

Observation Guidelines:

We are pleased to welcome you to observe in our classrooms. We encourage your questions and comments about what you see. Whatever your purpose in visiting us, please consider the following:

- The overall appearance of the classroom: Maria Montessori used the term “prepared environment” to describe a beautiful and organized space conducive to children working.
- The independence of the student: Watch as children select and engage in their work.
- The social interaction of the individual within the larger group: Note how children show concern for their peers while taking care of their own needs.
- The teacher-child relationship: Our classrooms are child-centered with teachers serving as guides.

Many observers find two techniques useful:

- Notice the variety of different kinds of work being done by considering the whole group at different intervals.
- Follow one or two children as they move through their work period.

In order to maintain the atmosphere of the class, we ask your cooperation in the following:

- If a child should ask, “What are you doing here?” we suggest that the easiest response is, “I’m here to watch you work.”
- Teachers love sharing their classrooms with visitors; however, their main goal is to stay focused on the children in their care.
- The Director of Admission, the Pre-Primary Director or the Elementary Director will attempt to answer any questions you have about your observation. The classroom teacher will also be happy to follow up with you if you would like to discuss a specific observation.
- Please observe quietly. As our students say, “respect for myself, respect for others, respect for the materials, respect for the classroom, respect for the earth, and respect for the quiet.”

Please enjoy your time at the Bridgeview Montessori School.