

# Our World at Small World



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

Dear Parent(s),

Spring is in the air! Over the last month, March 15–April 15, our students have been hard at work. Every day your children come in eager and determined to make tremendous progress towards their end-of-year goals. We made it halfway through the spring term, which could only be celebrated by taking a much deserved rest. Monday, March 21st our campus was closed in observance of spring break. Normal campus operations resumed Monday, March 28th and our teachers were thrilled to pick up right where they left off with your children.

Thursday, April 14th we held our annual Spring Celebration. We provided many different spring themed festivities for your children to participate in, such as egg painting and arts and crafts. In addition to the indoor activities that we provided, we also conducted an outdoor scavenger hunt for our students to take part in. Thank you parents for supplying such festive baskets for you children to use during this hunt, and for your generous contributions of items for all of our spring themed activities that took place. The children across our entire campus had the opportunity to participate in these fun, spring inspired festivities!

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 "*Starting Each Day: Tips to get out the door on time*" by Anne Prowant.

We hope you enjoy seeing all 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 May to indulge in a Kentucky-Derby inspired Mother's Day brunch.

Sincerely,

Ms. Olivia Payne

Administrator of Communications and Marketing

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Montessori School of Miami  
Gardens



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Small World Montessori TV

## Important Dates

### Thursday, March 17th:

St. Patrick's Day

### Monday, March 21st:

Spring Break Begins

### Thursday, April 14th:

Spring Celebration

### Friday, April 15th:

No School

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## FEATURED ARTICLE— “STARTING EACH DAY: TIPS TO GET OUT THE DOOR ON TIME”

BY ANNE PROWANT

Mornings can be tough. Everyone needs to get up, get dressed, have breakfast, and be ready to go, often in a short amount of time. We parents can end up rushed, frazzled, and short on patience. No one wants to begin the day that way! Here are a few simple, sanity-saving tips to help mornings with young children feel more manageable.

1. Establish a nighttime routine. A good morning starts the night before. Children thrive on consistency, so implement a predictable bedtime routine at the same time every night. Maria Montessori observed that children find security in a predictable schedule. Sticking to the same ritual (perhaps a bath, then story, then song, then lights out) each evening will comfort your child and make it easier to start winding down. Turn off any screens 60 minutes before bed, as these can interfere with restful sleep.

2. Prepare the night before. Minimizing the number of things you have to do in the morning is a simple way to streamline your routine. Encourage your children to select and lay out appropriate clothing for the next day, engage them in preparing lunches and/or starting the next day's breakfast, and remind them to place items that need to go to school by the front door. Children as young as 1 can begin to be independent in dressing themselves, and older children can pack their own lunches. Resist the urge to step in—allow children to struggle a little, helping only when you see they may be becoming frustrated. Affording responsibilities like these offers children opportunities for input and thus a sense of ownership.

3. Stay organized. One way to avoid a frantic last-minute search for backpacks and shoes is to keep all of these items in the same place. Establish a cubby area near the doorway that has a place for shoes, backpacks, coats, and mittens. Make sure it is attractive and child-size to promote independence and a desire to keep it organized. (Montessori was the first educator to stress the importance of child-size furniture in the classroom.) Set and uphold the expectation that this is where your children should neatly store their things, and take time with your children to restore order if the cubbies get a little messy during the week.

4. Use the clock. In this busy world, children can feel rushed around without any understanding of why, and this can lead to tantrums and power struggles. Explain to your child that everyone needs to be out of the house at a certain time. Show them that time on the clock (or use a sand timer for MontessoriParent younger children). In the morning, point to the clock and say, “Oh, look! We need to leave in 10 minutes. What should we be doing now?” Wait for an answer, but if the child cannot give one, be direct: “Now is the time to put on our coats and shoes.”

It's possible to make the morning routine a team effort, rather than a competition with parents doing all the heavy lifting. The keys are to be prepared, give yourself plenty of time, and allow your children to be independent. Yes, it may be faster in the moment to dress them yourself and rush them out the door. But in the long run, offering your children some ownership over their morning will enable a more peaceful routine for everyone.

Listen to your children's input and involve them in the process—by doing so, you show respect and positively impact self-esteem. As Montessori (2014) asserted, “Children are human beings to whom respect is due, superior to us by reason of their innocence and of the greater possibilities of their future.”

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SPRING CELEBRATION 2022

