



Parent Observation Guide

Name _____

Date _____

Welcome to Fernwood Montessori! We hope you find your visit enjoyable and informative. In order to get the most from your observation today, here are some helpful hints about what to expect. Enjoy your time in our classroom!

Before Your Observation

In order to ensure smooth transitions, in the morning of your day of observation, please take a moment to discuss with your child the reason for your observation. It will also be helpful to let your child know what to expect from you during your time in his/her classroom (see below).

Your Role in the Classroom

So that the children may continue their school activities with as little distraction as possible, we respectfully request that you observe the following requests:

- When you enter the room, you will find an adult-size chair. Please make yourself comfortable as we request that observers not move around the room.
- You will want to be a “fly on the wall.” When you are an observer and not a participant, you will see how the room flows more naturally.
- Feel free to just sit without interacting with the children. Please do not engage the children in conversation. They will understand that you are here to see how the room works rather than to see their individual work.
- If a child comes to you and speaks to you (even your own child), it is perfectly appropriate to gently let them know that your work is to observe and redirect them to “please find your own work to do.” This will not put them off since this is the language they use with each other.
- Please note and reserve any questions for discussion outside of your scheduled observation time.

And finally, thank you so much for taking the time to join us today. We are thrilled to share with you the amazing things that happen every day at Fernwood Montessori.

Reflections

- Y or N Would you allow us to share some of your feedback (anonymously, of course) with prospective families, in promotional materials, and on our website?
- Y or N If you would like to stay abreast of news and events at Fernwood Montessori, you are welcome to provide you email and or mailing address(es) in the space provided below.



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Your Observation

1. Begin by sharing with us your first impressions of the physical environment (furnishings, materials, learning activities, curriculum areas, etc.). Describe some of the first things you notice.
2. Are the children focused on their work? Do you notice an adult helping a child to re-focus on the task at hand?
3. Are the children using the learning materials carefully? Are they replacing their work when finished?
4. Do the children treat each other with respect? Do they demonstrate patience? Are they courteous?
5. Are the children moving carefully around the room? Do the adults in the classroom model the behaviors they would like to see in the children?
6. What is unique about our mixed-age classrooms? What role do you see the older students playing in the classroom? Give an example.
7. When you leave us today, how would you answer a friend who asks, "What was it like?"