



Admissions Packet



Brickton

MONTESSORI SCHOOL

Illinois State Recognized
Accredited by the Independent Schools
Association of the Central States and the
American Montessori Society

Dear Parent:

Thank you for your interest in Brickton Montessori School. We are proud of our tradition of excellence in Montessori education, serving children from age two through 8th grade. We are one of 75 fully accredited American Montessori Schools in the U.S. and are recognized by The Illinois State Board of Education. We have also recently achieved accreditation status with the prestigious Independent Schools Association of the Central States, a highly regarded accreditation service in the independent school community. Each member of our dedicated and caring faculty is fully certified. Our doors are open year round from 6:45 am - 6:00pm.

At Brickton we believe our children are unusually adaptable and well-adjusted. They have learned to work independently and in groups. Since they've been encouraged to make decisions from an early age, they are problem-solvers who can make appropriate choices and manage time well. They have been encouraged to exchange ideas and discuss their work freely with others. Their good communication skills ease the way in new settings. Research has shown that the best predictor of future success is a positive sense of self-esteem. Montessori programs, based on self-directed, non-competitive activities, help children develop strong self-images and the confidence to face challenges and change with optimism.

Enclosed you'll find tuition and application information for the program you requested. For further information or to make an appointment to visit our school, please contact our office. We look forward to meeting you.

Sincerely,

Deborah A. Kelley
Principal, Executive Director

Some Comparisons Of Montessori Education With Traditional Education

Montessori children are unusually adaptable. They have learned to work independently and in groups. Since they've been encouraged to make decisions from an early age, these children are problem-solvers who can make appropriate choices and manage their time well.

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Montessori

Emphasis on: cognitive structures and social development

Teacher has unobtrusive role in classroom activity; child is an active participant in learning

Environment and method encourage internal self-discipline

Instruction, both individual and group, adapts to each student's learning style

Mixed age grouping

Children are encouraged to teach, collaborate, and help each other

Child chooses own work from interests and abilities

Child formulates own concepts from self-teaching materials

Child works as long as s/he wishes on a chosen project

Child sets own learning pace to internalize information

Child spots own errors through feedback from material

Learning is reinforced internally through the child's own Repetition of an activity and internal feelings of success

Multi-sensory materials for physical exploration

Organized program for learning care of self and environment (polishing shoes, cleaning sink, etc.)

Child can work where s/he is comfortable, moves around and talks at will (yet disturbs not the work of others); group work is voluntary and negotiable

Organized program for parents to understand the Montessori philosophy and participate in the learning process

Traditional

Emphasis on: rote knowledge and social development

Teacher has dominant, active role in classroom activity; child is a passive participant in learning

Teacher acts as primary enforcer of external discipline

Instruction, both individual and group, conforms to the adult's teaching style

Same age grouping

Most teaching is done by teacher and collaboration is discouraged

Curriculum structured for child with little regard for child's interests

Child is guided to concepts by teacher

Child generally given specific time limit for work

Instruction pace usually set by group norm or teacher

If work is corrected, errors usually pointed out by teacher

Learning is reinforced externally by rote repetition and rewards/discouragements

Fewer materials for sensory development and concrete manipulation

Less emphasis on self-care instruction and classroom maintenance

Child usually assigned own chair; encouraged to sit still and listen during group sessions

Voluntary parent involvement, often only as fundraisers, not participants in understanding the learning process

American Montessori Society



281 Park Avenue South
New York, NY 10010-6102
212/358-1250 FAX 212/358-1256



APPLICATION INFORMATION

School Year: August 26, 2009 – June 3, 2010

APPLICATION FEES

In order to insure placement of a child at Brickton, an application for enrollment must be accompanied by a \$365 non-refundable registration fee. Upon acceptance, a non-refundable tuition deposit of 1/10th of the full year's tuition and a Parent Contract is required before the child may begin class.

HEALTH FORMS are required :

- for all new students
- every two years in Children's House
- upon entering 3rd Year Children's House (Five Year Old physical)
- upon entering 6th grade

Note: the State of Illinois now requires a diabetes screening for all children.

DENTAL FORMS are required for all children in kindergarten (Third Year Children's House), second grade and sixth grade.

VISION FORMS are required for all children in kindergarten (Third Year Children's House), students who have never been to school before or students from out of state or out of the country.

BIRTH CERTIFICATE

Please provide an original copy of the child's certified birth certificate. We will photocopy it and return the original to you.

HOT LUNCH

All children in the 2-year-old program must participate in the hot lunch/milk program. The hot lunch and milk charges are included in the Toddler tuition. All other students must bring their own lunch but may purchase milk for a monthly fee.

SUMMER CAMP

Brickton Montessori School offers an exciting summer program. Children enrolled for the next school year are given preference for admittance to the summer program.



Admission Procedure

The purpose of the admission process is to match children and families to our vision and purposes.

Admission involves:

- Identifying families for whom our school matches their visions and values for the development and education of their children.
- Understanding that admitting a child is also admitting parents, siblings, and extended family into the school community.
- Providing information and opportunities for families to learn about our school and community in order to make an informed choice
- Receiving information from families to make an informed choice

While there is no application deadline, we encourage you to complete each step of the admission process promptly so that we can make a decision concerning your child as quickly as possible.

Enrollment Procedure

1. _____ Attend an Information Coffee or an Open House: A great opportunity to learn more about the Montessori philosophy, tour the school, and ask a lot of questions.
2. _____ Classroom Observation: To schedule a classroom observation, please contact the Director of Admissions.
3. _____ Application: Once you have observed the classroom and determined that you would like to apply to Brickton Montessori School, please fill out the Application and return it either in person or by mail with the \$365 non-refundable application fee.
4. _____ Recommendations and Records Release: Brickton Montessori School must have the following documents on record before the Admission Process can proceed: a completed Recommendation Form (for students entering Children's House Third Year and above), Records from previous schools, as well as a copy of any Special Education or Psychological Evaluations completed within the last three years. All students entering Children's House Third Year and above must turn in Recommendation Forms. Brickton Montessori School uses the Lake Michigan Area Independent Schools (LMAIS) Common Recommendation Forms available upon request or on the LMAIS website at www.independentschools.net.
5. _____ Classroom Visit: Students entering Elementary must visit the prospective classroom for one full day. The student should bring his or her own nut-free lunch.
6. _____ Parent Interview: When Brickton Montessori School receives the above mentioned documents, you will be contacted to schedule an interview with a member of the administration.
7. _____ Notification: Upon completion of these steps, you will be notified of your child's status.
If your child is accepted, return the signed contract with:
 - Medical and Dental Forms
 - An original Birth Certificate (which we will copy and return to you)
 - A Deposit Check in the amount of one month's tuition

Please contact the Director of Admissions, Molly Arnoldt, if you have any questions: (773)714-0646 or Molly.Arnoldt@brickton.org

Last Revised 7/8/2008



Classroom Observation Guide

The following questions are meant to act as a guide in helping you observe a Montessori classroom. We encourage you to take this guide with you as you visit different schools and to use it in determining what will be the best learning environment for you child.

Environment

Is it physically orderly?

Is it aesthetic?

Is it clean?

Are the children responsible for the care of the environment?

Materials/Academics

Are multiple areas of learning represented?

Do the materials invite use?

Are there any academic areas that you are surprised to see in the classroom?

What impressions do you have about lessons?

Did you see both group and individual work in the room?

Children

Do the children help each other?

Do the children accept responsibility in the classroom?

Do the children respect the adult(s)?

Are the children courteous?

Do the children solve their own problems when possible?

Do the children clean up after themselves?

Do the children concentrate on their work?

Do the children initiate work?

Do the children take direction from the adult?

Do the children show enthusiasm for learning?

Teacher

Does the adult allow the children to be self-directed?

Is the adult aware of the whole class?

Does the adult give individual help when needed?

Does the adult show respect to the children?

Does the adult listen to the children when they speak?

Does the adult seem comfortable and cheerful in the class?

Does the adult know the material well and present it well?



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 Tel. 773.714.0646 Fax 773.714.9361
 www.brickton.org

A \$365 nonrefundable application fee must accompany this form.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:
 Fee Rec'd by _____ Date _____ Ck# _____

APPLICATION FOR ENROLLMENT

Student Information

Name _____ Date of Birth _____
First Middle Last

Name commonly used _____ Sex _____ Home tel. # _____

Address _____
Street City State Zip Code

List previous school experiences and student's reactions to these

What languages are used at home? _____

Parent/Guardian Information

Parent Name _____ Address _____ _____ Home Phone _____ Occupation _____ Employer _____ Emp. Address _____ <small>Street City State Zip</small> Business Phone _____ Cell Phone _____ Email Address _____	Parent Name _____ Address _____ _____ Home Phone _____ Occupation _____ Employer _____ Emp. Address _____ <small>Street City State Zip</small> Business Phone _____ Cell Phone _____ Email Address _____
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Marital Status _____

Parents or guardians listed above have permission to pick up the student unless otherwise indicated. If a divorced parent has restricted contact with the student, you must supply the school with a certified copy of the divorce decree as well as any other legal documents applicable to the situation.

Emergency Contact and Pick up List (Please list at least three, other than parents)

Name _____	Day Tel. # _____	Contact in Emergency?	Y	N
Relationship to Student _____	Other Tel. # _____	Pick up student at school?	Y	N
Name _____	Day Tel. # _____	Contact in Emergency?	Y	N
Relationship to Student _____	Other Tel. # _____	Pick up student at school?	Y	N
Name _____	Day Tel. # _____	Contact in Emergency?	Y	N
Relationship to Student _____	Other Tel. # _____	Pick up student at school?	Y	N

Medical/Physician Information

Any student with a severe allergy or special medical consideration is required to wear a medical alert bracelet.

List student's known allergies or medical conditions

List medications currently taken _____

List student's serious illnesses or accidents _____

Name of student's doctor _____ Tel. # _____

Insurance Co. _____ Policy/Group # _____

Name of student's dentist _____ Tel. # _____

EMERGENCY FIRST AID – As a parent or legal guardian, I authorize treatment of the above named student by a qualified and licensed medical physician or an emergency medical technician in case of an emergency which, in the opinion of the attending physician or technician, may endanger the student's life, cause disfigurement, physical impairment or undue discomfort if delayed. This authority is granted only after a reasonable effort has been made to reach me. This release form is completed and signed of my own free will with the sole purpose of authorizing medical treatment under emergency circumstances in my absence. I realize that medical treatment is not provided by Brickton Montessori School and that I am responsible for payment of any medical treatment provided.

Parent/ Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Age Level Applied For (please circle one)

- Toddler (2-3) *Half Day (8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)* *Core (8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.)*
- Children's House (3-6) *Half Day (8:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.)* *Core (8:15 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.)*
(Students who are 5 by 9/1/08) must participate in the Core Program)
- Elementary *Lower Elementary (6-9)* *Upper Elementary (9-12)*
- Middle School (12-14)

Optional Program(s) (please circle all that apply)

- Full Day Program (6:45 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. + Club Days)
- AM Care (6:45 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.) *for half day students only*

Toddler Only: Partial Week Option (minimum of three days)

First Choice: M T W Th F

Second Choice: M T W Th F

Parent Questionnaire

Where did you first learn about Brickton Montessori School? _____

When do you want your student to start school? _____

To what age will your child attend Brickton Montessori School? _____

Brickton Montessori School is a non-sectarian, non-profit corporation. Brickton Montessori School does not discriminate in admission or placement on the basis of race, sex, color, creed, national or ethnic origin.