



Planète Montessori
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

DATE	REVIEWED BY/ROLE	NEXT REVIEW DATE
Last updated: January 2024	SLT/MLT Team	July 2024

OBSERVATION POLICY

In Montessori education, systematic observation, assessment and record-keeping are fundamental elements that underpin effective planning and the delivery of our curriculum and the Montessori philosophy. We believe in the importance of observing each child's individual development journey, supporting their unique interests and extending their learning experiences in alignment with the principles laid out by Maria Montessori.

This holistic cycle allows us to tailor our curriculum to each child's needs, celebrating their achievements while identifying areas for further growth and planning differentiated learning experiences accordingly. By closely collaborating with parents/carers and meticulously documenting children's progress, motivations and interests, we ensure a comprehensive understanding of each child's learning trajectory and effectively foster their holistic development within the Montessori environment.

Teacher's observations:

By engaging in regular observations and reflection, educators enhance their understanding of child development and refine their teaching strategies to better support children's learning and well-being. It also facilitates communication and collaboration with parents/carers by sharing insights into their child's learning journey, fostering a holistic approach to education that involves both educators and families.

In Montessori education, understanding the needs, characteristics, sensitive periods and human tendencies within each plane of development is crucial for providing appropriate support and guidance to children.

Parents/carer's observations:

Parents/carers should reach out to the school administration to inquire about the process for scheduling observations. This can usually be done via phone, email or through an online scheduling system if available.

Parents/carers should familiarise themselves with any guidelines or policies regarding observations set forth by the school. This may include specific times or dates available for observations, duration of observation sessions and any specific areas of focus. Based on the availability provided by the school, parents/carers can select a date and time that works best for them to observe their child in the Montessori environment.

Prior to the scheduled observation, parents/carers may want to prepare by familiarising themselves with Montessori principles and the activities their child is currently engaged in. They should also come with an open mind and be ready to observe their child's interactions, interests and development within the Montessori environment. An observation guideline shall be provided as well.

On the scheduled date and time, parents/carers should arrive promptly for the observation session. They may be greeted by a teacher or staff member who will provide guidance on where to observe and any protocols to follow during the observation. After the observation, parents/carers may have the opportunity to discuss their observations with the teacher or school staff. This can be a valuable opportunity to gain insights into their child's development, ask questions and receive feedback on ways to support their child's learning at home.

By following these steps, parents/carers can schedule observations in a Montessori setting and actively engage in their child's educational journey.

What to observe

For parents/carers observing in a Montessori setting, here are some guidelines to follow:

1. Observe without interrupting or disrupting the classroom routine. Follow any guidelines provided by the teacher or school regarding observation protocols.
2. Direct your attention primarily towards observing your child. Resist the urge to compare your child to others or to become distracted by activities not involving your child.
3. Notice how your child interacts with Montessori materials, engages in activities and interacts with peers and educators. Look for signs of concentration, curiosity, independence and problem-solving.
4. Pay attention to how your child interacts with others in the classroom. Observe their communication skills, cooperation, conflict resolution and empathy towards peers.
5. Notice instances where your child demonstrates independence in choosing activities, making decisions and taking care of their own needs. Look for signs of initiative and self-directed learning.

6. Take notes or record observations to capture your impressions and insights during the observation.
7. Be mindful of the privacy of other children and avoid discussing individual observations with other parents/carers or children. Focus on your child's experience and development.
8. After the observation, take time to reflect on what you observed and consider how it aligns with your child's development and interests. Reflect on any questions or concerns you may have.
9. If you have questions or would like further information following the observation, schedule a follow-up meeting with the teacher. This can provide an opportunity to discuss your observations, ask questions and gain insights into supporting your child's development at home.

By following these guidelines, parents/carers can make the most of their observation experience in a Montessori setting, gaining valuable insights into their child's learning journey and development.