

# Forest Bluff School

## Montessori Parenting Blog Index

*Find practical suggestions for implementing Montessori practices at home & gain a deeper understanding of Montessori parenting and education*

<https://forestbluffschool.org/blog/>

[\*Getting Your Children to Read at Home: Building a Family Culture\*](#) November, 2019

by Paula Lillard Preschlack

Reading to our children and creating a culture of reading is increasingly important to their success in academia and in life. We make suggestions on choosing reading content for children and give ideas to make your home more welcoming to reading and family time.

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[\*How Do Montessori Teachers Present Those Magical Materials?\*](#) October 10, 2019

by Paula Lillard Preschlack

We describe how a Primary teacher presents materials to a child under age six, and how an Elementary teacher gives presentations to children over age six, and how they differ. We explore the role of the teachers and that of the materials. The magic is in the way that children learn independently through their use of the materials themselves. This is a feature completely unique to the Montessori approach.

56

[\*Apple Activities with Your Young Child\*](#) September, 2019

by Margaret Jessen Kelley

When apple-picking season arrives, there are many activities for you to do with your young child all based around the beautiful apple. Here you'll find some fun, simple ideas for you to try this fall.

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[\*The Montessori Young Children's Community\*](#) August, 2019

by Paula Lillard Preschlack

Take a peek inside the Montessori Young Children's Community and see how this classroom provides children as young as 18 months with an environment and activities that meet their developmental needs.

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[\*Talking to Children About Money\*](#) August, 2019

by Paula Lillard Preschlack

Talking about money can be uncomfortable for some families. Maria Montessori believed that this topic should be studied like all others. Here, we offer suggestions for talking to children of all ages about money.

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*A New Resource for Parents and Educators: “Montessori From the Start” Discussion Guide*

June, 2019

by Forest Bluff School

“Montessori From the Start: The Child at Home, from Birth to Age Three” was written by Paula Polk Lillard and Lynn Lillard Jessen as a resource for parents who wish to implement Montessori principles at home. The discussion guide provides questions for discussion and food for thought while reading this book.

52

*Cultivating the Scientific Mind: Montessori Science, Part II* May, 2019

by Paula Lillard Preschlack

A continuation of Montessori Science Part I (see below), this blog discusses how a Montessori education fosters deeper scientific inquiry throughout a child’s Elementary and Secondary Level years.

51

*The Birth of the Scientific Mind: Montessori Science, Part I* April, 2019

by Paula Lillard Preschlack

A scientific mind is one that can classify and organize information in a systematic and logical way. Experiences with the Montessori materials and in nature are excellent starting points for building a scientific mind.

50

*The First Months: Developing an Outlook for Life* March, 2019

by Paula Lillard Preschlack

We provide practical considerations for new parents on ways to give newborn children the freedom to move and explore, including suggestions for the arrangement of your nursery, mobiles, and other developmentally appropriate toys.

49

*In Pursuit of the Correct Answer: The Role of Process and Discovery in Montessori*

February, 2019

by Paula Lillard Preschlack

In a traditional school setting, a child’s understanding is often measured in errors and wrong answers. The Montessori approach to education, on the other hand, gives children the opportunity to arrive at the answers through exploration and repetition, a process that allows children to confidently take ownership of their education.

48

*Screen Time and Your Child’s Development: A Montessori Perspective* January, 2019

by Paula Lillard Preschlack

How much screen time is too much? We discuss the Montessori approach to screen time and address concerns that parents might have in a technology-driven society.

47

[\*Fostering Your Child's Imagination: Fantasy vs. Reality\*](#) December, 2018

by Paula Lillard Preschlack

Dr. Montessori observed that when young children move their bodies, explore, and interact with the real world, these sensory experiences foster imagination. Fantasy, on the other hand, can be overemphasized and confusing for very young children. Maria Montessori articulates the distinctions between reality, the imagination, and fantasy.

46

[\*Natural or Man-Made: What do Children Need First?\*](#) November, 2018

by Paula Lillard Preschlack

Which environments—natural or man-made—do our children need to be exposed to for understanding the world they are growing up in? Maria Montessori recognized the need to begin with exploration of and curiosity about the natural world, as we launch into humanity's great inventions.

45

[\*Expect the Best, Prepare for the Worst, Survive the Fall Trip October, 2018\*](#) by Abbey White

Each year, the Secondary Level students at Forest Bluff embark on a two-week camping and service trip, demonstrating their capacity for independent, quality work. Here we discuss the preparation that goes into this annual outdoor learning experience.

44

[\*The Four Planes of Development: Child Development in Four Questions\*](#) September, 2018

by Paula Lillard Preschlack

Maria Montessori's extensive observations of children revealed four universal planes of development. Montessori designed an entire educational system around these stages of childhood, which we discuss here in detail.

43

[\*An Education that Matches Children's Development\*](#) September, 2018

by Paula Lillard Preschlack

Developmentally, children pass through distinct phases as they age, which are universal across time and place. These phases, or planes, are the basis for Maria Montessori's approach to education, which caters to the specific needs and characteristics of each plane. This blog post discusses the theory behind the genius.

42

[\*Our Living Land Laboratory\*](#) August, 2018

by Paula Lillard Preschlack

At Forest Bluff, we are fortunate to have a beautiful prairie right on our property, where children learn about land stewardship and the interconnectedness of the natural world.

41

[\*Lose Those "Summertime Blues!"\*](#) July, 2018

by Paula Lillard Preschlack

Summer can actually be a stressful time for busy parents. We offer practical suggestions to help parents avoid the summertime blues.

**40**

[\*Here Today, Gone Tomorrow: Must-see Wildlife in April and May\*](#) April, 2018

by Abbey White

Spring in the Great Lakes Region can be a magical time to view wildlife, if you know what to look for! Forest Bluff School's naturalist provides parents with suggestions for viewing springtime wildlife in all its glory, with activities appropriate for all ages.

**39**

[\*A Montessori Approach to Helping Children who are Stealing or Lying\*](#) March, 2018

by Paula Lillard Preschlack

Stealing and lying are normal childhood behaviors, but when they become persistent, parents can turn to Montessori for a healthy perspective and practical suggestions for addressing these undesirable behaviors.

**38**

[\*How Montessori Education Prepares Children for Life Beyond School\*](#) March, 2018

by Paula Lillard Preschlack

The reflections of Montessori alumni offer us a glimpse of the myriad ways in which Montessori education positively impacts students well after they have left the classroom. See inspiring video clips of Forest Bluff graduates reflecting on their educations!

**37**

[\*Learning to Love Effort: How Montessori Fosters Perseverance\*](#) January, 2018

by Paula Lillard Preschlack

Montessori fosters perseverance by providing children with purposeful work. Find out how this inspires children's intrinsic desire to exert effort, and to reap the rewards.

**36**

[\*A Montessori Guide to Technology and Teens\*](#) December, 2017

by Paula Lillard Preschlack

As screens become more prevalent in our lives, parents can look to the Montessori approach as a simple guide for how to handle teens and technology.

**35**

[\*Freedom and Responsibility: How Choices and Limits Help Children Develop Character\*](#)

November, 2017

by Paula Lillard Preschlack

As parents, we all want our children to develop character. But what can we do to support that process? The Montessori concepts of freedom and responsibility are discussed, along with practical advice for how parents can help children to develop their own will.

**34**

[\*Maria Montessori Speaks to Parents: A New Book Illuminates How to Simplify our Parenting Roles\*](#)

September, 2017

by Paula Lillard Preschlack

In the book *Montessori Speaks to Parents*, Maria Montessori shares practical parenting advice based on her keen observations of children. Find out how this little book can be a comfort and an inspiration.

33

[\*Lessons from Montessori: Preparing Ourselves with Grace\*](#) September, 2017

by Paula Lillard Preschlack

Parenting with grace can sometimes be a challenge. We discuss how parents can apply lessons from Montessori teacher training to child-rearing in the home.

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[\*The Montessori Approach to Literacy: Part III\*](#) August, 2017

by Paula Lillard Preschlack

We offer suggestions for fostering literacy and creating a culture of reading at home.

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[\*The Montessori Approach to Reading and Writing: Part II\*](#) June, 2017

by Paula Lillard Preschlack

The Montessori approach to reading and writing is discussed, with examples of materials and games that assist children in their literacy development.

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[\*The Montessori Approach to Reading and Writing\*](#) May, 2017

by Paula Lillard Preschlack

The first of our three posts on the Montessori approach to reading and writing provides information on preparing young children for the literacy process.

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[\*Building Happiness: To Be \[Happy\] or Not to Be...That is the Question\*](#) April, 2017

by Paula Lillard Preschlack

We all want our children to be happy. Learn how the Montessori philosophy can inform your approach as your child is building happiness from within.

28

[\*The Birds, Bees, and Beyond: Talking to Children About Sex\*](#) March, 2017

by Paula Lillard Preschlack

Whether your child is asking questions about where babies come from or repeating a confusing comment they heard, here we offer guidance for talking to children about reproduction and sexuality.

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**[Your Attention, Please: Bring Home Lessons in Concentration from Montessori Classrooms](#)**

March, 2017

by Paula Lillard Preschlack

Get tips for creating an environment that will help your child develop their abilities to concentrate, taking inspiration from Montessori classrooms.

**26**

**[Timeouts & Tantrums; Are We There Yet?](#)** February, 2017

by Paula Lillard Preschlack

Tantrums can be frustrating, but “time outs” aren’t necessarily the answer. Maria Montessori's perspective helps us understand these trying moments with our children of any age, and offers ways to handle them gracefully.

**25**

**[Winter Weather Fun](#)** January, 2017

by Paula Lillard Preschlack

Looking for tips on how to get outside in winter weather and have fun? Here, we share ideas, advice, and possible outdoor activities for children of all ages.

**24**

**[Growing Our Roots, Connecting Our Branches: Uncertainties of Life](#)** January, 2017

by Paula Lillard Preschlack

We discuss how to talk to children about situations that may bring up painful emotions, as they learn about living with the uncertainties of life, such as death or tragedy.

**23**

**[How Our Children Develop Moral Values](#)** December, 2016

by Paula Lillard Preschlack

Learn more about Montessori's approach to how children’s develop moral values, and how this is supported at Forest Bluff School.

**22**

**[Including Children in Holiday Family Traditions](#)** November, 2016

by Paula Lillard Preschlack

The holidays are a joyous time for families big and small. We share some practical ideas for parents on including children in holiday family traditions in meaningful ways.

**21**

**[Public Montessori Schools: Planting the Seeds](#)** November, 2016

by Paula Lillard Preschlack

On a trip to public Montessori schools, Head of School Paula Preschlack contemplates the past and future of the Montessori movement. Learn about Paula Polk Lillard’s central role in the founding of public Montessori schools in Cincinnati, Ohio, in the 1960’s.

**20**

[\*Developing Inner Order: How We Can Help Our Children\*](#) October, 2016

by Paula Lillard Preschlack

Young children need order and routines at home. Parents can support them by setting up sequences, physical order, and predictable environments where they can interact contently and freely.

**19**

[\*Learning Emotional Balance Through Montessori\*](#) September, 2016

by Paula Lillard Preschlack

As a truly holistic approach to education, Montessori highly values and supports a child's emotional development at every age. At Forest Bluff School, we find guidance in the Montessori approach to learning emotional balance, which emphasizes self-governance in action and thought.

**18**

[\*Boundaries and Freedom: Creating Space for Children\*](#) September, 2016

by Paula Lillard Preschlack

From their early years, start developing healthy relationships with your children by creating space for them where they have the freedom to make choices.

**17**

[\*Self-Directed Playtime is not Wasted Time\*](#) August, 2016

by Paula Lillard Preschlack

Let your children play! Here we explain that children develop more problem-solving skills, resilience, courage, and creative thinking skills when adults allow them free time for self-directed playtime.

**16**

[\*Summer Activities for Montessori Children\*](#) July, 2016

by Paula Lillard Preschlack

Summer is a marathon, not a sprint! These ideas for outings and home activities will allow you and your children to experience the joys of summer, without the exhaustion of over-scheduling.

**15**

[\*Teaching Good Manners in Public\*](#) July, 2016

by Paula Lillard Preschlack

Learn about the Montessori approach for teaching good manners to your children. Here we explain the different approaches for teaching children under age 6, and over age 6.

**14**

[\*The Postcard: A Montessori Education Moment\*](#) June, 2016

by Paula Lillard Preschlack

Every child is unique. Montessori teaches us to embrace children in their uniqueness and have faith in their paths to adulthood. Paula Lillard Preschlack describes a mother's realization that despite the momentary worries, her son *will* work it all out!

**13**

[\*Recommended Books for Montessori School Parents\*](#) June, 2016

by Paula Lillard Preschlack

We believe that all parents and educators will benefit from these engaging books that offer food for thought and practical parenting suggestions.

**12**

[\*Journey of a Montessori Parent\*](#) April, 2016

by Paula Lillard Preschlack

We discuss and review a blog post on the journey of a Montessori parent by Sveta Pais of Austin Montessori School.

**11**

[\*Ch-ch-ch-ch-changes\*](#) April, 2016

by Matt Robbins

Using the wisdom of Maria Montessori, Secondary Level teacher, Matt Robbins provides a roadmap for navigating our children's stages of development.

**10**

[\*“Going Out”\*](#) March, 2016

by Paula Lillard Preschlack

Find out more about how Forest Bluff Elementary students extend their learning out of the classrooms and into the real world, with self-directed excursions.

**9**

[\*Help Me to Help Myself: Part 1 of 3\*](#) March, 2016

by Paula Polk Lillard

In the first of three blog posts, Forest Bluff School co-founder Paula Polk Lillard describes the importance of young children's independence.

**8**

[\*Help Me to Help Myself: Part 2 of 3\*](#) March, 2016

by Paula Polk Lillard

How can parents help their children under the age of three to build the foundation for independence? It begins with building a strong parent-child relationship.

**7**

[\*Help Me to Help Myself: Part 3 of 3\*](#) March, 2016

by Paula Polk Lillard

The Montessori principles of “less is more” and “beauty lies in simplicity” are good guides for establishing the home that will best serve the inner lives of our children as they work toward independence.

**6**



[Montessori's Steady March to "Somewhere"](#) January, 2016

by Paula Lillard Preschlack

The 2010 documentary *The Race to Nowhere* raises grave concerns about how children are being affected by increased pressures from their schools and their parents to perform at the highest level. Montessori reminds us of what we can do as parents to support our children in being healthy and happy: prepare the environment, model healthy behavior, and provide freedoms that require responsibility.

5

[Helping Young Children Learn to Tie Shoes](#) January, 2015

by Forest Bluff School

At Forest Bluff, children as young as three experience the joy (and sometimes the frustration) of learning how to tie their shoes. We provide helpful tips for ways parents can support their children in learning this skill.

4

[Embracing Challenges of Winter Weather: Why Dressing Skills Matter](#) January, 2015

by Forest Bluff School

At Forest Bluff, the youngest of children are given the opportunity and dignity to learn to dress and undress themselves when going outside in winter. Mastering this act of self-care brings with it so many lessons that children carry with them in and out of school.

3

[New Ways to Assist Your Child's Moral Development](#) June, 2014

by Forest Bluff School

In "Raising a Moral Child," Adam Grant, a professor of management and psychology at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, reviews several recent studies that might change the way you think about the best ways to help children develop qualities such as kindness, compassion, and helpfulness.

2

[An Interesting Article on the Importance of Handwriting](#) June, 2014

by Forest Bluff School

At Forest Bluff we are dedicated to helping each child develop beautiful penmanship. In her New York Times article "What's Lost as Handwriting Fades," Maria Konnikova summarizes several recent studies that affirm what Montessori educators have long observed.

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***If you find these blog articles helpful, please share with friends & relatives – they can subscribe, too!***