



Peak Montessori

“Rise and Shine!”



Program Description

Peak Montessori is a concentrated learning time based on the Montessori method of early childhood instruction, “multiple intelligence” theory, and the belief that the building blocks of all future learning are developed early in the child’s educational experience.

The Prepared Environment

Our program employs the philosophy of “freedom within structure” which we feel is the most appropriate way to *inspire* development of the most important building blocks to all future learning. The space is designed to encourage curiosity and learning in the following areas:

- Practical Life: Exercises having to do with care of self, the environment, and concern for others. Concentration and coordination are developed. Grace and courtesy skills are practiced.

- Sensorial: Exercises having to do with sense discrimination, observation and descriptive language. A clear approach fosters the continuing effort of children to categorize and organize the qualities of the world around them.
- Language: Activities having to do with receptive and expressive language which includes drawing and writing as well. Increasing new feelings and experiences eventually broaden the range of expression.
- Mathematics: Activities having to do with counting and number relationships, including an overview of the function of the decimal system. Careful design of the materials in the mathematics area and the sensorial area lays the groundwork for future learning in algebra and geometry.
- Cultural: Experiences which provide children with information about geography, history, music and nature. Other areas of interest of knowledge from the hobbies, heritage or occupations of available adults are explored as well.

Activities/Process

Children choose whichever lessons or activities that interest them, and initially the teacher guides them. Eventually the goal is for the students to be independent during the work period. The students will learn how to initiate and complete activities. The open work period will often be shortened to allow for outdoor activities and explorations (especially during “summer session”).

- The child chooses lessons during open “work” period, and succeeds in completing them
- The children prepare and serve themselves and others snack (provided and part of curriculum)
- The child learns to use Montessori materials and other educational “toys”

Outcomes

- Develop basic literacy and numeracy understanding
- Inspire independence in children’s learning
- Gain exposure to Montessori materials and their use
- Build life skills

Evaluation

Evaluation of children’s progress is ongoing and informal. Continual observation of the child is the primary form of assessment. Regular conversations with parents or caregivers will be the main way in which we communicate regarding each child’s development. Individual conferences can be scheduled as needed.

Schedule

Summer 2010

Tuesdays and Thursdays

8:45-11:45AM

*Child care may be provided until 1PM if necessary

2010/2011 School Year

Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays

8:45-11:45AM

*Child care may be provided until 1PM if necessary

Cost and Participants

Program Fee: \$28/Day

Program is offered to children ages 2/3-6 (must be toilet trained)

Capacity: 6 children

Open to students in the Crested Butte Community School afternoon kindergarten class

To register, please contact Brian Krill at 209-1006 or 349-2830

Staff

MEET SUSAN H. TYZZER

Sue will be the primary teacher of the Peak Montessori Program

Montessori Education:

Sue is certified through the North American Montessori Center with a diploma in Preschool/Kindergarten Montessori education.

Certified Elementary Education Teacher:

Sue is a graduate of Western State College in Gunnison, Colorado with a degree in Elementary Education. She worked as a substitute teacher in the Gunnison REIJ School District for over 20 years grades K-12.

Preschool Teacher Assistant:

Sue has worked at the Paradise Place Christian Preschool since October '08 in the "Doves" program (children 2 ½-3 years old). This program consists of Montessori style work places and projects and has just recently been equipped with true Montessori materials. Sue was the assistant in the classroom and not the lead teacher. She worked with the Montessori philosophy of "facilitation" rather than "teaching".

Outdoor Education:

Sue spent 12 summers working with children in the outdoors. The first program she assisted running was called "Park Play". It was a program financed through the Crested Butte Parks and Recreation department. It was a program for preschool-aged children. The children played games in the park, went on hikes in the woods for special activities, such as yurt building and tree adoptions. They also went swimming and on horseback rides. Sue worked in this program for two years. The program then evolved into a program for school aged children 7-16 called "Kid's Pro Fun Tour". This program was an introduction for children to learn rafting skills, rock climbing, kayak maneuvering and rolling as well as camping skills and swimming. This program was also financed through the Crested Butte Recreation department. Sue was the programs director for 9 of the 10 years that the program existed.

High Trust Educator:

Sue is also a licensed elementary education teacher. She recertified her credentials through the "Excellence In Teaching/High Trust Teacher Center" with creator and founder Dennis

McLoughlin. It is based on Trust Psychology. It is a teaching philosophy that is trust-centered and instructs the teacher to “influence students to think and be responsible with respect, trust, joy and Gusto!”

MEET JEN HILLEBRANDT

Jen has helped to design the Montessori Program and will be facilitating other early childhood education programming for Peak.

Through early experiences with NOLS (National Outdoor Leadership School), adventures at the Colorado College, and a degree in Sociology, Jen Hillebrandt discovered that she was meant to be a teacher, but not in the traditional sense. “Experiential Education” would become a life-long pursuit.

Once she discovered this “calling”, she attended the **University of Colorado at Boulder** to further her studies, obtaining a **Colorado Teaching License as well as a Master’s Degree in Elementary Education, with emphasis in bilingual and special education.** Later, Jen traveled to Costa Rica to hone her Spanish language skills in an immersion program, as she found herself in Leadville, Colorado, teaching an elementary class of students with varying levels of English proficiency. She strongly believes in the benefits of immersion studies, and that language and culture are intricately linked.

In 2001, Jen finally made her way to Crested Butte, after dreaming about calling it home for years. Here, she has discovered the joys and challenges of motherhood, and gained new insights into **early childhood development and education.** Jen started a **state licensed in-home preschool/daycare**, simultaneously obtaining training and **certification as a Montessori Primary teacher** (focusing on children aged 3-6 years).

In all her various manifestations as an educator, Jen has realized her strengths and passions lie in **early childhood education**, as well as **literacy for all ages.** She firmly believes in the benefits of Montessori education, Multiple Intelligences theory (which allows for eight ways to be “smart” and to learn), and finally, time spent problem-solving in the outdoors and developing a relationship with our natural world. She is so grateful to have the opportunity to share these passions with others, as part of the Peak team.

Jen has also served as the Director of Paradise Place Pre-school, and currently works at the Crested Butte Public Library.

