

THINKING ABOUT MONTESSORI FOR KINDERGARTEN?

By Anna Takeda - Elementary class teacher



It's that time of year again! *No, not that frantic shopping, cooking, decorating, card-writing and gift-wrapping holiday time, but that time when you get that form asking if you are going to enroll your child here at Montessori next*



year. For most of you the decision is fairly simple. If your child is under 4 years of age and doing well here, you just have to remember to bring back the form before Lynn starts asking you about it! But, if your child is old enough for Kindergarten, your decision may be much more difficult.

We live in an area with very good public schools and you might wonder why you should pay "all that money" every month to leave your child at Montessori for

Kindergarten or 1st grade. I would like to give you a brief overview of our program and more specifically, the "Elementary Class" and invite you to come and talk to me before you make your final decision.

Our classes are small- there are typically 15 or 16 children in the Elementary class- and this is a benefit for all the children, but particularly for a shy child or a child who is lacking in self-confidence. The children in the Elementary class are also the oldest in the school and become role models for the younger children with all the advantages and responsibilities that position brings.

The move from the NK classes is usually smooth because we know the children and they know us and our classrooms. We all work closely together in this small environment and the NK teachers (and/or Miss Sachia) tell us about your child's learning style, personality and academic achievements, so that we can make the transition as comfortable as possible. The children all know each other already and they share a common background with their classmates from previous classes. Some of them have been together since the Toddler class!

There are some differences between the NK classes and Grade/Elementary" classes. Sachia and I are both

Montessori certified teachers, but our classes are a transition between Montessori and "regular" school. The vast majority of our children go on to public schools- 1st or 2nd grade- and some go to private schools in the area. In the Elementary class I consider it part of my job to make that transition a little easier for your child. We have more assigned work and less free choice than before, weekly spelling tests and assigned seats at work time, but the children still work at their own level and pace.

All that said, our classes are not always the best option for each child. If you would like to know more or find out from other parents how their children have fared in the Elementary class and the transition into public school, I would love to talk to you.

Whatever decision you finally come to, your child has had an excellent foundation here at Montessori. If you decide to leave us, I would like to wish your child continued success and if the withdrawal symptoms get too bad, you can always come back and visit!.

