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SECTION 5 ~ FAMILIES ~

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RESPONSIBILITY

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- To bring your child to school and pick up your child on time.
- Please keep in mind that school day begins precisely at 8:45am each day.
- To sign one’s full name on child’s sign-in/out section of Transparent Classroom on the iPads provided outside the class. This is a requirement by Montana’s Department Public Health and Human Services - Child Care Licensing.
- Keep your child’s immunizations up to date and provide us with your most current records (see the immunization hand out provided in your enrollment packet for more information on the timeline immunizations are due).
- To inform the school of your location if you are delayed in picking up your child.
- To fulfill financial and legal obligations to the school promptly and completely.
- To support both the school and child by:
  - ~ Becoming informed and knowledgeable regarding Montessori education.
  - ~ Striving to “parent” according to Montessori principles.
  - ~ Communicating with the teacher as desired for suggestions on specific home behavior or developmental issues.
  - ~ Attending parent meetings and conference.

- ~ Supporting the teachers & show respect for others.
- ~ Keeping informed on goals and policies of the school.
- ~ Following school policies & maintaining open communication.
- ~ Volunteering time, effort and talent.

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## SEPARATION

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- Some children have a hard time separating from their parents when transitioning to school. Just relax. You've made the decision to send your child to Montessori school, and you are both ready! Make it exciting and say goodbye quickly and lovingly to show your child that you trust the new environment and new teachers. Keeping goodbyes short and sweet once you're inside the classroom is a good way to diminish separation anxiety. It is not necessary to help your child find his or her first work because all lessons are presented by the Guide. It's the children's classroom and they will make their own way.
- We are here to support you and your child. We are available to discuss any concerns you may have during this transition. If you or your child is upset at your leaving, just ask for a phone call. We will give you a call on your cell phone as soon as your child has settled into the day's work. If for any reason your child is struggling, we will call you to share his or her emotional state. You'll be surprised! The call that your child has stopped crying and is busy with his or her first work of the day usually comes within minutes!

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## TECHNOLOGY

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Instruments of technology, which includes phones, smart phones, tablets, and computers, are great resources for adults. They can aid us in many ways and at times can help to simplify our lives. One of the main advantages of technology is to increase modes of communication. There are some big downsides as well. One of the downsides is to the brain and social development of children. There are multiple studies that explore the way that time with screens negatively impacts children. Another downside of technology is that it can be very distracting from the present moment. At Bozeman Montessori, we believe that being fully present when we are with children is one of the greatest gifts that we can offer to the children.

It is with these concerns in mind that Bozeman Montessori request that you leave your cell phone in your car or refrain from answering it while in the center. You may, in no circumstances, enter a classroom while talking on the phone.

If you take a photo or video of your child's class you need to get the permission of the other families whose children are in the image before posting the photo/video to any social media.

All Bozeman Montessori staff have agreed to and signed a technology policy that prohibits the use of technology in the classroom with the exception of photo and video equipment.

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## MONTESSORI AT HOME

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Respect that children have needs as we do. Being respectful to their needs can also extend to teaching them respect and courtesy by being good examples. Be gracious and courteous to your children and to others as well. This is the best way for them to learn. This respect can transcend to other children, adults and other living things as well. If we show them how to care for things they can learn it and make it part of their being at a very young age.

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## FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

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Give them the space and opportunity to be able to move around. As children learn to move, it expands their possibilities for learning by freely exploring their environment

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### Freedom of Choice

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Always give them a choice. For young children, offer them only two choices for things that will involve them.

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### Independence

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Give them opportunities to do things for themselves. At a young age allow them to feed themselves even though it can be messy, but you are giving them the chance to practice. When they show interest in dressing themselves, allow them to do so and help only when needed.

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## COMMUNICATION

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Always talk to them properly in a clearly articulated voice. Give them the names of objects around them to increase their vocabulary. Talking to them also involves modelling communication with other adults and listening. Be respectful when talking to them. Do not just communicate to them to tell them to do or not to do something, but have a regular conversation about how the day went.

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## BE A POSITIVE ROLE MODEL

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If a mistake is made, model correctly how to do it. Do not make a big deal out of it, make them aware of their mistakes subtly. In language, if they mispronounce, repeat what they said and pronounce it correctly. You do not have to say that it was wrong, simply model how it should be done.

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## KEEP TO NATURAL SIMPLE MATERIALS/TOYS

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Encourage toys that allow the children do something with their hands, to drop a ball in a box, or to stack rings to accomplish a task. It can entertain them for long periods of time as they repeat the activity over and over. Montessori believed the work of the hand is very important for the child's development. Give them toys in which they can manipulate objects.

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## USE COMMON SENSE

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Trust yourself that you are doing the right thing, if it feels right. Most of the [Montessori principles](#) involve common sense and rational thinking, based on observations of the child.

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## PATIENCE

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What you teach them now will help you in the long run.

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## LOVE AND SUPPORT THEM

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Love and support your child, of course, but also love and support yourself. Be gentle on yourself when mistakes are made.

## VOLUNTEERING

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There will be many opportunities to volunteer throughout the year, please notify your Guide, if you are interested.

## EVENTS/ EDUCATION/ SOCIALIZING

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We encourage all families to get to know the rest of the Bozeman Montessori community. To foster this, we host a variety of events, education nights and socializing events. These events are listed on the Calendar.

## PARENT LIBRARY

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A parent lending library is available in the common space. Feel free to check out any book that appeals to you. Please return the book in a timely manner.