



NATURE STORY MONTESSORI

Program Handbook

Our mission is to provide an environment that nurtures the mind, body and spirit of every student, and to guide each individual on the path of development.

Our commitment is to be a resource for families with young children by providing a program that inspires academic excellence. We wish to increase awareness of the Montessori Method and its value for society.

Curriculum

Montessori education contains an integrated and anti-bias curriculum.

The goal is multi-faceted development of the child by implementing the subjects of study below.

Practical Life

Children take care of the environment by taking part in maintaining the beauty of the class, watering plants, cleaning, dusting, etc. They also learn the healthy habits of sharing space, toys, working materials, solving problems, taking constructive criticism, and giving compliments in positive ways.

Sensorial

These activities refine the five senses – tactile, visual, auditory, olfactory, and gustatory; they encourage movement and engage the hands.

Mathematic

All the activities in math are designed to develop the child's mathematical mind by studying the science of pattern, including numerical patterns, abstract patterns, and patterns of shape and motion.

Language Arts

These activities are organized to progress the natural language development of children and include storytelling, signing, music, drama, creative writing, and self-expression. The sounds of the alphabet are presented through phonics. Vocabulary development is emphasized in all subjects.

Science

In science, children learn about natural phenomena and discover why we eat healthy food, why we need air, how our body works, and so much more. They conduct safe and fun experiments to explore our environment, and learn to identify, classify, grade, and record their observations of plants, animals, and humans within the environment.

Geography

Children are introduced to the globe as “the world they live on,” and learn the land and water forms. They work with geographical puzzles and learn more about our earth and its continents, various countries, and the United States.

Social Studies

Social Studies are directly tied to the studies of Geography and History. We learn about diverse music, dances, languages, and cultures. We use the diversity of our classroom as a source for learning and teaching.

Art

Art appreciation is cultivated by exposing the children to various kinds of crafts and art skills such as painting, drawing, sewing, collage, printing, and more.

Music

Music is provided as part of the daily routine in the form of rhythm, instruments, dancing, and singing.

Physical Education

Physical Education is designed to nurture large, small, and fine motor development. Strength and coordination are developed in all areas of the curriculum.

Principles

- Education is an aid to the natural development of the child.
- The child has an absorbent mind and is sensitive to language.
- The child has embarked on a process of exploring and manipulating the environment to build their inner qualities.
- The child needs a loving, safe, orderly, stimulating, and enjoyable environment.
- The adults in the environment are a guide between the child and their environment.
- The child needs a structured environment in order to get the experiences needed to navigate our current social structure in a balanced way, in which they will be encouraged instead of frustrated and be able to build self-esteem instead of feeling unimportant.
- The Montessori classroom will give the child meaningful life experience based on everyday, real-life activities.

Core Values

Respect
Responsibility
Compassion
Honesty
Kindness
Awareness

Eligibility

Nature Story Montessori serves children between the ages of newborns to 12 years. We accept families of any race, color, religion, ethnic background, sexual orientation, or physically challenging condition.

Nature Story Montessori is a secular school and we do not uphold any particular religious tradition. We do recognize the holidays our families celebrate and explore them as a cultural activity to enrich the classroom experience. We do our best to be proactive in

recognizing the celebrations that matter to our students and ask all families to help us ensure your child sees their culture reflected in the classroom.

Hours

Nature Story Montessori hours and pick up/drop off times will vary depending on location.

Registration Form and Supply Fees

A non-refundable registration fee is due before enrollment. Then, a renewal registration fee is required yearly. This fee assures your child's placement in school and should accompany the completed Registration Form. All operating funds are obtained through tuition & fees. There is no tuition refund or reduction for school/family vacations, holidays, absence, or illness.

Enrollment

All children are accepted on a trial basis. The first 30 days of attendance are considered probationary. During the probationary period, the provider will determine if a child will fit within its program. Alternatively, the parent can determine if their child is adapting to the school environment. Should it become necessary to withdraw your child from the program after the initial probationary period, a 30- day written notice is required and tuition is expected to be paid in full for that 30 days.

After the initial 30 day period, should Nature Story determine that a child or family is not a good fit for our program for any reason, Nature Story reserves the right to disenroll any child if deemed necessary.

Holidays and School Closures

Nature Story Montessori follows the calendar of the state of Montana and local school districts. Additionally, when local school districts close due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances, Nature Story Montessori will close as well. Please see the updated yearly calendar for all holidays on which there will be no school.

Discipline Policy

The staff at Nature Story Montessori does not use corporal punishment. Discipline is designed to help the child develop inner control and respect for the rights of self and others. Our goal is the development of self-discipline. In general, a child may not harm another person (or self), disturb another person's work, misuse a piece of equipment, or violate the rights of the group.

Disciplinary Measures

- Careful preparation of the staff and classroom environment to aid in the child's daily success and independence
- Clear descriptions and modeling of safe rules, social etiquette, and daily routine
- The following describes the procedure used for conflict resolution:

The particular situation may be resolved at any point along the following sequence:

1. Teacher observes interaction or may simply go near the child involved and watch (non-verbal)
2. Teacher may make non-directive, descriptive statements if indicated ("Yes, Tommy took the paintbrush you were using")
3. Teacher may ask a "what" question to assist the children in building conflict resolution skills (i.e. "What can you do/say to get your paintbrush back?")
4. Teacher may make a directive statement and help the child find the necessary words
5. Physical intervention- the teacher repeats what is required (i.e. "Tommy, it is time to give back the paintbrush), and then "I'm going to take the paintbrush and give it back to Amy, she was painting with it. Let's find something that you and I can do together."
6. The child may require some "quiet time/watching time" to regain composure. This can be a spot anywhere in the classroom that is safe and appropriate.

Bullying

We have zero tolerance for bullying.

There are three main types of bullying:

- Physical, which can include but is not limited to hitting, kicking, biting or taking belongings
- Verbal, which can include but is not limited to name-calling, insulting, and racist remarks
- Indirect or emotional, which can include activities such as spreading nasty stories, excluding from groups, making a joke about someone and saying "I was just kidding."
 - 1st Occurrence: Student will be sent home and a conference will be scheduled with student, parents/guardians, director, and teacher
 - 2nd Occurrence: 1 day at home suspension
 - 3rd Occurrence: 3 day at home suspension
 - 4th Occurrence: Permanent expulsion from Nature Story Montessori

The following action will be taken if a student intentionally:

- a. Abuses school property
- b. Abuses personal property
- c. Disregards the "Student Bill of Rights"
 - 1st Occurrence: The student and parents/guardians will have a conference with the director, student's teacher.
 - 2nd Occurrence: In-school suspension, ranging from several hours to an entire school day. parents/guardians will be notified.

- 3rd Occurrence: 3 – 5 days at home suspension. Parents/Guardians will be notified of this decision.
- 4th Occurrence: Permanent expulsion from Nature Story Montessori for the remainder of the school year.

Medical Forms / Immunization Records

State law requires that all children have a certificate of immunization on file by the first day of school. Attendance is contingent on the medical /immunization records being on file. The law has certain specific requirements regarding immunization, so if you have questions, please let us know.

Sick Policy

In order to protect the health of the children and staff, we ask that parents/guardians keep children at home if they are contagious, too sick to participate in class activities, or will prevent the teacher from performing her duties.

We ask that the parent/guardian use discretion when sending their child to school if they are ill/feeling ill. If the school determines that a child is too sick to be at school, the parents/guardians of that child are responsible for picking their child up from school within a reasonable period of time.

It is requested that parents/guardians:

- Keep their child at home until they are fever free for **at least** 24 hours. (Do not send children to school on fever-reducing medication.)
- Keep their child at home until 24 hours have elapsed since the first dose of antibiotics.
- Keep their child at home until the results of a throat culture are known.
- Keep their child at home if mucus is discolored.

Any vulnerable parties will be asked to stay home should sickness or disaster sweep the school. In this event, a signed waiver will be required if the parent/guardian still chooses to have their child(ren) attend.

This policy is subject to change per county health and CDC recommendations.

Parent/Guardian-Teacher Communications

The teachers are eager to know of any changes in the child or in family life – anything that might provide insight into the behavior of the child. Anything occurring in school should be reported as well. Teachers appreciate your observations of school surroundings and of your child’s growth in relation to the school.

School Cancellations and Delays

We will follow the cancellations and delays for the local school districts for snow, hurricane, or other weather emergencies. We will also follow guidelines set by the Center

for Disease Control in regards to pandemics and other health related emergencies. We will communicate with you any time there is an expected delay or cancellation. Parents/Guardians agree to arrange alternate emergency childcare for these situations.

Please note that new policies can and will occur; we will inform parents/guardians of any changes immediately and will follow them as they happen.

Drop-off and pick-up times are also subject to change due to various situations.

Field Trips for NSM

Your child will periodically have the opportunity of taking a field trip. A parental consent form is on your child's enrollment form. We will always let you know of a planned field trip in advance for your information. In order for children to participate in other field trips, parents/guardians will be notified of the upcoming event and asked to sign a separate permission slip that states the date, time, destination and method of transportation. Field trips are planned to correspond with the program curriculum. Emergency information for each child shall be carried in the vehicle on field trips. During some trips we will also be in need of parent/guardian volunteers as chaperones. The drivers and vehicles meet all State requirements.

Transportation

Nature Story Montessori does not offer transportation to and from the center. Parents/Guardians will provide transportation to and from school. Emergency information for each child shall be carried in the vehicle on field trips.

- Smoking is prohibited in the vehicle while children are being transported.
- All vehicles shall be clean, uncluttered, and free of obstructions on the floor, aisles and seats.
- All vehicles shall be enclosed.
- Children may not be transported in a truck except in the cab.
- Children shall be seated in appropriate child safety seats.
- Doors shall be locked at all times when the vehicle is moving.
- Children may not be left unattended in the vehicle.
- There shall be at least one adult supervisor in addition to the driver when there are more than 10 children under 5 years in the vehicle.
- Children shall remain seated while the vehicle is in motion.
- No more than 3 persons, including the driver, may occupy the front seat of a vehicle.
- Children under 12 years old shall not ride in the front seat if there is a passenger side airbag. (This information is intended for the vehicles used during field trips.)

Emergency Transportation

- If a child needs to leave their childcare program during the hours of childcare due to a medical problem, illness or emergency evacuation, parents/guardians will be responsible for arrangements to transport their child(ren) from the program.
- If a child becomes seriously ill or receives an injury requiring immediate emergency medical attention, 911 will be called.

Emergencies

Every effort is made to prevent accidents. However, if one should occur, the procedure is as follows:

- First aid is given as soon as possible (as described in the Health Policy).
- Parents/Guardians are contacted.
- In case parents/guardians cannot be reached the school contacts the family physician; their instructions will be followed
- If the family physician cannot be reached, we will presume the parents'/guardians' permission to call EMS as indicated on your child's enrollment form.

Routine procedures for treatment of minor injuries:

- The center shall have a supply of bandages, tape and Band-Aids.
- Superficial wounds shall be cleaned with soap and water only and protected.
- Minor injuries shall be washed with soap and water and protected with a Band-Aid.
- When there is any injury to the head with or without blood or one that causes a lump or bump. Parents/Guardians will be given a telephone call so they may decide if they would like to come check on their child or take them to the doctor.

Injury Reports

Will be completed by the child's educator/family childcare educator with information on:

- Time, place, how the accident occurred.
- Where the child was injured, first aid, if any, administered.
- An original copy of the report will be given to the parent/guardian for signature and a copy will be placed in the child's file.

First Aid measures for serious accidents

- Care will be taken to prevent infection and further injury.
- The parents/guardians will be notified, or a designated responsible person.
- Depending on the type of injury, arrangements will be made with that person to be transported for medical treatment if necessary.
- If no one can be reached, the EMS will be called.

- The primary teacher will accompany the child to the emergency room in the case that there is no parent/guardian available.
- The center will use St. Peter's Hospital as our emergency location. 911 will be called as needed and it is assumed St. Peter's EMS will transport.

First Aid Training and Precautions

- All staff are trained in First Aid and CPR.
- Staff practices monthly evacuation procedures with children.
- Staff also receive information about procedures for severe storm warnings.
- Smoke detectors and fire extinguishers are periodically checked.
- Emergency phone numbers and evacuation plans are posted in each program.

Emergency Care

- In the event of a medical emergency requiring a trip to the doctor, NSM staff members will first try to notify the parent/guardian so that they can transport the child.
- If the parent/guardian cannot be reached, an authorized emergency person will be contacted.
- If the parent/guardian or authorized person cannot be contacted, a NSM staff person will accompany the child to seek medical treatment.
- The parent/guardian or a person listed on the child's Emergency Medical Authorization Form will be called to meet the staff person and child at the medical facility.
- 911 will be called to transport the child to a medical facility if the situation requires immediate medical attention.
- Agency policy does not allow staff to transport children in their personal vehicles.

Emergency Medical Authorization Form

- Parents/Guardians will be required to complete an Emergency Medical Authorization Form at the time of enrollment.
- The Emergency Medical Authorization Form will accompany the child in a medical emergency.
- Parents/Guardians will be asked to submit a copy of their health insurance card at the time of enrollment to be kept in their child's file.

Emergencies

Minor accidents occurring during class receive the prompt and careful attention of staff members. Our teachers are certified in both first aid and infant and child CPR. In the event of illness or serious accident, the family is notified at once and arrangements are

made for the child to be taken home or to their physician. Parents/Guardians are strenuously urged to inform the school of any change of telephone numbers during the year. In cases of emergency, when the parents/guardians cannot be reached, the child will be taken to the nearest hospital emergency room.

Emergency Plan

All staff are required to have First Aid and CPR training to deal with incidents that may arise.

Fire or Earthquake

Fire and earthquake drills are performed monthly. In the event an earthquake or disaster occurs during school hours, we will adhere to the following procedures:

1. If the building is safe and phones are working, children will remain on site and parents/guardians will be contacted by phone. Staff will remain with children at all times until they can be safely released.
2. If parents/guardians cannot be reached, children will be released to people who are listed on their emergency form.
3. If the building is unsafe, children, accompanied by staff, will be evacuated to a designated safe area to await the arrival of parents/designees. The location will be posted at the site.
4. If, after every effort, we have had no success in making contact with parents/designees, the director will use "reasonable person rule." The child will be released to a responsible adult who the child knows and feels comfortable with. The adult will sign the child out and notate the time and destination.

Lock Down

If it is deemed necessary by local law enforcement that we need to lock down Nature Story Montessori all doors will be closed and locked. No one will be allowed to enter or exit the building until emergency personnel have deemed it safe to do so.

Authorized Persons

As a condition of providing childcare services, we require parents/guardians to supply the names of at least three individuals to whom the Provider may release the child in the event of an emergency.

- Provider will not release the child to any individual whose name is not on the list.
- Before the Provider releases the child, if the individual is unknown to the Provider or any one of the Provider's staff, the Provider/staff will require that the individual show positive identification in the form of a valid Driver's License or other state issued

identification. Other forms of identification, such as work identification, are not acceptable. Individuals must be 18 years of age or older.

- Parents/Guardians must be aware that the Provider and staff are not properly trained to make assessments relating to intoxication or other impairment and therefore assume no responsibility to assess the competency or condition of any individual appearing to pick up the child.
- Should a parent/guardian wish to have a one-time special exception to allow an individual not listed on the card to pick the child up, the parent/guardian must leave a signed, dated, written note with the Provider the morning of the release. parents/guardians are not allowed to change any release instructions orally.
- The Provider assumes no responsibility for any injury or harm to the child who has been released to persons on the child release card or identified in the written exception request process.
- The Provider and the Provider's staff respect the family's privacy. However, where other questionable child release situations occur, the provider has a duty to maintain its role as the child's advocate.
- With respect to child custody disputes, until custody has been established by a court order, neither parent/guardian may limit the other parent/guardian from picking up the child, and the provider will release the child to a known identifiable parent/guardian. If possible, we will keep a copy of the custody order so as to avoid any potential disputes.
- An alternative care program should be sought if the Provider's child release protocol places a child at risk.
- Your child will be released ONLY to names listed on the Child Information Record. It is very important that this information be kept current. Please notify us immediately of any changes.

Child Abuse Policy

Nature Story Montessori is a mandatory reporter. If we suspect a child is a victim of neglect/abuse, we will report it to proper authorities.

School Communications

Nature Story Montessori uses the software program, Brightwheel, to communicate school news, activities, etc. to our families.

Parent/Guardian Handbook

The Parent/Guardian Handbook contains important information concerning many aspects of school life, policies, and procedures at Nature Story Montessori. Please read it thoroughly.

School Calendar

The school calendar outlines the school year, informs you of holidays, vacations, conferences, and other events.

Apps & Software

We use multiple technological platforms to communicate with parents/guardians such as apps and emails to share updates with parents/guardians.

Policies and Procedures

Tuition

Tuition may be paid on a monthly basis. Monthly tuition is paid one month ahead.

In the event of a long term closure of school such as a natural disaster or pandemic, only families who pay tuition in full are guaranteed a spot in the program. We will work as needed in order to meet the needs of each family as is possible.

Departure

Children are to be picked up promptly at the departure time. Your child will be encouraged to be responsible for getting their coat and shoes on and items from their drawer. Independence is a stepping stone to a greater accomplishment. We want the children to be able to say: "I can do it!"

A late pick-up fee will be charged for any pick ups after the close of the school. Each occurrence will have a higher charge. An additional charge will occur for a lack of communication. CPS will be contacted for abandonment if more than thirty minutes has passed since department time and no communication has taken place.

Sign in/out Policy

Sign in/out stations are at the entry of the building. This serves as a record of your child's arrival and departure and is also a source for quick communication between you and your child's teachers. Noting the time of day and a full, legible signature is required by the person who drops off and picks up your child each day at school. This is also a requirement for the state of Montana licensing.

Absences

Nature Story Montessori does not have make-up days or provide refunds for illness, absences, or family vacations. If your child is going to be absent, please call the school to let us know not to expect you.

Adjustment to School

Your child needs on the FIRST DAY:

- A complete change of clothes, clearly marked with the child's name
- A pair of slippers
- A lunch in a labeled lunch box and two snacks
- All required forms completed and signed
- A labeled water bottle

Note: We ask that **all** of the child's belongings are clearly labeled so as to avoid any confusion between children.

The Montessori philosophy of education emphasizes thorough individual work and responsibility so that children gain freedom as they gradually learn self-discipline and self-control. These attributes result from being immersed in an environment rich with opportunities for the child to make choices and to act on their surroundings through the operations of their own will. The child is adjusting to a classroom where ideas and rules are not imposed from the outside, but are nurtured to grow from within.

Even in the best circumstances, adjustment at Nature Story Montessori may take some time. The change is significant for your child in many ways.

In the first few days:

- Your child deals with many new people, curious children, and several new adults, each of whom they must quickly classify and assess.
- Your child encounters new responsibilities and expectations involving their ability to care for themselves.
- Your child must make choices as they encounter hundreds of confusing and fascinating things to do.
- Your child confronts new behavioral limits which they must test.

Our advice is simple. Maintain a consistent, firm, but calm attitude to help your child through this trying time. Their confidence at school will increase daily. Within about a month, the anxiety symptoms should mostly disappear. A word of caution – undue attention focused on any one symptom may actually encourage your child to continue a behavior. The teachers are available during lunch time and after school to take phone calls or chat with you in person about any concerns you may have during this initial transition period. Don't hesitate to let us hear from you!

The short term re-adjustment period to less teacher-directed and more self-directed activity eventually leads to independence and self-discipline. A child who has been in this environment for a year or more shows a marked increase in the ability to make decisions and in responsibility for community and personal belongings

Helping a Child Change Their Clothes

The following outlines the procedure used at Nature Story Montessori when your child has "an accident." It is provided for your information. Try to support your child in their

quest for independence by always offering verbal support, and direct assistance if absolutely necessary.

If a child has soiled their clothes:

1. Remove necessary clothes from the child's extra clothes box
2. Write the child's name clearly on a plastic bag
3. Have the child remove their wet/soiled clothes and place them in the bag. Observe the child. Do they need help? Give verbal instructions when possible and assistance as needed.
4. Wipes are available if needed
5. Have the child wash their hands and put on clean clothes
6. Tie bag containing wet clothes and hand it to the child to put in their cubby
7. Teacher washes their hands

Clothing

If possible, we will go outside every day throughout the year so please send weather-appropriate clothing every day. It is important that children are able to join their friends at play and proper child/staff ratios cannot be maintained when one child must be kept in. Hard-soled shoes, cowboy boots, sandals, and most slip-on shoes preclude safe running and climbing. Labels are needed! Duplicates are inevitable. Much confusion can be avoided if children's lunchboxes, boots, and clothing are labeled with their names.

Extra clothing: Please bring extra pants, shirts, underwear, and socks for your child, and make sure that their box of spare clothes is always full. This is not only in case of potential "accidents" but also for spills, and messes outside. Please do not dress your child in clothing that you would not like to get dirty or messy. All outer clothing and extra clothes must be marked clearly with your child's name.

Behavioral Guidelines

The growth of self-discipline in the children is a primary goal of Montessori education. It is attained at school by clearly establishing limits and guidelines of appropriate behavior. Staff provide unconditional love, immense patience, and role models by organizing the children's environment to minimize frustrations, chaos, and the need for adult assistance. Nevertheless, boundaries and limits are present. As stated in previous sections, a child may not harm another person, disturb another person's work, or violate the rights of the group. Every effort will be made to help parents/guardians, teachers, and children to positively resolve any difficulties that may arise at school. parents/guardians will be notified in writing, via telephone, or in person if there are any continuing behavioral issues.

This resolution period shall not exceed 30 days from the report of the original incident. If a behavioral situation is so severe that it poses a threat to the safety and/or well-being of the children, staff, or school property, parents/guardians will be asked to withdraw their child from the program.

Parent/Guardian/Volunteer Participation

We very much appreciate parents/guardians who are willing to help with projects, assist in the classroom, or share something special of themselves with the children. This is arranged with your child's teacher. We may also ask for volunteers throughout the year for periodic work parties to help maintain the school building and grounds and/or organize social events. We may also request parent/guardian help for various school projects (i.e. minor carpentry, sewing things for the classroom, grounds cleaning, etc.) Your participation in any of these areas is a powerful demonstration to your child of your interest in and commitment to what is happening in their world at Nature Story Montessori. We believe that school should be an extension of the home. We appreciate parent/guardian assistance and encourage involvement; the center runs much more smoothly and the children's experience is enhanced when the whole team (staff, parents/guardians, and children) works together.

All volunteers, who are in the school on a regular basis, for extended periods of time, shall have a background check performed, as well as, CPR, First Aid and AED certification on file. Volunteers shall act in accordance with all school policies and regulations as stated in this Parent/Guardian Handbook. A volunteer may be asked to leave the school grounds at any time if they violate a policy or procedure. Volunteers shall maintain the same confidentiality standards expected of certified personnel and exhibit the ethical behaviors of a professional. Volunteers shall not have access to confidential student records or files. A volunteer, including volunteers who are parents/guardians of a child in care, shall not have contact with children in care if they have been convicted of either of the following; A) Child abuse or neglect. B) A felony involving harm or threatened harm to an individual within the 10 years immediately preceding the date of offering to volunteer at the child care center.

Lunch/Snacks and Nutrition

A balanced breakfast starts the day off right. Children will bring snacks each day in a small container clearly marked with the child's name. Please try to pack a healthy snack that will provide your child with the energy and focus they need to get through the day. Some examples of appropriate snacks are: cut up fruit or vegetables, cheese and crackers, a half sandwich, bagel, or muffin. Please send snacks in a ready to be eaten state. Remember that this is not lunch. Snacks should be of a small enough portion that they can be enjoyed in a 5-10 minute time frame. We will make all families aware of any food allergies before our school year begins. Should you forget and send a snack that does not adhere to our allergy policy, we will remove your child's snack from the snack shelf and offer them a safe, allergy-free snack alternative.

Children will bring their own well-balanced lunches from home. We try to instill good eating habits as part of our lunch program. To support children in developing those habits we ask you to send small portions and avoid sugary treats. If possible, we will ask your child to take home any uneaten food so you are aware of what they have consumed during the day.

Birthdays

We will celebrate birthdays at group time with our traditional birthday ceremony. The birthday child carries the earth (globe) around the sun (our rug); making a complete orbit for each year they are old. Please bring a short story of your child's life supported by pictures and their favorite things. It is highly recommended that parents/guardians take part in this special celebration.

Items from Home/Sharing

We request that all toys be left at home. Your child may bring a favorite book or any interesting item relating to language, math, science, nature, or culture to be shown at sharing time. We also encourage the children to share their experiences, thoughts, and ideas. Sharing with the group develops communication skills. Please label everything in order to avoid confusion. Provider is not responsible for loss or any damage to that item. Our experience has been that children usually have difficulty sharing these items with other children and loss or damage may occur. There are, of course, exceptions to this rule: a teacher may have a group sharing time where things of interest to the class are shared.

Health and Medication Policy

Health Policy

If your child contracts a highly contagious illness such as chickenpox, strep throat, etc., please inform the school so that the other parents/guardians may be advised. When recovering from a fever, your child should be kept home for a **minimum** of 24 hours after their fever subsides.

To minimize contagion, we ask that you not send your child to school when they have a persistent cough and/or a frequent "runny nose". If your child has been vomiting or has had diarrhea the previous day or night, please keep them home from school as well.

Prescription Medication

We will allow the parents/guardians to come in to administer prescription medication that is in the original container with an attached label which includes the child's full name, instructions for administration, and the date the prescription was filled or the expiration date.

Epi-Pens And Inhalers

From the moment of registration, we must have a signed doctor's note, along with detailed instructions on how to administer the medication, on hand for Epi-Pens and inhalers. Epi-Pens and inhalers are not allowed to be kept in the student's backpack. If such medication is transported that way, please inform one of our staff so that we may store it safely in our medical area.

DPHHS Requirements

The Department of Health and Health Services requires that the following be included in all handbooks in the state of Montana:

“School personnel are required by Montana State law to report suspected incidents of child abuse and neglect. In doing so, they have civil immunity under the law for good faith reporting. Failure to report can result in a gross misdemeanor charge.”

Questions and Further Details

In closing, if you have any questions or comments regarding the information outlined in this Parent/Guardian Handbook, feel free to contact your campus for further details.

We welcome you and your family to Nature Story Montessori.