



Alder Montessori

Montessori Matters



Zoo Trip

On Friday, June 10th, our school community, along with a handful of administrative staff from Montessori Northwest, enjoyed a field trip to the Oregon Zoo.

For most of our children, this was both their first field trip and visit to the zoo. Even a hearty afternoon rain wasn't enough to diminish the joy of seeing the animals and exploring their habitats.

Our school's participants have many barriers to academic and life success. These considerations also greatly limit their exposure to events and activities enjoyed by their more affluent peers.

Next year, we look forward to taking the children on more field trips, helping them connect with their world and enriching their experience at Alder Montessori.



Nicholas Stocco
Program Director

Looking Back at Our First Year

Maria Garcia - Lead Teacher

The entirety of our students are children who have never been in formal school before. Basic components like waking at a certain time, adjusting to bus transportation, interacting with fellow students, focusing for extended periods of time, etc., are all new. Simply growing accustomed to physically being in school was one of the greatest early accomplishments of the program.



By the year's end, the children had completely adapted to the working routine of being in their classroom; from the care of their environment to the grace and courtesy embedded within the program. The children arrived proud and excited to learn, alongside the 'systems of regulation' needed to thrive at school. The children knew how to manage themselves as part of a community. That's huge.

The level of proficiency and detail with which the children treated their classroom was instantly observable--pushing their chairs in every time!

These gestures go beyond following direction. They are the basis for the organization of order that they'll tap into for the rest of their education.

Here is an example from one area of our classroom where we saw significant progress in the first year:

A small library and reading bench have always been a part of the classroom. When the academic year began, the children had no relationship to books or reading and were totally uninterested in this area. It sat unused.

The transformation in that area alone could be the highlight of the program! The children are now book lovers and know that books contain exciting information that they can access. Words are now part of their lives. They're curious and they're hungry for more.

My heart is full of such gratitude and passion as I look to the upcoming year. We are expanding the number of children from 20 to 25. That's 14 new children starting, and 11 retained. One of the most powerful tenants of Montessori education is its multi-age classrooms. I look forward to our first-year students becoming role models for the younger students, solidifying their own learning as they help.

The changes we are seeing in these children are truly life-changing. To quote Dr. Montessori, "*Within the child lies the fate of the future.*"

THE IMPORTANCE OF OLDER STUDENTS IN THE MONTESSORI CLASSROOM

Montessorians are often asked about the role of the kindergarten-aged child in the classroom. After all, isn't a preschool for children under 5? Actually, a Montessori classroom is designed to provide a three-year curriculum. The 5-6 year old children have important and exciting opportunities which have been prepared during the two previous years. They have a great deal to still achieve and a great deal to contribute both academically and socially. Academically, writing can develop into authorship; reading expands beyond mechanics into comprehension and

interpretation; mathematics explodes through exploration of large quantities as well as memorization of basic math facts. Socially, the curriculum is designed to facilitate collaborative learning – older children gain knowledge together; provide positive role models for younger children; and enjoy many opportunities to teach younger children. All of this solidifies their own understanding and contributes to a positive social environment. Everyone benefits from the 5-6 year old's leadership, whether in academic subjects or through their informal lessons in patience and character.

PRESCHOOL PROMISE

Research continues to support what we already know: *High-fidelity preschool programs can significantly close the achievement gap and improve school and life outcomes for low-income children.* For decades, Oregon has envisioned providing preschool to all children in poverty, but over time we've fallen even further behind other states

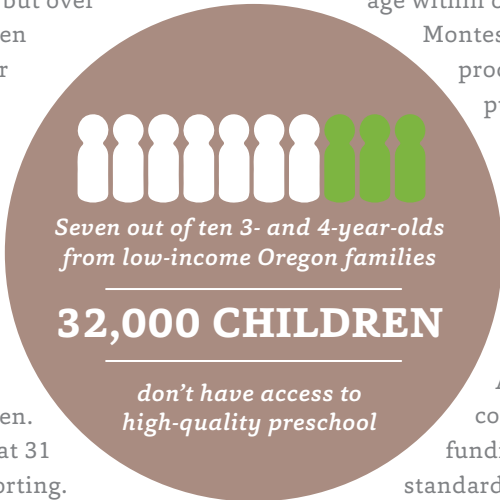
Oregon is near the bottom nationally for access to publicly-funded preschool for 4-year-olds, enrolling only 10 percent of all children. This places Oregon at 31 out of 43 states reporting.

Our vital work at Alder Montessori is supported by private funds, including generous individual contributions and foundation support. As programming continues to develop and become more

established, so too have we begun exploring new dynamic revenue possibilities.

We see the opportunity to access Title I preschool funds and District funding for the children who are already kindergarten age within our classroom. Alder Montessori has initiated the process for accessing this public support.

Earlier this year we received provisional approval to receive \$100,000+ in new Federal Preschool Promise funding. Alder Montessori was considered for this funding by meeting the standards and practices shown to have the greatest impact on efficacy, including full-day classes, well-educated and adequately compensated teachers, culturally responsive pedagogy, a proven curriculum, and family engagement.



montessori  NORTHWEST

For 37 years Montessori Northwest has provided community education, professional development, and rigorous teacher training in affiliation with the Association Montessori Internationale—preparing individuals for life-changing careers around the globe working with children ages 0-12. We operate programs in Oregon, California, and Washington, and now produce 100+ new teachers annually, making MNW the largest training center of its kind in the world.

Learn more at: www.montessori-nw.org

MADE POSSIBLE BY THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE FOLLOWING:

Davidson Fund
Earl Harris Charitable Trust
Jubitz Family Foundation
Meyer Memorial Trust
Oregon Community Foundation
Schroeder Family Fund



 Alder
Montessori

COME FOR A VISIT!

School year tours of Alder happen every Tuesday at 9:15AM, though we are available to show you the classroom almost any morning.

To slate an appointment:
alder@montessori-nw.org