

Things to Consider when Observing a Montessori Class

1. How are the shelves and materials organized? Are they neat, in sequence, and clearly displayed?
2. Are the materials in good condition?
3. How do the children flow in their space?
4. Is there adequate group and quiet space for them?
5. How do the children interact with the materials?
6. How "child centered" is the environment?
7. How respectful are the children of the environment, materials, and each other?
8. What from of record keeping and time management is in place for the children?
9. How independent or interdependent are the children i.e. do they go to each other for help or to the adult?
10. How are distracted children re-directed?
11. How much do the adults interfere w/ or control the class, disruptions, distractions, etc.
12. How does the work period flow? Is there a natural "bell curve" in the activity and noise level?
13. How do the children know what's expected of them? How do they choose their work? How engaged are they in their work?
14. What is the noise level like and is it working?
15. How aware are the adults of the class as a whole, even when giving lessons?
16. How do the adults handle lessons?
17. What, if any have you seen that you would like to try to incorporate in your class and why?