

Remote Learning Plan Young Children's Community, Forest Bluff School

The Forest Bluff Young Children's Community Directors have prepared a remote learning plan that is adaptable for individual families and gentle in structure to accommodate the needs of our youngest children. Rather than a daily schedule, we have created a weekly schedule, so that we can remain responsive to each family's needs and help them create a routine that works for their home. Our hope is that we can support families during this time with ideas, insight, and activities for our students.

The key components of this distance learning plan are:

- Providing support for parents
- Offering ideas for the home environment
- Making observations about our students in weekly group meetings
- Putting together three physical activities per week for each child to have at home
- Making videos for parents to refer to for information on how to use the provided materials and how to structure activities for success

This document and plan may potentially evolve with AMI trainer suggestions, insights from other Montessori educators, and as always, with Directors' observations of how children respond.

Screen Time

Young children are very concrete thinkers; they do not receive much benefit from interacting with others on-line. To this end, we have limited the amount of time your child will be on the screen to 30 minutes once a week. Through this platform, they will have a regular time to see their friends' faces and see their Director. At this time, your child's Director will observe how they interact with others, what their language development is, and what their cognitive development is. These observations will guide their recommendations for activities at home.

Weekly Schedule

Directors will prepare a weekly activities bag (described below) for each student and accompanying video tutorials for parents for each of the three activities in the bag.

Directors will make a personalized weekly phone call to the parents of each student to stay connected and answer specific questions. At this time, they also will make suggestions for activities for the week.

Directors will also offer an individualized weekly FaceTime video call with parents to share ideas for their specific home setup and for individual use of materials for their child (sent home in a weekly bag). In this FaceTime call, Directors can also observe a child, if the parents want this feature to inform their conversation further.

Directors will hold one weekly 30 minute Zoom group gathering for the children. The gathering will have group songs, lessons from the Director, and then close with a story. As mentioned before, this is an opportunity for the Director to stay connected to each child to discover how he or she is developing and changing. This will ensure that the materials sent home are relevant and interesting.

Weekly Materials Bag

Each week, a bag of materials will be prepared for each child, with three different activities inside. The materials will stem from the following categories: language, manipulatives, practical life, art, and music. These supplies will be rotated each week with different materials, based on what the child's interests and developmental needs are at that time.

Video Library

The Directors will create a support video library for parents to use for demonstration of the materials sent home and other food preparation and practical life ideas. This library will begin with a minimum of 15 videos. More relevant videos will be added any week we are not meeting at school in person.

Additional Support

Montessori From the Start audio lectures sent via email, virtual group discussions to follow MFTS lectures, virtual book discussions, and virtual Continuing Education Evenings will all be part of our offerings to support Young Children's Community parents enrolled in Forest Bluff School.

Young Children's Community Support Staff

Each YCC classroom also has a designated assistant who will be helping to make physical materials, and to prepare and clean the weekly bags to be sent home.