

# TODDLER NEWSLETTER

February 2020 Edition

## Upcoming dates

**Wed. Feb 5th** - Toddler Parent Ed Night @ 6:00

**Tues. Feb 11th** - Toddler 2-Day Valentines Exchange

**Wed. Feb 12th** - Toddler 3-Day Valentines Exchange

**Wed. Feb 12th** - Primary Parent Ed Night @ 6:00

**Fri. Feb 14th** - No School - Teacher Work Day

**Mon. Feb 17th** - No School - President's Day

**Tues. March 3rd** - No School- Parent/Teacher Conferences

## Valentine's Lessons

Our children have enjoyed exploring the new Valentines themed lessons on our shelves. A few examples of the new lessons are: a practical life buttoning lesson using felt hearts, and a manipulative lesson sorting a



## Bringing Montessori into Your Home



Thank you all for attending our Toddler Parent Ed Night this week. We hope that you walked away with helpful and insightful information. As you begin or continue your journey of incorporating Montessori into your home we have provided you with an analysis of an article that was published in the AMS magazine called Montessori Life. It parallels many of the ideas that were discussed during the evening as well as offers a few new ideas. We hope you enjoy it!

While many of the Montessori lessons and approaches are learned and practiced in the classroom, it is also important to remember to apply them in the home as well. In "Realistically Applying Montessori in the Home: One Parent's Story," Jocelyn Tatum shares her personal experience with Montessori and gives practical advice for how to raise a toddler using the Montessori Method.

One of Tatum's first recommendations is to accept that children work more slowly and at their own pace. She encourages parents to practice being patient with their child whenever possible, as this

## Montessori Tidbits

### The Language of Respectful Discipline

Taken from a lecture at the Center for Guided Montessori Studies

1. Repeat back to the child the words they used. This is how they know they are being heard and understood. "You are saying \_\_\_\_". "I hear you and I will help you, you don't need to say it over and over anymore." Give your children the honor of truly being heard.
2. Give the child in fantasy what you cannot give in reality. "The playground is so much fun you wish you could play here forever!" "That ice cream is so yummy you wish you could eat more and more."
3. Use the words "even though". "Even though you wish you could keep playing, it's time for us to go make dinner. We need to eat so we can have energy to play, right?" "Even though you want my attention, I am helping Daddy. Please be so kind as to wait a little while."
4. Use the phrase, "I'll need to think about that." Don't feel pressed into giving an answer that you aren't ready to give. If you need time to think, let your child know that, then follow through with an answer when you are ready.
5. Describe what you see. If a child is screaming and having a fit, you can say, "Wow, you are really crying loudly. I see your face is red. I see tears in your eyes. You are also kicking your feet. You have your head under the blanket. You are really sad...". Many times, the child will calm down and look at you. Once your child is calm, they may feel more comfortable talking about what made them upset.

will foster their sense of independent thinking. However, she admits that she is high-energy and generally not patient, so this can be a challenge. Therefore, Tatum suggests finding a task or hobby where you can collaborate with your child and that bring you both joy.

For Tatum, this project was cooking. Although cooking with her toddler took longer and led to larger messes, she make it a priority for them because it "makes him feel important and proud." She even gave him a step stool so that he could work alongside her. Similarly, there were a variety of other household chores that she and her husband assigned to her son, such as: feeding his fish, putting his dirty laundry in a designated basket, and walking/feeding the dog.

Tatum also recommends giving your child choices within reason. For example, she lets her son choose his favorite green vegetable to have with dinner. According to Tatum, having these responsibilities and choices bring her son a great deal of happiness. Plus it gets him to help clean and eat his greens!

Tatum is also an advocate for giving your child your undivided attention and looking them in the eyes. Whether this is dedicating time to play with them in their room, or inviting them to help you cook, the quality time you spend with your child is extremely important to their development. She recognizes that this can be boring or tedious, but she has noticed a positive change in her child every time.

Throughout the article, Tatum acknowledges that finding the discipline to stay consistent with these approaches can be difficult, but understands that it is in her child and her family's best interest to make this effort. Furthermore, she has found ways to modify these practices to fit her personality.

By finding realistic way to apply Montessori in their home, Jocelyn Tatum believes that it has "allowed us as a family to enjoy our child, and, in turn, for him to enjoy us."

