

Welcome to our Back to School Night!



We are delighted to welcome you here today! Many of you have not had the chance to come inside often, and we are truly grateful to have you here today. This afternoon, we will share classroom expectations and ways you can best support your scholar, their teacher, and the classroom community. Together, we are a team, and our goal is to make this a purposeful and meaningful year for everyone.

Agenda:

1. What is Montessori?
2. Helping your child succeed at school
3. Parent-Teacher Conferences
4. Enrichment Programs
5. Volunteer opportunities
6. Classroom daily schedule
7. Teacher presentation
8. LSAOC Calendar
9. Questions?
10. Enjoy the classroom before you pick up your child!
11. More resources

What is Montessori?

"I've Got 5 Minutes. Explain Montessori to Me." by Aubrey Hargis



This is the perfect read if you have ever wished for a simple, no-jargon way to understand what Montessori means. In just five minutes, Aubrey Hargis breaks down the heart of Montessori, what it is, what it is not, and why it matters, in a clear, practical, and inspiring way. It is a quick guide that can change how you see learning and childhood.

Helping your child succeed at school

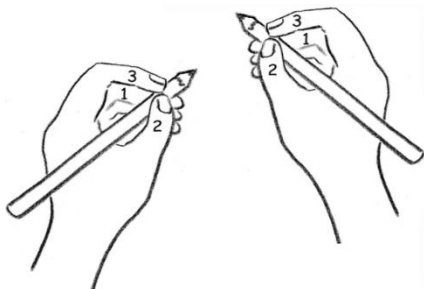
"Montessori Parenting: 4 Ways to Boost Your Child's Growth at Home" by Lakewood Montessori School

This article provides actionable, Montessori-aligned tips to help your preschooler thrive at school and home. It emphasizes the importance of fostering independence, establishing routines, and supporting emotional regulation - key aspects of the Montessori approach. By implementing these strategies, you can create a supportive environment that encourages your child's growth and success in their early educational journey.



What is a pincer grip?

The pincer grip strengthens the hands and fingers, developing coordination and fine motor skills essential for everyday tasks and school readiness. It supports self-care (eating, drinking, washing hands, blowing the nose), writing, using scissors, dressing (buttons and zippers), and tying shoelaces.



- 1 – Tall Finger (side)
 - 2 – Thumb (pad)
 - 3 – Pointing finger (tip)
- All fingers are slightly bent.

We sometimes refer to the 3 fingers as “Mommy” (thumb), “Daddy” (pointer), “Child’s Name” (middle) so children are easily reminded of how to hold a pencil.

Activities to Strengthen the Pincer Grip:

- **Under 2 Years:** Crayons, sorting small items (buttons, beans), lock-and-key activities, pasting small pieces of paper, threading with straws or pasta.
- **3 Years:** Drawing with chalk, peeling bananas, opening snack packaging, sorting, or transferring with tweezers or mini tongs.
- **4 Years and Up:** Coloring, cutting on the line, gluing cut pieces (can create patterns).

Additional Ideas:

- Puzzles with knobs, bead sorting, eye droppers, small tongs or tweezers, and crafts with play-dough or modeling clay are excellent for repeated pincer practice.

Tip: The pincer grip improves holding utensils, scissors, and other tools.

This pincer grip also translates to holding utensils, scissors, etc.



Age Appropriate Chores

2 to 3 years old

The possibilities are endless! All chores should be completed with appropriate supervision, taking into account your child's abilities and maturity level.

Bathroom

- Blow nose
- Brush teeth
- Clean face
- Help take the trash out
- Sweep floors
- Use the toilet
- Wash body (use travel-sized bottles to minimize waste)
- Wipe down counters

Kitchen

- Clear the table
- Help take the trash out
- Make orange juice
- Peel a tangerine
- Peel and cut an apple with limited assistance
- Peel and slice a banana
- Prepare a sandwich
- Set the table
- Sweep the floor
- Use a dustpan and brush
- Wash fruits and vegetables
- Wipe the table

Bedroom

- Choose clothes
- Dust or wipe down furniture
- Get dressed with little help
- Help make a bed
- Place dirty clothes in the laundry hamper
- Put toys away
- Vacuum the room

Other

- Arranging flowers in small vases
- Cleaning windows
- Dust baseboards
- Dusting
- Fetch diapers and wipes
- Fetch products in the supermarket/ push shopping cart/ help unload groceries
- Fold washcloths
- Load/unload washing machine and dryer
- Pack and carry a bag/ backpack
- Put a leash on the dog and brush the dog/cat
- Put on a jacket
- Put on shoes with Velcro closures
- Set the table
- Sort socks and clothing by color
- Stack books on the shelf
- Throw away trash
- Tidy toys in baskets and clean up toys after playing
- Water plants



Age Appropriate Chores

3 years and older

The possibilities are endless! All chores should be completed with appropriate supervision, taking into account your child's abilities and maturity level.

Bathroom

- (In addition to the above)
- Close the toilet seat
- Flush the toilet
- Place wet clothing in the laundry area
- Replace the paper towel roll
- Replace the paper towel roll
- Wash hair (use travel bottles to minimize waste)
- Wipe after using the toilet with limited assistance

Kitchen

- (In addition to the above)
- Clear the table
- Make orange juice
- Peel a tangerine
- Peel and cut an apple with limited assistance
- Peel and slice a banana
- Prepare a sandwich
- Set the table
- Sweep the floor
- Use a dustpan and brush
- Wash fruits and vegetables
- Wipe the table

Bedroom

- (In addition to the above)
- Get dressed without assistance
- Make a bed independently
- Match clean socks
- Put away laundry into dresser or closet
- Straighten bedroom

Other

- (In addition to the above)
- Clean up after pets
- Disinfect doorknobs
- Dust mop floors
- Empty dishwasher
- Feed pets
- Fold laundry
- Fold towels
- Gather trash
- Help with recycling
- Pair and fold socks
- Put toys in toy box
- Rake leaves
- Stack books on shelf
- Vacuuming
- Weed garden



Parent-Teacher Conferences

Monday, November 23rd and Tuesday, November 24th

Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held via Zoom, are 15 minutes long, and scholars will not be in school that day. Please ensure that your scholar is not present during the conference so we can discuss strengths and areas of growth openly. Progress reports will be shared in advance so you can review them and come prepared to discuss.

Conferences are an excellent opportunity to:

- Review academic progress, milestone developments, and classroom observations.
- Share insights from home so we can better understand your scholar's strengths, needs, and learning style.
- Discuss enrichment or intervention strategies to support learning.
- Address any concerns that may be impacting growth. If an evaluation is recommended, please know that this is always in your scholar's best interest, and our team will guide you through the next steps.

Enrichment Programs

Our Fall Enrichment Programs start soon! If you haven't already registered your scholar for them, there is still time. Just send us a Brightwheel message if you need the form again to sign up.

Volunteer opportunities

Families are invited to participate in classroom activities and school events throughout the year. This is an excellent way to support your scholar's education and be part of our community. Upcoming opportunities include our Halloween Fun Fest, Annual Community Contributions (such as Thanksgiving Basket Drive, Toy Drive, etc.), Winter Concert, and Read-a-Book classroom visits.

** Please note that classroom volunteering is best suited for well-adjusted scholars who can comfortably handle a parent's presence at school.*

We are currently looking for volunteers to help with our Halloween Fun Fest. Please let us know if you are interested in helping us!

Screen Time as Part of STEAM

We recently introduced fun "Screen Time" activities to connect energy release with hands-on science, technology, engineering, art, and math learning. Screen time is always limited to under 30 minutes and focuses only on educational content directly supporting our thematic classroom lessons. This engaging experience allows scholars to explore concepts playfully and purposefully, strengthening creativity and critical thinking.

Toilet Education (Petite Scholars)

In the Montessori environment, we use the term *toilet education* rather than *potty training*, as it reflects a respectful and developmental approach. Toilet education is a process of helping scholars gain independence and confidence in caring for their own bodies. Being fully toilet educated means that a scholar can recognize when they need to use the restroom, manage their clothing, use the toilet, and wash their hands independently. It also includes the ability to wipe themselves after both urination and bowel movements, ensuring they can return to the classroom clean and comfortable.

Please note that what you observe at home may not fully reflect what happens at school. In the classroom, scholars are navigating a busy environment with many distractions, routines, and peers. This can sometimes make it harder for them to recognize their body's signals or respond as quickly as they do at home, which may result in occasional accidents. It does not mean your child is regressing. It is a normal part of learning and developing independence in a new setting. Every scholar will achieve full toilet education at their own pace, and these experiences help build confidence, self-regulation, and responsibility.

To support consistency between school and home, we issue toilet education contracts so families and teachers can work together to help each scholar succeed. This collaboration reinforces independence, dignity, and readiness to engage in the classroom community fully.

Classroom Transitions

At Little Scholars Academy, transitions between classrooms are guided by readiness rather than age alone. Teachers and directors constantly observe scholars for developmental milestones to ensure each child is prepared to thrive in their new environment.

Transition from Petite Scholars to Mini Scholars

Readiness includes:

- Toileting independence (no accidents)
- Maturity and self-regulation
- Independence in daily routines
- Ability to follow multi-step directions

- Completing full work cycles

Transition from Mini Scholars to Junior Scholars

Readiness includes:

- Penmanship development
- Letter and number formation
- Reading and recognition of sight words
- Homework responsibility

These milestones help us ensure that each scholar transitions confidently and is set up for success in their next stage of learning.

Supporting Your Scholar at Home for Classroom Transitions

Families can support transitions by encouraging independence, practicing self-regulation, and reinforcing key skills like letters, numbers, reading, and completing small tasks. Working together with our teachers helps scholars feel confident and ready for their next classroom.

LSAOC Calendar

Our school calendar was shared with families during re-enrollment and is available at any time on our website.

Questions?

We are happy to take a few minutes to do some Q&As.

Enjoy the classroom before you pick up your child!

Before picking up your child, take a moment to observe the classroom and see learning in action. We welcome your feedback, as it helps us maintain a high-quality program and provide the best possible experience for your family.

Recommended Reading

Explore these resources to gain a deeper understanding of Montessori principles, classroom practices, and how you can support your scholar's learning at home. Take a look at the **American Montessori Society** website. Under the *Families* tab, look at the *Montessori Articles* section for more insight.

Thank you for joining us for Back to School Night.

We look forward to another wonderful and
successful school year together!

