**PARENT INFORMATION**

**HELPING THE CHILD TO DEVELOP A CLEAR THINKING PROCESS.**

**ACTIVE LEARNING**  If parents are to be active partners in the Montessori learning process at our nursery/school, it is helpful to understand how a small child process their listening and thinking skills. This will help us to share in the child’s learning process he/she experience at home and at the school.

Active learning makes a child’s learning experience joyful, spontaneous and rewarding. The child learns to be aware and develop good listening skills, thus acquire the ability to understand through a clear thinking process. **This is extremely important for the child’s language development and the natural development to read and write, at a later stage.**

**HOW CAN PARENTS HELP?**

**CLEAR THINKING** Clear thinking is fundamental for the child’s learning process. For clear thinking to take place the child must be able to **listen.** This process starts from birth.

**COMMUNICATION**

**FROM BIRTH**

Connect your child with the environment, through talking, singing listening and reading. It is best not to leave the child in front of the television. The human voice and talking with your baby is more important than any other.

**18 MONTHS ONWARDS**

**ENCOURAGE REASONING** From 18 months, children start to learn about reasoning. If the doorbell rings the child knows that there is someone at the door. If the coat is put on, the child knows that he/she is going out. Be aware of this most sensitive stage of learning and help by asking questions that encourage reasoning. Such as: “ I wonder who is at the door. Is it the postman or the milk man? Give time for the child to respond, without providing the answer to your question.

Involve the child in your daily routine. When it is time to go out, you could say: “ It is time to go out. Do you think it is cold outside? Do we need our coatsor do you think the sun is out, do we need a hat? **IF YOU COULD GIVE YOUR CHILD THE TIME TO THINK AND ACT UPON THAT THINKING YOU WILL BE HELPING THE CHILD TO DEVELOP HIS POWER OF REASONING.** Always wait to see how the child responds.

**LOGICAL THINKING**

**Classifying:** Involving the child in your daily house work. Such as sorting out the wahing, cutlery, shopping etc.

**How does this help the child?**

**It helps him/her in acquiring a clear logical thinking process.**

**Sequencing:**  Putting things in order is part of logical thinking. Start the day by planning with your child. Such as “today we need to go to buy some food. Then we have to buy your shoes and then go to Grandmas to lunch”.

Cooking is another example of sequencing. Each step in cooking comes in a logical order and you can explain to your child why it is done so.

**How does it help your child?**

**It makes sense to the child. It takes steps in logical order and hence brings clarity to the mind.**

**Predicting:** Encourage children to predict what is going to happen. Such as, “the sky is very grey today, what do you think the weather is going to be”? Or that smells good, what could it be”?. What you need to remember is**: to be patient until the child absorbs your question and then respond to it. Do not give readily available answers.**

**How does this help the child?**

**It encourages the child to take control over his/her thoughts.**

I hope the above information will be of help to you, and I look forward to our next parents evening to present to you, some of the activities, we do in a Montessori prepared environment, in our ‘Community room’ 18 months to 2 years.

Menik Ellawala.

Head of school

Windsor Montessori School / Windsor Montessori House of Children.