

Yorba Linda, September 1, 2010

## Help Me Do It All By Myself!

**Free Parent Seminar educates parents of toddlers and preschoolers on fostering independence using Montessori Tools**



LePort Schools announces a series of free Parent Education Seminars, which will kick off September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30 pm and September 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am at the LePort Schools toddler care and preschool campus in Yorba Linda.

The first seminar aims to equip parents with the tools to help their children gain independence, using Montessori techniques.

“As parents and educators, we are all too aware of the so-called “Terrible Twos”, months where young children often become more challenging to their parents”, explains Ray Girn, CEO of LePort Schools. “We have seen, over a decade of operating preschools, and with 500 currently enrolled students, that using Montessori tools can make those precious early years more valuable for the child, and more enjoyable for the entire family. Now we want to educate parents, who may not have their children in a preschool yet, about these valuable parenting skills.”

“As a mom myself, I have been there: my 3-year old has thrown a fit because, in her words, she wanted to do it “all by myself”. The problem was she just couldn’t quite do it yet. The coat just wouldn’t go on; the apple juice spilled, again,” says Heike Larson, a mother of two who will present the seminar. “Using Montessori techniques has definitely helped things run more smoothly in our house—and I am excited to share these insights with other families.”

Over 100 years ago, Dr. Maria Montessori observed that 2- and 3-year old tantrums are often caused by preventable frustration: frustration with a world that does not follow the order that the child has come to expect, frustration with wanting to do things themselves, wanting to make a contribution to their family, wanting to explore their world—and not being able to do so. Dr. Montessori recognized that, in a way, the frustration stemmed from a healthy desire for independence—and that if we understand this, there is a lot that we as adults could do to minimize it.

Dr. Montessori’s suggestion, in essence, is for parents and other adults to help the child help himself, and then get out of the way.

In this free seminar, parents will learn how to do just that:

- **The talk will introduce parents to a number of Montessori techniques to help their children help themselves**—such as how to use common household items such as beans and rice to help him gain the fine motors skills he needs to pour apple juice by himself, without spilling.
- **Parents will receive pointers on how to set up the house, and especially the kitchen, in ways that facilitate the child’s desire to participate in real work**, and to satisfy many every day needs by herself, rather than having to ask for help.

Throughout, the LePort Schools team draws upon their broad experience in Montessori classrooms for examples, inviting parents to walk through the school with them after the talk to gain inspiration for what they may be able to do at home.

Heike Larson, who will give the 30-minute seminar presentation, is the mother of a 3-year old who attends Montessori school, and of an 18 month old who is just starting to learn Montessori skills at home. She is the author of “The Montessori Method: Educating Children for a Lifetime of Learning and Happiness.” Ms. Larson will be joined for our Q&A period by other LePort Schools staff, including Janine Bowman, the Head of School at LePort’s Yorba Linda campus, and Cornelia Lockitch, MEd., a certified Montessori educator and LePort Schools’ Montessori Curriculum Coordinator.

*To learn more about LePort Schools and the Montessori Method, visit [www.leportschools.com](http://www.leportschools.com), or contact us at [info@leportschools.com](mailto:info@leportschools.com).*

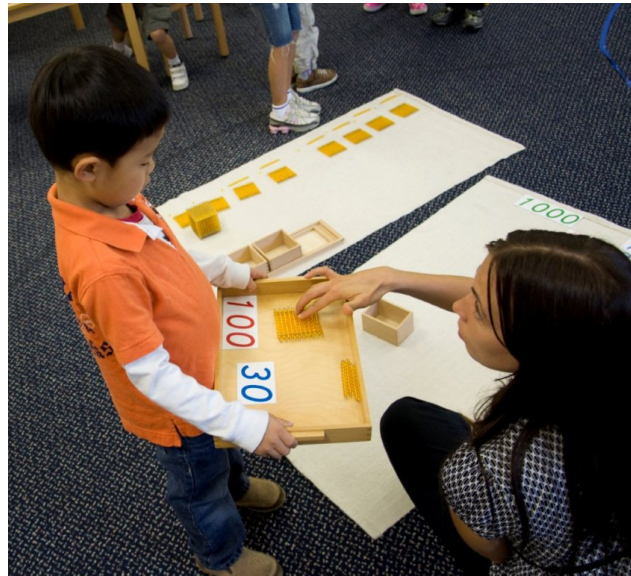
*To read Ms. Larson’s article on Montessori education, visit <http://www.theobjectivestandard.com/issues/2010-summer/montessorri-method.asp>. Contact us at [info@leportchools.com](mailto:info@leportchools.com) to receive the full article as pdf for free.*

## Photos of LePort Montessori Children at Work

High resolution photography available upon request. Please contact Monica LePort at [mleport@leportschools.com](mailto:mleport@leportschools.com)



Building words with “movable alphabet”



“Golden beads” introduce decimal system



Learning to prepare food in “Practical Life Area”



Learning about height, width with “cylinder insets”