

Montessori of the Rio Grande Charter School
"Where Minds and Spirits Soar!"

Thursday, November 5, 2009

RE: Preparation-The Magic of Threes

Dear Parents:

Montessori bases a lot of her lessons, work cycles and planes of development on increments of threes. When we think about this, we can also relate this to preparation. We, as teachers, prepare the environment meticulously. We then prepare ourselves to work in the environment by following the child's academic and social/emotional needs.

It is becoming apparent that the third piece to the education of the child is their preparation to enter into the environment and the expectations of how to work in it. It is our task to create an environment conducive to the child. It is the family's task to prepare the child before and after the Montessori day.

Here are some ideas that may help in the transition:

1. Rest- a routine that is set for your child...they need a lot of sleep and down time before they attempt to do this. Their bodies need to get into "low gear" and a good way to do this is to read a bedtime story.
2. Nutrition – please be sure that your child eats an appropriate breakfast. If they are having trouble eating so early in the morning, be sure to talk to the teacher so that we can find a way for your child to get the proper nutrition needed to supply them adequate fullness. They cannot concentrate on their work if their stomach is empty!
3. Deep breathing and verbal callback of directions (thanks to Ishan's dad- Abudlaziz for giving us his strategies at home with his own son) He reminded us about the fact that children need to repeat the direction to you.. As a matter of fact, give it in steps and keep them as part of the daily routine.

Think about the car ride to school. Do you engage your child in conversation or do they have a Game Boy (or whatever the latest gadget is) in hand? Are their teachable moments on that drive that can stimulate your child's mind –directions from A to B, elapsed time-from home to school. Do you model appropriate voice levels and have calm music playing. Think about these and other ways that can help the transition into the school environment. Kind Regards, Miss Debbie, Instructional Coach at MRGC