

Corpus Christi Montessori School
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October 10, 2023



Dear CC Montessori Families,

Happy October! We are hopeful for some cooler weather this month. We have many upcoming events. Please look for fliers and mark your calendars. Just a reminder we have no school Monday. Tardies are becoming a concern. We average 15 students tardy each day. Your children are missing vital information and community time when they arrive tardy. Please ensure your children are in class by 8:00 a.m.

Report Cards will go home on October 23rd. Please be sure to look for those and set up conferences with your child's teacher for any questions or concerns or if you have not had a family meeting.

Mr. Tevin is fall planting the next weeks with our students and would love some starter veggie plants for them to plant. They are always excited when our vegetable plants begin producing.

We are looking for volunteers to help in our community. If you have some time to visit once or more a week, we would love to have you. We have a few different opportunities available. We would love some Adult Readers to share stories, Adults to listen to readers, library support for organization and entering books, as well as, helpers for the Book Fair.

Please take some time to read Montessori Parent- Talking Respectfully to your Children from the American Montessori Society which is attached.

Have a wonderful week.

Upcoming Events

- October 10 PTO 6 p.m.
- October 11 M/S to Cole Park
U/E & M/S Nature Classroom
Parent Meeting 4:30 in Library
- October 12 M/S to Big Garden
- October 13 End of first 9-week cycle
U/E to Big Garden
- October 13/14 VB Tournament Annapolis
- October 20 Volleyball Game Seashore
- October 21 Community Workday 8:30-12:30
- October 23 Book Fair Begins
Report Cards home
- October 23-27 Red Ribbon & Book Fair Week
- October 25 Drama Club presents 5:30 – *The Wizard of Oz*
- October 27 **Trunk or Treat and mini festival**
5:30 – 7:00 p.m.
*please refer to flier sent home

Wish List

- Veggie scraps for the chickens*
- Veggie starter plants for the garden*
- Potting soil*
- Bagged Candy or treat donation for Trunk or Treat*
- Face Painting Kits for Trunk or Treat*

Graceful Parenting – by Eve M. Dreyfus M.D. Teach Your Child about Emotions

*From the time your child is born, talk about how they are feeling.
Teach your children how it feels to be happy, sad, afraid, angry or nervous.
In simple language, discuss the details of what causes these emotions.
When children understand and talk about their emotions,
they won't get frustrated or angry so easily.*

Talking Respectfully to Your

Talking Respectfully to Your Children *by Jane Jacobs*

If you have observed a Montessori class, you may have wondered: How does the teacher manage 20 or more children when I have trouble with just one or two? If only I had her skills and patience!

Having taught for several years before I had children, I was astonished to discover that my Montessori classroom experience did not prepare me for parenthood. Though Maria Montessori believed in extensive training of the teacher, few parents receive useful preparation. Fortunately, I found a book that helped me translate Montessori theory into more effective parenting: [*How to Talk So Kids Will Listen & Listen So Kids Will Talk*](#), by Adele Faber and Elaine Mazlish.

The following ideas from this valuable book might be helpful as part of your parenting tool kit. The bonus is that these tools will work for you in any setting—and with everyone, not just children.

Learn to Look and Listen

Montessori stresses the importance of carefully observing a child as he goes about his work. This is one of the ways we can show respect for the child, another major premise of the Montessori philosophy. We often jump to conclusions and step in without taking into account what our child might be doing, thinking, or feeling. Put down the phone, turn off the television, watch, and look into your child's eyes when you speak.

- Practice observing and staying quiet first.
- Listen to yourself as well as your child—if your immediate inclination is dismay or anger, write down what you would like to say, but don't say it.
- Try not to fix anything or problem-solve—just be with your child.

Name the Feelings

It's easy to be anxious when your child is upset. As a result, we may minimize children's feelings or attempt to protect them from disappointment. In the long run, it is more productive to help children identify and learn from their emotions. Just as Montessori materials help children learn concepts and nomenclature, thoughts and feelings can be defined for our children. Adapt the style or phrasing to suit your child's age.

- Listen to your child as he or she talks, offering feedback such as: "Oh..."; "Mmm..."; "I see."
- Recognize and name your child's feelings: "You seem upset (or angry, or happy)..."
- Resist asking and then answering questions that are rhetorical or accusatory: "What were you thinking?" "Who drank the milk?" "How many times have I told you...?"

- Try to understand from your child's perspective and describe, perhaps with fantasy: "Sounds like you wish you could eat cookies for every meal."
- Show respect for your child's struggle: "I see that it's hard for you to..."
- Describe the dilemma your child is facing: "Even though you know..." "The problem is..."

Engage Cooperation

Keeping the family on schedule—and making certain everyone is fed, clothed, bathed, etc.—is no easy task, especially as children often have timetables, needs, and desires different from adults (and often from each other). Montessori believed that children, when given tasks appropriate to their abilities, delight in their accomplishments. Organize your home so children needn't rely on adults for everything and give them the time and the direction they need so they can become independent and successful in contributing to the family. You may find you don't have to resort to demands or reprimands.

- Acknowledge feelings first: "You're cozy in your bed this morning."
- Offer a choice: "Do you want to wear the red shirt or the green shirt?"
- Be playful: "If you were a magician, you would already be dressed!"
- Rather than reminding, describe what you see: "This table needs to be set."
- Say it with information: Use a word or short description, rather than a nagging, repetitive demand: "Shoes, backpack..."
- Write a note: "I'm hungry" on the dog's collar or "Hang me up!" on the jacket.
- Take action without insulting: "Let's clean up, put the paints away, and go outside."

Be patient as you learn these new skills; it takes time and practice—and will pay off. As Faber and Mazlish state: "We want to demonstrate the kind of respectful communication that we hope our children will use with us—now, during their adolescent years, and ultimately as our adult friends" (1982, p. 88).

Reference

Faber, A. & Mazlish, E. (1982.) *How to talk so kids will listen and listen so kids will talk*. New York, NY: Avon Books.

About the Author

Jane M. Jacobs, MA, is a licensed marriage and family therapist and an educational consultant at Montessori Services. She has taught children ages 2 to 7 in Montessori schools, Head Start, and at a preschool for children with developmental challenges. She is AMS-credentialed (Early Childhood). Contact her at jjacobs@montessoriservices.com.