Grandparenting the Montessori Way: How, What, and Why We Say What We Say

Montessori guides are specifically trained to talk to students in a most respectful way. There are several reasons for this that we will review in this web cast.

HOW ?

- Sing-songy voices stop once a child is past infancy.
- Soft-spoken tones are used so as not to interrupt concentration in others.
- Words of enticement, drama, and inclusion are used to generate interest in a new topic or subject.

WHAT?

- Clear statements and answers without judgment are always preferred.
- Words of encouragement without a prize or reward support self-satisfaction, creativity, and mutual values.
- Guides ask the child for what they want – not what they don't want.

WHY?

- Each child is respected for their uniqueness.
- Courtesy (manners, respect for others) is modeled by the adult.
- The classroom is child-centered not adult-centered.
- Negative words can equate into negative actions.
- Adult words can excite children's imaginations and stimulate their passion to become life-long learners.

How do we as grandparents put those same practices into action outside of the classroom?

Be fully attentive when your grandchildren are with you.

Involve them in decisions about how time together might be spent.

For the youngest children we understand that might not always be practical but listen, watch, and take cues from them.

For the older children, try giving them a choice of activities or ask them what they would like to do together with you.

My three oldest love to be in the kitchen cooking with me.

Ideas for activities taken from the children

My oldest is now reading. She loves reading to me and her younger sister
It brings joy to us all!

They all love taking nature hikes and pointing out what we see.

Other Ideas

- The Zoo
- Gardening
- A Sport
- Art Work
- Puzzles
- Building
- Playing Imaginary Games
- Singing, Dancing, Listening to Music
- The List Never Ends

Really enjoy your time with your grandchildren!