

The "Going Out" Program at Community Montessori School

Purpose

Children of elementary age develop interests in all directions. Their passionate pursuit of understanding naturally leads them out of the confined space of the classroom, its books and materials, and into the world itself to experience things firsthand. Such organized forays into the world to pursue studies begun in the classroom are known as "Going Out." Going Out excursions widen the children's classroom to the broader community. The excursions are an important part of the Elementary learning experience and are a natural part of the child's day.

These are spontaneous outings arranged by a single child or a small group of children. Excursions may include a trip to the library to retrieve books, to the museum to further study an area of interest, to the store to purchase items necessary to complete a project, or to a factory to see how a product is manufactured. A "going out" for a young elementary child might be as simple (from the adult perspective) as a trip to the public library to look for books not available at school. An older child who is more experienced and able to take on more responsibility might organize a trip to a university to interview a zoologist or an astronomer, a trip to a hear concert of Indonesian music and dance, or a trip to a horse breeder stable to learn about trail rides for people with disabilities. Going out projects sometimes involve community service, helping the child build a sense of social purpose and moral responsibility.

Going Out differs from traditional fieldtrips insofar as it is initiated, planned, and executed by the child, not the adult, and it arises spontaneously from the interest and work of the child, not from a plan of instruction made by the adult. The children benefit immensely from these trips as they have the opportunity to practice skills beyond the intended purpose of the trip. For example, a child planning to visit a museum will use the yellow pages to get the phone number of the museum, she will call the museum to get the hours and cost, she will arrange parental and head of school permission as well as a someone to drive her, and when she arrives at the museum, she will interact with the adults at the museum. Upon her return, she will be responsible for notifying the head of school and her directress of her return as well as the results of her excursion. The student will be invited to share her experience with the other children as well.

Procedure

There is a form that is located in the Magnolia room that must be completed by the child and submitted for approval to the administrator to begin the going out process. The form requires the child to complete all preliminary work required for the chosen excursion and determine the date of the outing. All of this information is shared with the administrator and classroom directress and permission is received from the child's parents through a sheet similar to that attached to this notice. Parents are certainly welcome to attend with the child or serve as a chaperone for the excursion, with the understanding that the trip is to be led by the child, as he or she knows what information they are seeking from this excursion.

Upon returning from the going out, the child will complete another form indicating the time of return and other information relating to the excursion. Arrangements can then be made with the directress for a time in which the child may share with the other children in the class.

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Child Information Sheet**

Please complete the following form. This information will be on file for all "Going Out" trips and will physically be carried by the chaperone for each trip. Please notify the school if any information changes during the school year. Thank you.

CHILD'S NAME _____ CHILD'S DATE OF BIRTH _____

KNOWN ALLERGIES INCLUDING ANY ALLERGIES TO MEDICINE (CONTINUE ON BACK OF FORM IF NEEDED)

ANY OTHER MEDICAL PROBLEMS WHICH SHOULD BE NOTED (CONTINUE ON BACK OF FORM IF NEEDED)

NAME OF PARENT/GUARDIAN _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

HOME PHONE _____ WORK _____ CELL _____

PERSON TO NOTIFY IF PARENT/GUARDIAN IS UNAVAILABLE _____

HOME PHONE _____ WORK _____ CELL _____

FAMILY PHYSICIAN NAME _____ PHONE _____

SIGNATURE OF PARENT _____ DATE _____

DATE RECEIVED IN OFFICE _____ DATE COPIES PROVIDED TO TEACHER AND CHAPERONE(S) _____

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN DRIVING CHILDREN? _____