

Classroom #4

Ms. Crystal and Mrs. Attia

September 2009

Did You Know:

Famous anthropologist and writer, Erik Erikson, held a Montessori Teaching Certificate!

Imaginative Play on the Playground



Sean mixes a “stew” made of leaves, green tomatoes, and mulch.

Notable and Quotable

After having a tough day, Ms. Crystal was explaining to the children how it made her “sad” when they didn’t follow the rules.

Mazin, age 3, raised his hand and said, “Maybe you just need a hug!”

**It’s the Little Things
By Crystal Owen**

The other day, someone said to me “God is in the details.” I started thinking about that quote by Mies Van Der Rohe and my train of thought led me to the emphasis we place on details in the classroom.

We teach the children that they must quietly push in their chairs when they get up from a table, that they must roll up their rugs and put it away when they complete their work, when replacing their work on the shelf they must place it without a sound and carry each piece of material with two hands, and that they must sponge up

even the tiniest drop of water that may remain on their tray. By instilling this attention to detail, children first and foremost learn to take care of their environment and more importantly, learn to notice and pay attention to even the smallest differences. This skill is also strengthened by many of the materials in the sensorial area such as the pink tower, (grading by size) brown stairs (grading by width), red rods (grading by length), sound cylinders (matching sounds that are only slightly different) and color box three (grading by shades of color). The ability to differentiate between even small details is a



Guinevere rolls a rug after finishing her work.

necessary skill. Learning a concept such as quantity requires an ability to comprehend that, for example, “two” is only one more than “three.” This is only a slight difference, but is the major difference between two numbers.

To help your child with the ability to recognize detail, point out small differences in everyday things such as comparing two apples!

The Gifts of Trees



This month, the children learned all about trees. We discussed the parts of a tree (you may have heard your child singing “a tree has four parts, a tree has four parts...”) and discussed the functions of each part. We also spoke about why trees are important. This was a lesson called “The Gifts of a Tree.” The children learned that not only do some trees provide us with food, but also paper to write on, wood to build houses with, shade to shield us from the sun, and oxygen to breathe. It was enlightening for both the children and us alike.