowers for our classroom. Out front, we have a huge array of grapes, blueberries, and raspberries that we harvest throughout the spring and summer.



Daily Schedule

8:00- 8:30 am- Arrival (early arrival by previous arrangement)

8:30-11:30 am- Morning Work Period- a period of self-choice that include individual and group lessons, self-selected activities, snack (served 9-9:30am), lunch preparations, and an optional group gathering

11:30am -12:30pm- Outside Gross Motor and Activities

12:30-1:00 pm- Lunch

1:00-3:00 pm- Rest and/or Afternoon Work Period- children who do not nap will rest on a rug for 20 minutes while listening to a book (either an audio book or read-aloud chapter book) before beginning their afternoon work period. As children awake from nap, they can join the work period. Snack will be self-served from 2:45-3:15pm

3:00-4:00 pm- Aftercare and Pick-up: (late pick-up by previous arrangement) outside or inside play, depending on children's needs and weather constraints.



The Work Period

The work period is the heart of our program. This three hour period is a time of ultimate freedom for the child. They can choose what they work on, for how long, and with whom. They have freedom of movement and can get up and walk about at any time, as long as they do not disturb others.

This is also when children receive presentations for the adult (called "the guide" in Montessori). Through careful observation and their own detailed knowledge of child development, the guide introduces the child to new material that will spark their interest and encourage exploration.



Curriculum

As a Montessori program, our curriculum is highly individualized. Each child learns and grows at their own pace, but the following progression gives a sample of skills by age:

2.5 years

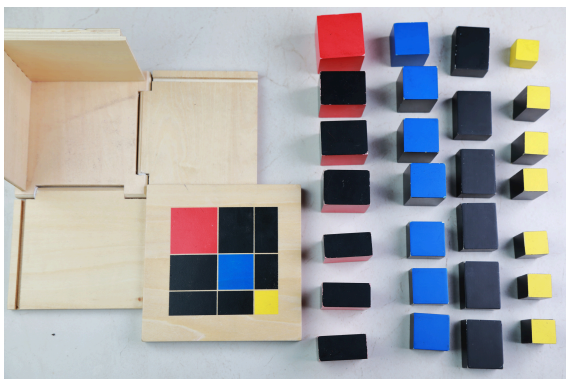
At this age, children are learning to care for themselves and contribute to the classroom community. They engage in practical life activities like cleaning spills and buttoning buttons, while also developing oral language and social skills.



3 years

At three years old, children take on more complex tasks like arranging flowers and serving tea, while refining their senses through activities that involve distinguishing between visual, tactile, or auditory items. Favorite materials include the pink tower, sound cylinders, and touch tablets. They also develop advanced language skills with nomenclature cards, sound games, and command games.

3.5 years



Around 3.5 years old, children start learning letter sounds and how to write them. They soon move on to forming words with a movable alphabet and begin reading simple words. They also explore more complex activities like sewing, the trinomial cube, and constructive triangles.



4 years

At four years old, children are refining their reading and writing skills, building on their knowledge of letter sounds and words. They begin to explore early math concepts, such as counting and number recognition, using hands-on materials like the number rods and spindle box. Four-year-olds also engage in more detailed practical life activities, like food preparation and plant care, and continue to develop their fine motor skills through activities like the knobless cylinders and puzzle maps.

4.5 years



At 4.5 years old, children are deepening their understanding of math and language. They begin working with materials like the golden beads to learn about place value and perform simple addition and subtraction. In language, they are reading simple books and writing short sentences. They also continue to develop in other areas such as advanced food preparation, geography and science.

5 years and beyond

At five years old, children are solidifying their skills in reading, writing, and math. They are often reading fluently, writing stories, and solving math problems using all four operations with materials like the stamp game and bead chains. Five-year-olds also take on leadership roles in the classroom, mentoring younger peers, and they continue to explore advanced subjects such as geography, science, and cultural studies. This age marks a period of increased independence and self-confidence.



Meals Matter

Food is a huge part of our program. We believe exposing children to a variety of different foods, familiarizing them with the process of growing and harvesting, and involving them in cooking and food preparation builds independence and healthy habits.

We follow USDA guidelines to serve organic meals and snacks. Children are also actively involved in every aspect of the process, from growing and harvesting organic produce from our garden to baking the bread we use for sandwiches.



Independent Snacks

Snacks are self-prepared and self-served. Children develop important food preparation skills like peeling, chopping, spooning, and spreading.

Lunch is About Community

As lunch time approaches, children are busy preparing. Whenever possible, we make our food from scratch (baking our own bread, soaking and cooking beans, and making our own pasta sauce). We eat family style at a set table, complete with placemats, cloth napkins, and beautifully arranged flowers from our garden.

When it is time to eat, we all sit and practice manners associated with eating. We pass serving bowls while having conversations on various topics. After eating, children clear the table and wash their own dishes before starting a free choice activity.



Hours, Tuition, and Holidays

Hours

Our regular programming hours are **8am until 4pm**. Should your family need care outside those hours, we can provide "aftercare" between the hours of 7 and 8am and between 4 and 6:00pm.

Aftercare is charged at a rate of \$5 per hour.

Holidays

We are a year-round school and are closed for select federal holidays. Additionally, we take a winter and summer break. Tuition is pro-rated during our scheduled breaks, but not for federal holidays

For the 2025 school year, the school is scheduled to be closed on the following days:

May 28th (Memorial Day)

July 4th (4th of July)

July 21st- August 1st (Summer Break) * Tuition Prorated for this month

September 1st (Labor Day)

November 28th-29th (Thanksgiving)

December 22nd- January 2nd (Winter Break) *Tuition Prorated for this month



Academic Calendar

2024-2025

School holidays are shown in green.

JANUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

FEBRUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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MARCH

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APRIL

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27	28	29	30			

MAY

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JUNE

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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JULY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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AUGUST

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31						

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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OCTOBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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NOVEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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DECEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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Good to Know

We are a home-based center

As a home-based center, The Montessori Studio is currently operating out of Ms. Anna's home. The dedicated Montessori classroom, bathroom, and play area are all on the ground floor of the home. We are a Registered Family Care Home with the Department of Early Learning and follow the same back-ground check procedures as center-based schools.

We are pet friendly

We have two dogs, a lab mix named Alex and a cattle-dog mix named Pascal. Both dogs are fully vaccinated, registered with Washington County, and love children. While the dogs are not home during the day (they go to 'doggy daycare' during school hours), our home is 'pet friendly' and may not be a good choice for a child with pet allergies.



We use real tools

In Montessori education, children often work with real, functional tools such as small knives, needles, and glassware to develop practical life skills. While every effort is made to ensure safety and provide proper guidance, there is a small risk of minor cuts or pokes from these materials. These experiences, when handled with care, help children build confidence, responsibility, and independence in a controlled environment. Rest assured, children are closely supervised, and safety is always a top priority.



Next Steps and Enrollment

If it sounds like our program may be a fit for your family, we would love to meet you! Next steps include:

- 1) **Book a tour/ meet and greet:** we ask that both you and your child join us for a tour and quick chat before submitting your application. We hold tours in the evenings and on weekends to avoid interrupting our work period. To schedule your tour, please reach out to Ms. Anna- anna@montessorimathstudio.com
- 2) **Submit an application:** following your tour, Ms. Anna will send you an application. There is no application fee- simply fill it out and return it to join our waiting pool.
- 3) **Accept a start date and complete your registration:** when we have a spot for your child, we will contact you with all the details you need to enroll. We ask that you accept or decline our offer of enrollment and pay your deposit of \$500 within 72 hours.

