

Children's Circle Montessori

Established 1981

130 Skyway Rd - Primary I

Primary I: 402-489-0872

121 Skyway Rd - Primary II

Primary II: 402-489-0878

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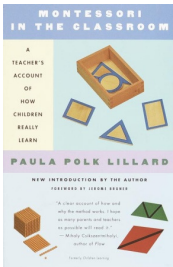
www.ChildrensCircleMontessori.org



MONTESSORI IN THE CLASSROOM

By Paula Polk Lillard

A review by Kathleen Crosmer





This book was on my list of recommended reading this summer as part of my Montessori Teacher Training. For months I put it off, frustrated at the idea of reading yet another book about Montessori that was probably full of great sounding ideas that don't always make their way into the classroom. When I did finally sit down and read it, however, I was astounded. Instead of another philosophy book, it was a first-hand account of Ms. Lillard's classroom, a kind of journal that she kept throughout the year. I was fascinated, and thrilled to finally find a book that described exactly what teachers go through as they work in a Montessori environment.

Paula Lillard's classroom was a bit different from ours at Children's Circle; she taught a kindergarten class of about 20 children, 4 and 5 years old, in an independent day school. It is fascinating to watch through her journal entries as she describes the progression of the school year: the first day of school, where the children mostly play with toys and puzzles and are introduced to a few of the ground rules; the gradual move away from toys to Montessori materials; the day when the children choose those materials *over* the toys; and the progression of reading, math, and social skills in her students. Lillard's observations and thoughts about the students' social development were one of the most striking things about this book. We don't learn a lot about this aspect of the classroom in Montessori's books, and of course it has changed a great deal since her time, so it is refreshing to read a first hand account of how this important aspect of the classroom plays out.



Reading this book opened a door for me; it was so insightful to be able to see inside the mind of this talented Montessori teacher, and to see her views on the daily life that happened in her classroom. To be able to think her thoughts along with her, to see how she struggles to make important decisions, and how she strives always to follow the child is really a privilege. We get to share in her self doubt and her celebrations, her questioning and her discoveries. It is refreshing to see this human side of a teacher, the side that is not always right, does not always know what to do, but knows that it is vital to work always for the good of the child, to meet his or her needs at the present moment. I highly recommend this book both to teachers and parents, and believe that it will give us both a better appreciation for the work that we do.



	<p>WORK DAY MAY 2 9AM TO NOON</p>	
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WELCOME!

Primary 1:
Tina, daughter of Jose Vazquez & Bernice Marquez
Cooper, son of Josh & Amanda Fink
Primary 2:
Amelia, daughter of Kevin & Marisa Richardson

MARK YOUR CALENDERS!

Saturday, May 2nd:
Work Day!! 9am to 12pm
Thursday & Friday, May 7th & 8th:
Women's Night Primary II
Friday, May 15th:
Women's Night Primary I
Monday, May 25th:
Memorial Day ~ SCHOOL CLOSED
Thursday, May 28th:
Last Day of School Year
Friday, May 29th:
Picnic ~ SCHOOL CLOSED
Bethany Park, 66th and Vine ~ 10:30AM - 1:30PM
Monday, June 1st:
Summer Session Begins

MARCH/APRIL BIRTHDAYS

March:		
Braeden Smoyer	9 th	3 rd Birthday
Jaxson Fleming	10 th	2 nd Birthday
Seth Bethrens	19 th	3 rd Birthday
Holden Dodson	27 th	2 nd Birthday
April:		
Kyler Hahn	3 rd	6 th Birthday
Tina Vazquez	12 th	2 nd Birthday
Charlie Ebbert	18 th	2 nd Birthday
Beau Stamper	20 th	4 th Birthday
Hattie & Eli	26 th	5 th Birthday
MaKenna Jarzynka	29 th	4 th Birthday

WORK DAY
MAY 2
9AM TO NOON



To celebrate your child's birthday you might ask the staff for suggestions for a birthday book for your child to present to the school in honor of their birthday. Put a picture of your child in the front or back of the book with the date given. When we read the book in the future we will all be reminded of him/her!

WHY WE CHOOSE MONTESSORI KINDERGARTEN...

A note from Andrea...

Thank you to Jamie Hahn for sharing her experience at Children's Circle with the kindergarten program and her children. It is not too early for parents of children who will be in kindergarten the fall of 2010 to begin thinking about their plans. There is also a good article in the Tomorrow's Child magazine being sent home that has [36 Reasons to Keep Your Child in Montessori Kindergarten.](#)



We have had two children, Derek and Kyler attend kindergarten at Children's Circle Montessori. We chose this primarily because of the small classroom size and individualized attention the children receive. There are many fundamental skills learned in kindergarten – letter and number recognition, writing, reading, basic math – and we worried in a traditional classroom of 16 kids to 1 teacher these skills may not be thoroughly developed. When Derek started public school in 1st grade his fundamental skills were much more developed than his peers and this enabled him to advance in higher learning more quickly. The teachers not only complimented him on these skills but also on his manners, ability to problem solve, communication skills, and leadership ability. He learned all of these skills at the Montessori. We have also seen these skills develop in Kyler over the past several years and anticipate she will be as successful in her transition into public school next year.

The financial commitment was also an important consideration for us. We viewed the Montessori tuition as an investment in our children's education and future. For us it was no different than investing money for their college education. The fundamental skills learned in kindergarten set the foundation for all future learning and that was important enough for us to sacrifice for an additional nine months.

WORK DAY ~ MAY 2 ~ 9AM TO NOON

ALL FAMILY MEMBERS WELCOMED AND NEEDED!

We'll have jobs for the young to the old. We'll have jobs that require tools, as well as ones that require a gentle hand! You don't need any special talents, please come and help make our school "summer ready" for all our children!

Adults will be needed to help spruce up both buildings, move sand for the playgrounds, and rake leaves, just to name a few of the jobs. Children are invited to come with their parents to help plant flower and vegetable gardens.

~ NOTES OF INTEREST ~

- Summer information will be sent home the first week in May. In Primary 2 we will be focusing on Astronomy. 2009 is the International Year of Astronomy and we have some great plans for the summer. In Primary 1 we will introduce a planet each week, too, as an introduction to astronomy.
- Fall contracts will also be sent home the beginning of May. It is not so important to have extra time noted on the contracts, but days are vital as we assess openings for new fall enrollees.
- We have sent home snow pants and snow boots. At Primary 2 we have 3 pairs of unclaimed/unmarked boots left--- Blue/gray POOH boots, size 9----Black GAP boots, size 11-----Black/gray Buster Brown boots, size 12. Please let us know if these boots belong to your child.
- PLEASE send family pictures for our photo album at Primary 2 and for display in Primary 1. We know some of you will be leaving us the end of May, but we would like to include any children from this year in next year's album, too, so we can reflect upon our friends from this year!
- The picnic this year will be held at Bethany Park, 66th and Vine Street on Friday, May 29. The enclosed shelter has been reserved for our use from 10:30AM - 1:30PM.

Spotlight on Lia Williams...

I grew up: in Lincoln, Ne

I went to school: Pyrtle Elementary for most of my elementary education, then I went to Lincoln Christian School (LCS) when my mom began teaching there when I was in fifth grade. I went to LCS until I graduated high school in 2006. I also went to the LPS Arts and Humanities Focus Program for my junior year of high school. I thoroughly enjoyed that! I am now at UNL pursuing my degree in Elementary Special Education with a focus on students with ADHD.

My family: I really enjoy painting, drawing, and going to concerts when I have time (or energy). However, this winter I got engaged and my fiancé, John, and I are planning a wedding for this coming July! So all extra time and energy seems to go straight into that. We also just bought a house that I am sure I'll get to paint real soon! We both love music and movies. We go to a lot of concerts around Lincoln and Omaha on the weekends. We also love to travel a lot. We went to Europe with a group of people a couple of summers ago; it was awesome! We loved it!

