

## Sibling considerations before you interview - POTENTIAL FAMILIES

Parents often look for opportunities for their children to attend the same childcare centre. **However, children are each unique learners, with different ways to process information.**

We believe that best way to honor the Montessori approach is to follow EACH child on their individual path, and to meet them where they are now for their personality, needs, and learning process. **As such, it is important to understand that we do not guarantee placements for all members of a sibling group.** We interview and consider each child individually for placement at Aspen Hill Montessori.

**If you have more than one child that you are considering for our Centre, you will need to book a separate interview for each child.** To book interviews, contact [admissions@aspenhillmontessori.ca](mailto:admissions@aspenhillmontessori.ca).



*Yes, sometimes this will mean that you have children in two different centres for care / future schooling.* However, it will also mean that you have two happy children who are succeeding and learning in a way that is meaningful to their needs.

***Please consider the following specifically with each of your children in mind as a unique individual BEFORE booking an interview for them.***

- The Montessori approach at AHM is best-suited to children who seek structure.
  - Children who seek order (i.e. enjoy putting items away once they are done using them), tend to wake up at the same time, want food at the same time each day, or take a nap at the same time each day will often enjoy a Montessori space.
- AHM toddler and preschool classrooms offer fine motor experiences, with most activities being done seated at tables or at floor mats.
  - Children who prefer puzzles, books, coloring, and seated activities like Playdough at home, and can do these activities without constant adult presence, will usually enjoy the types of activities in our classrooms.
- Classrooms at AHM promote and encourage independence from students.
  - Children who are able to play by themselves at home or care for 8-10 minutes without direct adult support are ready for the more independent space of a Montessori class.
- AHM classrooms are best for children who are able to quiet their bodies and focus on an activity of choice for 8-10 minutes at a time. Classrooms for children ages 3 and up require that children can work independently for 10-15 minutes at a time.
  - Children who routinely seek a lot of physical movement throughout their day at home (running in the house, climbing on couches, jumping between furniture), need to move their bodies to process information (twirling, spinning, hopping in place, crawling, hanging



off of adults by hands), and/or require a significant amount of one-on-one adult feedback/interaction in their play, may find AHM classrooms challenging.

- AHM toddler and preschool classrooms move children increasingly towards academic activities that require children to be internally motivated to choose and complete work by themselves.
  - Children who independently want to start and finish an activity will enjoy Montessori activities. This may be demonstrated at home with children who want to help clean up the room after playing, tidy the shoes in the hall, want to finish a puzzle, or want to read to the end of a book.

If you are not sure if a Montessori methodology is right for your children, we will help you explore that for each child in their interview.

### Commonly asked sibling questions

*Will my children get to be with each other / see each other during the care day?*

If your children are in the same age level, then they may share a classroom. We will discuss options upon offering placement. If your children are in a different age group (i.e. Bambini and Casa) they will not interact during the care day.

*Is there a multi-child discount?*

No, we do not offer sibling discounts. However, you may qualify for subsidy from the Provincial government - please inquire during your interview.

*Can my children each attend a different campus?*

Yes, if more than one of your children is offered placement, you can request the same or different campuses.

*If you offer placement to more than one of my children, are they guaranteed to be at the same campus?*

We will do our best to keep siblings at the same campus as long as space is available.

*If one of my children withdraws from the program in the future, does the other child withdraw?*

Not necessarily, we consider each child as a unique person in our programs.

*I have to have my children attend the same childcare centre - attending two locations is not an option. Should I still interview?*

If you feel that both of your child's personalities would suit a Montessori space, then we would encourage you to interview. If you know by reading this brochure that it will definitely not suit one of your children, we would encourage you to continue researching alternative centres to find the best childcare centre for your needs.

**We look forward to meeting your children in their interviews and learning more about them. If you have further questions about having multiple children in our programs, please write to [admissions@aspenhillmontessori.ca](mailto:admissions@aspenhillmontessori.ca).**