



The 3-year Montessori Cycle

Upcoming Events

MLK Day

Jan. 17 (Abner Closed, Sky Open)



"There is a great sense of community within the Montessori classroom, where children of differing ages work together in an atmosphere of cooperation rather than competitiveness. There is a respect for the environment and for the individuals within it, which come through the experience of freedom within the community." -- Maria Montessori

Montessori philosophy stresses the importance of a three-year cycle, believing that the child's full potential is reached after three years in the same environment. Montessori schools use

multi-age groupings (three to six-year-olds, six to nine-year-olds, etc.), with trained teachers to meet the children's specific cognitive, social, and emotional needs. We realize that children possess talents and needs that go beyond academics; therefore, children are free to explore the environment at their own pace.

The Montessori approach to learning is carefully based on a child's cognitive, neurological, and emotional development; many top education experts agree it is the most developmentally appropriate model for education (*Tomorrow's Child*).

It is also important to note that young children are in what Maria Montessori called a "sensitive period" of development; they absorb information from their environment and learn best by whole-body involvement. Motor skills, such as holding a pencil, can be developed through multiple activities in the Montessori classroom, even before a child begins to write. Math concepts, such as how numbers work, are evident from working with Montessori materials long before a child sits down to write $2 + 2 = 4$. Appropriate social interaction is actively taught through the lessons in "grace and courtesy." Teamwork, cooperation, and time management are incorporated into daily activities.



During the Kindergarten year, many bits and pieces of information children have learned come together in a cohesive whole. These kindergarten children still work independently and grow to develop new skills while assisting and encouraging younger classmates.

[Video: Multi-Age Lesson](#) (*Abner students*)

For more information on the three-year cycle please read the entire [Tomorrow's Child](#) article by Tim Seldin and Dr. Elizabeth Coe or our other resources linked below.

["Why Montessori for the Kindergarten Year?"](#), *Tomorrow's Child* by Tim Sedlin and Dr. Elizabeth Coe

[The Montessori Milestone: The Three-Year Cycle and the Importance of the Third Year](#), by Cindy Coneasa

A Look Into Abner Classrooms

Primary Classrooms



We hope everyone enjoyed Christmas break and began their New Year in good health. We also would like to congratulate our students for a terrific performance with the Christmas program. We are so proud of their hard

work. A special thanks to our parents and grandparents for their continued support. It was a great night for our students to shine just like the stars God sent to twinkle twinkle twink. We are also so grateful to all of you who purchased special gifts from our classroom giving tree.

We jumped right back into our school routine this week. In the upcoming weeks we will be discussing The Great Time Line - year, season, month, day hour, minute and second. In geography we will focus on the continent of Antarctica and its biomes, animals, and people.



Elementary



What a busy first week back it has been! The elementary children have completed daily math warm-ups in addition and multiplication, continued to learn cursive letters and added higher math and language lessons.

We are learning to write our first and last names in cursive, place a string of compound words in order, and continue to practice ABC order.

Several children are working on four-digit multiplication on the checkerboard in math, and a few are beginning long division work. We thoroughly enjoy our morning and afternoon work cycles in our own classroom while still visiting the primary class during lunch and recess.



Community puzzles have been the highlight of the week-we have already completed two 300piece puzzles together. Stay tuned for many more January happenings in the elementary area!

Healthy & Safety Reminders

The teachers and staff of Abner Montessori work very hard to provide a healthy environment for our students. We will continue to clean and sanitize our classrooms and school environment daily and encourage frequent hand-washing. We also ask that parents take home blankets and pillows each Friday to wash.

Following our health and safety policy, please remember that your child must be fever-free, without medication, for 24 hours before returning to school. If your child, or anyone in your household, is experiencing COVID symptoms, keep your child home until receiving a negative test. Please review our [health and safety policy](#) if you have any questions.