

# Our World at Small World



## WHAT DID WE DO THIS MONTH? STEP INTO OUR WORLD AT SMALL WORLD!

Dear Parent(s),

As the end of the year quickly approaches, we are continuously amazed by the progress that our students have made throughout this academic year. From April 15th–May 15th we held many exciting events to showcase our appreciation, with the first being our Mother’s Day Brunch on Friday, May 6th. The morning was filled with beautiful Kentucky-Derby style attire, delicious brunch, and most importantly arts and crafts turned into handmade gifts for all of our mothers. The children participated in a wonderful arts-n-crafts bonding activity with their mothers; the Toddler students painted ceramic plates, while the Primary students made their very own handmade soap!

The following Monday we began our week long festivities to celebrate our amazing teachers. Our teachers received an abundance of supplies and kind gifts each day and we cannot thank our families enough for their generosity throughout this week! As we neared the middle of the month, we began preparations to say farewell to our beloved graduates. Students came to campus to take pictures in their cap and gowns on Saturday, May 14th. Preparations also began in the classrooms for their special day, but we can’t spoil all of the surprises just yet.

It is our aim to provide parents with a monthly newsletter highlighting all the activities that happened during the previous month. In this month’s letter, we have also included a featured article from the American Montessori Society entitled “Keeping Everyone In The Loop” by Jennifer Toledo.

We hope you enjoy seeing all of the activities your child took part in. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. This newsletter is for parents, and we are open to suggestions including Article Selections. Join us in June to say farewell to our graduates, and watch them put on the Greatest Show!

Sincerely,

Ms. Olivia Payne  
Administrator of Communications and Marketing

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to follow the classroom fun...



Small World Montessori  
School of Miramar



@montessorischoolofmiramar



Small World Montessori TV

## Important Dates

### Friday, May 6th:

Mother’s Day Brunch

### May 9th–May 13th:

Teacher Appreciation Week

### Saturday May 14th:

Graduation Pictures

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## FEATURED ARTICLE– “KEEPING EVERYONE IN THE LOOP”

BY JENNIFER TOLEDO

A parent recently asked me if I had any ideas on how to relay Montessori tenets to her children’s nanny, who, while loving and invested in the children’s well-being, often did everything for them, hindering their independence. In a busy world, where parents often must rely on secondary caregivers, ensuring that Montessori principles are consistent throughout their children’s day can be a challenge. Whether it be with a babysitter, nanny, au pair, grandparent, or friend, it is worth having a conversation that can help clarify or explain why you do what you do.

Since your children may spend a great deal of time with their caregiver(s), it is important that your “circle” understands your family’s values and wishes. While this looks different in every home environment, you must discern which pieces of Montessori’s philosophy fit into your family’s life. As working parents, my husband and I wrestle with relying on our extended family for before-school and after-school childcare for our son. While we feel grateful for the (free!) help, we have had to have some honest, direct, yet uncomfortable conversations when caregiving styles clash with our parenting style. Ultimately, being clear about our wishes has helped to foster more open communication.

Remember that no one you trust with your children is going to intentionally hinder their growth. Sometimes a caregiver is just unaware, or reverts to how they were raised. Including caregivers in conversations, sharing Montessori philosophy with them, and illustrating what Montessori looks like in action can help put everyone at ease and ensure that you’re all working toward a common goal: independent, healthy children.

First, make sure that caregivers are included in school conversations. The best way for them to understand Montessori is to witness the method firsthand. If your caregiver will be dropping off/picking up your children, make sure that they have an opportunity to meet teacher(s). And while serious matters that come up at school should be addressed directly to you, the parent (and you can then relay it to the caregiver), make sure that the caregiver hears other feedback from teachers. This could include information on new friendships, toileting progress, or minor emotions/behaviors. Caregivers can then pass that information to you, increasing communication and consistency for the child.

Second, make sure that your caregiver knows who Maria Montessori is! Here’s a simple explanation you can use: Maria Montessori was an Italian doctor in the 1900s. She developed her own approach to education based on observing children. Her ultimate goal was that the child develop organization, concentration, coordination, and independence to become a productive and peaceful human. And then you can offer resources– articles, books, webinars. I like to recommend Montessori’s *The Secret of Childhood* and Paula Polk Lillard’s *Montessori: A Modern Approach* to parents and caregivers, and also refer them to the About Montessori section of the AMS website ([amshq.org/About-Montessori](http://amshq.org/About-Montessori)).

And finally, offer caregivers examples of what Montessori in action looks like outside of school. Here are just a few starters for children ages 2+:

- Avoid technology and promote being outside in nature.
- Encourage children to participate in cleaning up after meals, playtime, and activities.
- Let children do things for themselves, and act as an observer. If children ask for help, scaffold, and assist a little at a time (e.g., when struggling to put on shoes, offer to put your finger in the heel to help them slide it on rather than doing all of it for them).
- Do not interrupt the child if they are concentrating and focused.
- Resist punishments like time-outs and reprimands. Use natural consequences.
- Use “if-then” logic (“If you want to go outside, then you have to clean up your toys.”)
- Be consistent. If you say it, mean it, and follow through.

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MOTHER'S DAY 2022

