Classroom Observation Guide

Welcome to Red Barn Montessori.

We invite you to observe the classroom and appreciate your cooperation in the following ways:

- It is important to observe in a passive manner, in order not to interrupt the children's work.
- Please remain seated, and speak to the children only if spoken to, keeping responses brief.

Children pursue work at various times in the following areas:

1. Practical Life Exercises and lessons in Grace and Courtesy
2. Sensory-Motor Skills
3. Language
4. Mathematics
5. Cultural Subjects

Some things to note when observing:

1. The classroom is a "prepared environment". Materials are child size and aesthetically pleasing. Note the variety of materials and their orderly arrangement. This provides an appealing and engaging learning environment for the children.

2. The classroom is child centered. The teachers' role in the classroom is to act as facilitators in the learning process. While teachers are working with individual children, the other children continue to choose tasks independently. This fosters the children's self-direction, and ability to make good choices.

3. The child has freedom of movement within the classroom, as he/she engages in various tasks.

4. The classroom is a community of children with a range of ages and abilities. Note the quality of interactions between children of different ages.

5. Children may choose to work alone or with others.

6. Note the children's ability to concentrate and to be absorbed in their work. You will also see that the length of time each child spends on a particular job will vary from child to child.

Please use the area below and the back of this page to take notes and write questions. The head teacher will come to you and talk as time allows while she is attending to the children. If your questions cannot be answered during class time please call Red Barn between 3:15-4:00 (Monday-Thursday), or leave a message. Enjoy your observation!

NOTES/COMMENTS/QUESTIONS: