

## Montessori Parent-Child Group Program

### Rules of Engagement

*These rules are for parents who engage with children in a program designed to practice effective Montessori teaching skills, to create an effective support for the emergence of the child's true normalized way of being. These rules reflect a strategy of following laws of nature in being with children to "control the environment, not the child."*

1. No negative or critical language with the child, e.g. instead of saying "don't touch", use eye contact, or such positive language that is reflective, questioning or distracting.
2. No unwanted, forceful or controlling physical touching, i.e. use instead delicate guiding touch in cooperation with need of situation, in accordance with the child's own natural efforts and interests.
3. No taking the child's hand to guide; instead offer your hand for the child to take.
4. No putting things away after the child has dropped them or left them out; instead direct the child back to the object and cooperate with the child to return the object to its proper place.
5. No interrupting the child while he or she is concentrating; instead stand back and remain as quiet passive as possible.
6. No abandoning the child to random, disorderly or unfocussed movement; instead look back at the child every time he or she looks up, to provide "eye contact" support as often as possible.
7. No hovering over the child while he or she is doing work on their own; instead move away from the child and use eye contact engagement with the child from a distance.
8. No fast movement around the child; instead act slowly and deliberately, as you would want the child to imitate in their own independent actions in the environment.
9. Do not give up quickly when first efforts at Montessori teaching seem to fail or have no external effect; instead persist over time to repeat techniques as necessary, to establish and consistently implement new patterns of behavior and language.