

## Norman Village Montessori School- Program Statement (29/08/16)

Norman Village Montessori School is privately owned and operated. The program is reassessed annually to reflect the best standards and practices of the “Early Learning Modernization Act” , “How Does Learning Happen” utilizing the wide range of Montessori didactic materials in preparing the classroom environment. Our school is licensed with the Ministry of Education under the CCEYA.

We, at NVMS have an open door policy and provide opportunities for parents to be involved with their children throughout the year. At regular intervals, a newsletter or calendar of events will be sent out to parents regarding daily activities, theme studies and information on the educational approach offered. Parents receive their own copies of the parent handbook explaining the program philosophy which includes program statement, daily operation and program specifics. We also provide documentation digitally and regularly to parents throughout the year and produce a year book which has many photos as children work and play together throughout their days, weeks and months. They show the amazing accomplishments, reflecting the joy their children experience in these formative early years.

### Our Program

A homeschool-house environment equipped with a wide range of Montessori learning materials as well as other play-based materials. Our qualified and experienced Montessori teachers have commitment to a high standard of teaching and care. Teachers and staff belong to Manitoba’s Montessori Teacher’s Association and attend Montessori workshops annually in Winnipeg, as well as attending other professional development related to “How Does Learning Happen”. Our teachers attend and engage in professional development offered by the Ministry of Education and the Kenora District services board as well as any workshops provided in the community and on-line.

### Philosophy

The goal of Norman Village Montessori School is to cultivate the young child’s own natural desire to learn. The classroom is geared to the size, pace and interests of children, primarily between the ages of 3 and 6, and offers a wide range of opportunities for exploration and self-development. The program fosters self-motivated learning, independence and respect for others, while allowing children to exercise their natural curiosity and creativity.

Children love learning through play and their play is clearly their work (development) in these early formative years. The summer program materials are modified to include school age children.

Norman Village Montessori School's idea of prepared environment is that everything the child comes in contact with will facilitate and maximize independent learning and exploration. Our calm, well-ordered classroom has a lot of movement and activity. Children are free to choose and work on activities at their own pace. Here, they experience a combination of freedom and self-discipline, as guided by the environment. Children self-regulate as the environment is prepared for each individual to find calm and balance throughout their day.

Children are encouraged in a gentle way to interact with others, peers, adults and community members as we explore our neighborhood and beyond. Language development is facilitated by teachers and staff as children need support and guidance in their early developing years.

We at N.V.M.S. believe that a child must be free to explore and follow his own natural impulses, thus developing his/her potential and increasing knowledge of the world. The child must experience freedom of movement, freedom of exploration, freedom to interact socially, and freedom from interference from others. This freedom ultimately leads to a greater freedom: freedom of choice and self-discipline. There are generally six aspects, or principles, to the Prepared Environment: Freedom; Structure and Order; Beauty; Nature and Reality; Social Environment; Intellectual Environment.

A great deal of time and effort is involved in observing children, documenting their successes and interests and creating a classroom designed to meet the individual needs of all the children. Through developmentally appropriate, sensorial material that moves hierarchically from simple to complex and concrete to abstract, children are given the freedom to fully develop their unique potential through a carefully prepared learning environment.

## Health and Safety

The health and safety of our students is paramount in the way we manage the daily operation and supervision of children. Our teachers, volunteers and students view our program statement, and all policies and best practices accordance with the CCEYA prior to starting and at least annually thereafter. This is followed up with regular staff meetings, employee evaluations and written processes that explain how occurrences of prohibited practices involving employees, volunteers and students are monitored, recorded and

addressed. (See policy of prohibited practices and classroom management in our parent handbook)

## Daily Activities

Our lunch and snack menus include, when available, organic and locally grown and certified foods. We encourage parents to provide an afternoon snack of vegetables or fruit. We have seen great results as children are exposed to variety of choices and explore eating healthy with whole foods. The morning breakfast/snack and nutritious noon meal is prepared in our own kitchen which is situated where the children can enjoy the aroma of their favourite foods. Children may choose to nap on a cot or rest quietly on a mat following lunchtime. If children chose not to nap or sleep, they are guided to areas of the classroom to do quiet work/ play on their own until the one hour rest period is over. Children enjoy outdoor play throughout the seasons, at least 2 hours per day; as well as, hikes, field trips and cultural outings that bring us close to nature and community. We study our Treaty Three Territory with enthusiasm and respect with the teachings of our First Nations people. Elders in our community are invited to share their stories and wisdom.

## Our Program Staff /Teachers

Our Montessori classroom is prepared to assist in self-regulation. Qualified Montessori Teachers and program staff are trained and experienced to ensure the well-being of every child. There is at least one staff or teacher on duty who is certified in CPR/child/infant FIRST AID. The quintessence of any Montessori classroom is the element of respect for the child and the child's spiritual well-being as he or she grows and develops self-confidence, skill mastery and self-discipline. We see that negative behavior can be an opportunity to teach. This sometimes means guiding the child to an activity that gives him/her a calm and reassuring feeling of self-control. Teachers are trained to observe children and connect them to the activities that challenge, inspire exploration, and also help the children to find calm from within through yoga and meditation.

## Employees, Volunteers, staff, and students

Our volunteers, students and employees follow the guidelines of our CCEYA. Our licensing policies and procedures are implemented to ensure all regulations and the best practices of N.V.M.S are met. At Norman Village Montessori School we value and support individuality, growth, creativity and each other. We are committed to creating a partnership within the community that will nurture, provide support and meet the needs of all who pass through our doors.