

# The Montessori Family's Role

By P. Donohue Shortridge

**The Montessori experience is a partnership between the school and the family.  
Here are some strategies for parents of young children in Montessori.**

## *Learn about Montessori Philosophy*

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### **Create and maintain active dialog with school/respect school policies**

Come to all the parent nights  
Read handbooks, notes and hand outs  
Observe your child at Montessori  
Ask questions of your child's teacher/administrator

## *Arrival and Departure are Very Important*

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Adequate sleep  
Proper daily nutrition  
Pleasant morning routine  
Refrain from DVDs/radio/cell phone use in car

### **Arrive on time**

#### **Child walks into school**

Child carries own possessions into school

#### **Mom/Dad shows confidence, rather than effusive emotion or ambivalence**

Parent and child greet staff person/parents refrain from cell phone use  
Child is not discussed with teacher in front of child  
Return when you say you will/refrain from cell phone use  
Take time to greet child/allow for natural transition  
Tell child you are happy to see him rather than ask what he did today  
On ride home, notice things, sing, tell jokes, stories or allow for silence  
Refrain from DVDs/radio/cell phone use on ride home  
Tell child about what is happening next/keep routine the same  
Upon arrival at home, child is expected to put belongings away

## *Tips for Daily Life*

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### **Routine, routine, routine**

Your child can do just about everything for himself

#### **"Every useless aide arrests development" M. Montessori**

Everybody does chores/show him how  
Hands-on activities are best

Beginning, middle and end of all activities

#### **Limits are needed for your child's optimum development**

Your child shows you he needs more limits when he acts out

#### **Unstructured, slow time in nature is crucial every day**

Your child's intelligence grows through purposeful movement

Organized sports can wait

Computer skills can wait

TV, movies, DVDs, computer games can wait

Most of your extra-curricular activities may also have to wait

#### **Do not negotiate that which is not negotiable/ "OK?" at the end of a sentence**

Slow down; your child can't move, think, talk or transition as fast as you

Together, sort through your child's toys, books, remove many of them

Each possession has a place

Be present; your child does not understand "later"

More conversation and laughing and less badgering

Your word is your bond/your child is learning to trust from you

Enjoy and accompany your child through his development

Parenting is the biggest work you will ever do. Your child needs you to do it well.

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*fostering the authentic life of children and their families in the American culture*