



Q & A

Why is becoming “extended day” such an honor to our children?

There is great cache to turning five. The child at five is aware of the status quo, and eager to assume greater mastery of basic skills. For the Montessori child, there is also the excitement of becoming an extended-day student. Lunch in boxes – or even more exciting, hot lunch days – are only the beginning of new experiences.



Extended day allows the five-year-old child to continue to develop the sensorial skills introduced earlier, and to build on them as more interest is shown in the ability to connect letter sounds and shapes to reading and writing. Math skills begin to turn into adding and subtracting. The smaller size and greater concentration skills of the afternoon group allows more exploration of the outside environment, botany, ecology, and even basic physics!

With the limitless energy five-year-olds possess, the longer day is just the learning environment that lets discovery and creativity explode. Next year, at age six, a new dynamic will be developing that is the result of the new learning experiences of extended day. Ideas become more abstract, and the skills of reading and writing are refined into story writing. With continued emphasis on individual readiness, extended day brings the Montessori experience to its full expression for each child. The extended day child now helps the younger children, as he was helped when he first joined the classroom – a nurturing role in a non-competitive environment that sets the beginnings of life-long connections to other people. Kindergarten was never this much fun!