

Family Information Packet



2024 - 2025





Dear Family, Friends and Explorers of All Ages,

I first encountered Dr. Montessori's words a few years into my own search for a better, more natural way to educate our children. The clarity and authenticity of her work made an immediate impression on my identity as a teacher, and launched me into an early childhood journey that continues to this day. Can it really be true that children naturally write *before* they read? Do exercises in Practical Life genuinely and positively influence a child's overall development in ways that measurably affect academics? Do works like the Pink Tower or the Broad Stair truly accelerate cognition and visual-spatial recognition? Like the children in our Montessori environment, my own questions didn't stop. Each answer led to a new path, new excitement, new questions!

To answer your first question, *yes*, your child will do remarkable things within a Montessori cohort. Writing begins early at our house with the Movable Alphabet, progressing seamlessly and naturally to paper and pencil. Your child will be multiplying four-digit numbers, reciting Robert Frost poems, identifying nouns and verbs and coaching you in remembering the fifty states, while also bringing meaningful (and willing) help whenever you prepare a family meal, and all of that before ever setting foot in first-grade. Three years in a Montessori primary program impacts childhood development in ways that will last a lifetime.

For some, those academic feats are the high-point of Montessori primary education. For me, they're simply the byproduct of our profound and exciting work. The real heart of our work can be found within the simple, everyday moments within our house. From the morning greeting to great adventures on our cedar playset to the joy of counting the Thousand Bead Chain, every minute of a Montessori day exists within a thoughtful environment specifically prepared for your child. Somewhere between the rhythms of routine and discovery, exploration and celebration, leading and following, life is transformed by wonder. Each child develops according to their own genius. And *all* of us, guides, parents, family members and friends, are changed for the better.

At Maria's House Doylestown, we join Dr. Montessori in knowing that each child's future is being formed right here, right now. They're hardwired to be curious, to search and explore, guided by their own inner muse. It's our privilege to work in concert with you, with your family, and with your child, celebrating each and every day that they're with us, supporting them, keeping them safe, and welcoming them to the richness of early childhood. I look forward to answering all of your questions as they arise. In the meantime, I wish you and your young explorer all the best. These are truly remarkable years.

Sincerely,

Laine Walker, MA, NBCT
Executive Director





The Difference

Take a breath. Remember a time that you went someplace new, seeing things you'd never seen, making sense of unfamiliar sounds, decoding shapes, colors, tastes, customs, ideas and more. That memory is your doorway into the world of the 3-6 year-olds around you. Wonder is their world.

Eventually they'll separate work from play, learning from rest, exploring from relaxing, but right now they're what Maria Montessori called "an exquisite whole, driven by their own perfect curiosity, emerging, absorbing, always becoming." We use all of our skill to guide them.

Researcher, scientist, pedagogue and early-childhood pioneer, Dr. Montessori was remarkable by any standard. One-hundred-and-eleven years ago, Italy's indomitable first female physician returned to Rome's San Lorenzo neighborhood where she had served as a resident intern, and began the practical work of restoring early childhood education. Maria's first *Casa di Bambini* (children's house) drew over sixty young neighborhood children. Their days were carefully structured, built around respect, cleanliness, order, beauty and the simple tasks of everyday life. Through it all, Maria wove a progressive series of intellectual exercises, gross and fine motor activities, songs, movements, games and conversation. Within months, children from the house began exhibiting greater concentration, self-direction, extraordinary skill with mathematics, language and creative collaboration. Four months later, at the urging of the Italian government, Maria opened her second site. Her nascent work had already attracted the attention of the world, as it offered a hopeful alternative to the failing institutional educational practices of the post-industrial age.

Hundreds of books and thousands of journal articles document the rest of her story. For us, it's led right here, as we bring Maria's time-proven work to a new location in our lovingly restored historic mansion that is, in so many ways, very close to home.

So, if you have a particularly special three-to-six-year-old in your life and you'd like to explore the Montessori difference, spend a few minutes on our website, then call us, speak with one of our directors and arrange a visit. In the meantime, always remember what an extraordinary gift early childhood years are to the young souls around you, a time when everything is new, undiscovered, and waiting to be explored. Maria's House is here to help.





Our Days at Maria's House

Maria's House provides full-day (8am-3pm) and introductory (8am-11:30am) five-day Montessori Primary programs, welcoming children 3-6 years of age to explore their world in a safe, engaging and thoroughly Montessori way, celebrating the unique developmental path that each of us travels. Any child who is comfortably toilet trained and has outgrown the need for an afternoon nap (do any of us really outgrow that?) will be well-suited to the rhythm of daily life at our Doylestown casa. Most days unfold like this:

Morning

- 7:45am Drop off begins at our circle with staff assistance
- 8:30am Gathering, flag raising and morning exercise
- 8:40am Morning rally at cubbies
- 8:45am Morning work period begins

Lunch (Our explorers bring their own lunch, which we augment with healthy options)

- 11:30 am Table setting and lunch
- 12:10 pm Table clearing and cleanup

Afternoon

- 12:15 pm Exploration (outdoors whenever the weather permits)
- 1:00 pm Afternoon rally at cubbies
- 1:05pm Afternoon work period begins
- 3:00pm First pickup begins at our circle with staff assistance

Maria's House offers three additional program opportunities daily:

- Afternoon Tea & Interesting Things (3pm-4pm)
- Maria's Academy (4pm-5pm)
- Retreat & Flag Lowering (5pm-5:45pm)

Our extended care options are thoroughly Montessori, offering our young explorers opportunities for outdoor play, civilized snacks, instruction in music, food preparation, chess, fencing, golf, language, culture and more.

To set up a tour or to speak further with one of our Directors, please call us at 610-290-5019, visit the *Inquire* section of our website or send an email to Explore@MariasHouseMontessori.com. We look forward to meeting you.





Becoming an Explorer - The Enrollment Process at Maria's House

Maria's House Montessori, Doylestown offers rolling admissions, which means that we accept applications throughout the year and welcome students all year long. We welcome inquiries and applications from all families with children ranging from 2 to 5 years of age. Here's how you and your preschooler can explore the Montessori experience at Maria's House:

1. Tour Maria's House Doylestown

Parents/Guardians are encouraged to visit Maria's House for a tour before submitting an application. A tour of our school will give you the opportunity to learn about the Montessori method of education, explore our house, experience our culture and discover how the Maria's House Montessori community may very well be the right place for your child and family.

2. Apply

Once we receive your completed application, our Director will contact you to set up a family interview and a visit to the campus for your child. Application can be made through our website.

3. Child's Visit & Family Interview

Your child will have the opportunity to explore our space with our Director, who will work with you to complete a readiness assessment at that time. After that, we'll sit together for a brief interview as we discuss any and all questions or concerns about pairing your child with our primary program.

4. Admissions Decision & Enrollment Offer

Our Admissions Board considers all applicants to Maria's House. Enrollment invitations are offered on a rolling basis and are offered after your child's visit and application to the House.

As enrollments become available, candidates are considered by application date. We accept applications throughout the school year.

Maria's House Montessori welcomes students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, or any other protected class in administration of our educational policies, admissions policies, or any other Maria's House programs or offerings.





Tuition and Fees 2024-2025

Tuition

Primary Full Day Five Day September-June, 8am-3pm (ages 3-6) \$16,580*

Extended Program

Afternoon Tea & Interesting Things (3pm-4pm) \$2,460*

Maria's Academy (4pm-5pm) \$2,460*

Retreat & Flag Lowering (5pm-5:45pm) \$2,460*

Our extended-care offerings are fully Montessori in design and delivery.

Deposits and Fees

Application Fee \$ 50

Non-Refundable Tuition Deposit, due with agreementFirst Month

Rolling Enrollment and Payment Options

Along with direct payments by check or cash, *Maria's House Montessori* offers secure, automated electronic payments (bank account or credit card).

Payments for our September-June academic program are accepted as follows:

- 1 full payment at enrollment (3% discount)
- 2 payments August and January (2% discount)
- Monthly payments due the first of each month September-June:
 - Primary Academic Program (8am-3pm)..... \$1,658
 - Afternoon Tea & Interesting Things (3pm-4pm)..... \$ 246
 - Maria's Academy (4pm-5pm) \$ 246
 - Retreat & Flag Lowering (5pm-5:45pm)..... \$ 246

Families entering our program during the course of the year are provided with a personalized prorated tuition and payment plan, including discounted single payment options. Our staff works closely with each of our families to identify and implement the most suitable financial plan.

Summer Program

Maria's House Montessori offers seven weeks of Montessori summer experience. Program weeks are available individually or in any combination until registration is full. Families enrolled in our academic program are offered the chance to select summer weeks in February. Open enrollment for our summer session begins in March.

For All Who Serve

Maria's House is proud to offer a 10% tuition scholarship to the children of those who protect and defend others through their Military service and Law Enforcement including front-line medical personnel, along with our heartfelt thanks for all that you

* Annual tuition based on a monthly payment plan. Discounts apply for 2 pay (-2%) and single pay (-3%) plans. Regular full-time tuition calculates to \$11.95 per hour. Grants, aid, multiple child discounts and bespoke transitional plans are available. Please contact us at 610-290-5019 or visit our website for more information.

Maria's House

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2024-2025 Academic Calendar

September							October							November							December						
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29	30																										

January							February							March							April						
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May							June							July							August						
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- House Closed
- House Event

At a Glance

Aug 26	Opening Day - Fall Term Begins	Jan 31	GroundDog Day 2025!
Sep 2	Labor Day	Feb 17	President's Day
Sep 13	Heroes Day 2024 - Afternoon Family Picnic	April 14	Spring Break Begins
Oct 25	SGCRCFT 24! - Afternoon Family Picnic	May 23	Via Solari Day - Afternoon Family Picnic
Nov 28	Thanksgiving Break Begins	May 26	Memorial Day
Dec 20	The Lighting of the Peace Tree	Jun 20	Academic Year Concludes - Giorno dell'Addio Picnic
Dec 24	Winter Break Begins	Jul 7	Summer Session Begins - Ponte Montessori 2025
Jan 2	Il Ritorno - Spring Term Begins	Aug 18	Summer Session 2025 Concludes
Jan 6	Prima Casa	Sep 1	Labor Day
Jan 20	Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	Sep 2	Opening Day - Fall Term 2025



Our Director

Laine Walker, MA, NBCT

Inspire. Think about the word. It's Latin root, *inspirare*, is all about *breathing in*, about staying alive, putting oxygen into the bloodstream, growing, developing and flourishing in healthy ways.

Laine Walker is the Director and Principal Guide of Maria's House. A career educator, National Board Certified Teacher and mom, Laine inspires and supports our staff, guiding the continuous professional development of MHMI guides and assistants, channeling the spirit and vision of Dottorressa Montessori throughout our house and our program. A Montessori Diplomat of the *Princeton Center for Teacher Education* with a Masters in Educational Administration and advanced post-graduate work in early child development, Laine creates and maintains program standards that meet or exceed those established by the American Montessori Society, ensuring that each child is welcomed as an honored guest, treated with respect and hospitality, and gently guided to explore the wonder and beauty of simple things.

Her work as a Pennsylvania certified teacher drew Laine to Maria Montessori, whose understanding and experience led to a way of working with children that was as natural as it was revolutionary. Laine breathes Montessori, and inspires us all.

Free one child's potential and you will transform the world.



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TEL (610) 290-5019

www.MariasHouseMontessori.com