



Our children benefit daily from the mixed-age classrooms and the three-year cycle with their teachers as they experience being both followers and leaders while under the compassionate guidance and care of a teacher who truly knows and understands them.

Brandi and Saul Levy,
Springmont Parents, 2009 - Present

Springmont's mission is to provide a learning environment where diversity of thought and global perspective empower students to be inquisitive, knowledgeable, independent, compassionate and effective.

Accredited by
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS)
Southern Association of Independent Schools (SAIS)

Recognized by
The Association Montessori Internationale (AMI)

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Springmont
ATLANTA'S FIRST
MONTESSORI SCHOOL

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Primary Program
(3 – 6 years)

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Springmont's classrooms and highly trained faculty maximize

the development of academic skills as well as intense creativity and character development. All areas of study are integrated and children are guided to follow their interests in a beautiful, safe environment designed specifically to foster meaningful discovery. The Primary classrooms are quiet, harmonious environments carefully designed for children to "learn by doing," which is necessary for success in their future.



SOPHIA,
ARTIST,
AGE 4

Engaged Learning



The areas of learning for this age group include math, reading and handwriting, geography, science and culture, sensory development, the arts and life skills. Lessons in each of these areas are presented one-to-one or in small groups using uniquely designed materials the young child can hold and explore. Large group instruction is limited allowing Teachers to follow the developing interests and skills of each child individually. Lessons in Grace and Courtesy help the young child understand his/her impact on others and develop appropriate responses and consideration of other people and places.

Practical Life lessons are designed to foster independence, self-control and self-esteem. The child is naturally drawn to this work, as it is called in Primary, because it is the avenue for participating in the home environment and understanding aspects of their culture. These activities play a critical role in subsequent intellectual growth and responsible social interaction. Logical sequence, attention to detail, exactness and purposeful activity cultivate an aptitude for logic, mathematics, reading and concentration. As a result, children are satisfied with their mastery of daily life skills and become confident in their own ability to learn and contribute. Movement allows the child to use all senses for learning and exploration.

The Sensorial materials are designed to maximize the child’s critical period for developing sensory perception. The senses firmly connect us to our environment; the details of distinction between red and mauve, the uniqueness of combining sweet with salty, the contrast of sandpaper to marble, the pleasantness of the aroma of jasmine. The Montessori materials appeal to the child’s developing senses and offer a multi-sensory learning experience. Vocabulary is enhanced by this work and indirect preparations for math and science also begin.

While all areas of study are integrated, Springmont classrooms are language-rich environments. Discussions, storytelling, listening and naming using materials such as geometric figures,

the continents of the Earth or parts of an insect are common experiences. Specialized lessons assist in vocabulary development, phonetic progression into reading and the development of handwriting skills and composition. Comprehension and understanding parts of speech is enhanced through drama. Children refine their skills by reading to one another and often, writing their own stories.

The math curriculum begins with activities to teach sequence, recognition and quantity of the numbers one through 10 and progresses through the four math operations – addition, multipli-

cation, subtraction and division. The children explore mathematical relationships, such as the squaring and cubing of numbers and fractions, by manipulating concrete materials that are designed to isolate a concept and prepare the mind for abstract mathematical reasoning.

Science and geography are explored through experiments, botany nomenclature, maps and landforms. These materials support inquisitiveness, as well as an understanding of the earth and its people. Small group lessons exploring water or weight, for example, invite wonder and supposition.

Global Awareness, Culture and World Languages

Springmont students experience world languages and an exposure to cultures beginning in Primary. An awareness of other customs develops through cultural study, spoken language, cooking, music, dance and art. Through exploring these, children begin to develop an understanding and appreciation of people and the world. Pictures of people, places and customs spark a global awareness as children use their senses to experience the diverse smells, sounds, colors and patterns from nations around the world. Primary children are sensorial learners and are in a critical period in their development for acquiring language. Therefore, many languages are shared through spoken word and song using native and non-native speakers. Nuances of sound and dialect are detected by the young child creating potential for future development. Spanish lessons are provided in small groups emphasizing vocabulary, pronunciation and a love of the language. Classes celebrate diversity, rituals, beliefs and customs creating a respectful learning environment.



Creativity and the Arts



Children are encouraged toward self-expression and creativity through painting, drawing and introductions to other art mediums such as clay. Teachers introduce students to artists through famous works of art and basics to composition such as types of lines and color. Teachers provide lessons on bells, invite guests to play instruments, sing and dance with the children. Students collaborate to act-out songs and stories as an introduction to drama, learn names of instruments and listen to a variety of music genres. The arts connect children to themselves and to others: Music is a universal language! At Springmont, these experiences are fostered regularly.

Movement and Enhanced Learning

Movement is basic to the Montessori philosophy and occurs both outside and inside and at all levels. Children enjoy recess daily, weather permitting, and Teachers specifically direct physical exercises each week. It is through active interaction with one’s surroundings that the young child learns meaningfully and discovers his specific interests and affinities.

Along with physical activity, all classes have adjoining gardens for digging, planting and exploration in the natural world. Children experience responsibility, care, outdoor beauty and develop a basic sense of their impact on the world through caring for their community garden.

Partnerships

Parents and Teachers work as partners developing multi-year relationships in support of the young child. Communication is an important aspect of that partnership, therefore, parents have access to Teachers via email and phone. Teachers communicate with parents via class letters to share unique information about classroom happenings. Conferences are scheduled twice a year to discuss student progress, and written reports summarizing progress are provided twice a year. Parents also have access to Teachers by phone or email.



Compassion

Community Outreach plays a pivotal role in the Primary Program as Teachers respond to and support the young child’s initiatives to care for others. For example, students cook to provide a Thanksgiving meal for a local church serving the hungry, and in the past, students have collected pennies in support of local charities. Students are regularly seen making cards for our military personnel overseas or sandwiches for Emmaus House, a local assistance program. The entire Primary program works together in December to make blankets and ponchos for a local hospital for the care of others and while doing so, they develop a sense of their impact on the world.

Enrichment

Enrichment to the school day is offered in the afternoons at an additional charge for Primary children age four-and-a-half and older. These classes offer activities such as dance, soccer or music and rotate approximately four times a year. Children who will be moving up to the Lower Elementary program are invited to the dress rehearsal for the annual opera as a first, off-campus field trip experience.

The Path to Elementary

Dr. Montessori believed the first six years are the most critical period for nurturing a child’s natural curiosity and for laying the foundation for all future development. As children transition into the Elementary program, their highly social, intellectually curious and endowed imaginations are eager to explore the world and the human experience within it.

MATTHEW,
ENTERTAINER,
AGE 6

