

# Montessori Phase-In

The first few weeks of school are critical in laying the foundation of expectations for the remainder of the year. During this time, new students learn the routines and rules of the classroom while gradually separating from parents and caregivers. They will readily acquire the new skills needed to succeed in the classroom if we provide them with a slow and purposeful introduction to the carefully prepared environment. A model that allows for the gradual and steady internalization of routines and expectations is a model that respects the child's developmental needs and abilities. It is a model that recognizes that attending school for the first time can be a stressful event for a child, and it attempts to minimize this stress by gradually phasing the child into the classroom environment.

Phase-In schedules may differ from one Montessori school to another, but the emphasis is always on the needs of the child. At Around the Sun, our goal is to set your child up for a positive and rewarding classroom experience. This schedule will allow us to introduce your child to the classroom gradually, while allowing teachers the valuable opportunity to observe your child's individual needs and level of readiness in all developmental areas. We greatly appreciate your support and flexibility during these first few weeks of school!

Our phase-in schedule is as follows:

## **Week 1 (Sept. 5-8)**

- Sept. 5 – No School (Labor Day)
- Sept. 6-8 First week for Returning Students Only (regular classroom hours).
- This gives students time to re-acclimate to the classroom and review classroom procedures. Teachers focus on discussions with students about being role models for new students when they arrive.

## **September 9: New Student Orientation**

- Students will be assigned a 45-minute time slot during the day to come into the classroom without a parent to get an introduction to the environment and routine for the school day. An on-site waiting area for parents will be available.

## **Week 2 (Sept. 12-15)**

- Returning Students (regular hours)
- New Students Phase-In (half-day/half-week)
  - New students will be split into two groups:
    - Group 1 will attend half days (10:00-11:30 for morning class, 2:00-3:30 for afternoon class). This group will attend Monday and Tuesday only.
    - Group 2 will attend half days (10:00-11:30 or 2:00-3:30) Wednesday and Thursday only.

## **Week 3 (Sept. 19-22)**

- Returning Students (regular hours)
- New Students will attend their regularly scheduled program unless teachers and/or parents feel that additional phase-in time is in the child's best interest.