



Pre-Kindergarten Family Engagement Plan

Goodwater Montessori School is a learning community that seeks to educate the whole child. We take seriously our commitment to serving children enrolled in the School and the entire family. We believe families are critical partners in student success. Children thrive when home and school work harmoniously, with both environments sharing the same educational values and expectations. Through the goals outlined below, the Goodwater Montessori School Prekindergarten program will:

- Provide opportunities to unite families with young children
- Educate and empower families to support their children's learning
- Connect families with community resources

Goals for Engaging Families

Facilitate Family-to-Family support

Goodwater Montessori School strives to provide a safe and welcoming school environment that offers parents opportunities to participate in campus family interaction:

- Parent Education Nights - The Montessori curriculum is explained and parents are provided opportunities to connect as they learn about implementing Montessori principles in the home
- Family events, such as potlucks, cultural events

Connect families to community resources

The campus partners with a variety of community-based organizations to support the needs of all families. The School Programs Coordinator plays a key role in connecting families to community resources. Families can also access resources through:

- Campus Website
- School Newsletters
- Weekly Community Newsletters from individual Guides

Increase family participation in decision-making.

Goodwater Montessori School will offer opportunities for families to advocate for their children, help guide decision making, and provide feedback through:

- Ongoing communication with Guides, Administrators, and school staff
- Parent/Guide conferences
- Various campus committees
- Stakeholder/Parent Surveys

Equip families with tools to enhance and extend learning

Goodwater Montessori School supports families to prepare their children for kindergarten by sharing practical tips and ideas via:

- Guides meet with families during our Meet the Teacher nights before school begins. The visit occurs in the classroom and Guides make connections with students and families. This visit lays the foundation for establishing communication with individual families.
- Parents attend a Curriculum Night designed specifically for presenting the areas, materials, and activities of the Montessori environment, and how these can be implemented in the home.
- Parent/Guide Conferences are held twice a year.
- Guides send home weekly newsletters to families with photos of student engagement. The newsletters also contain an explanation of a Montessori element with suggestions for implementation at home.
- Social Media Outreach (Facebook Group Community pages) offers parents an opportunity to connect.
- Provide families with [TEA Prekindergarten Family Resources](#)

Develop staff skills to support families in meeting their children's learning benchmarks:

Guides and assistants will be supported to build strong relationships with families, ensuring all students are ready for Kindergarten through:

- Providing Guides/Assistants with the information and/or training on collaborating with families to appropriately respond to children and support learning at home.
- Providing Guides/Assistants with knowledge/training to develop skills on culturally responsive family engagement strategies and instructional best practices.
- Providing Guides/Assistants with knowledge/training on creating a home learning environment that can be shared with families.

Evaluate family engagement efforts and use evaluations for continuous improvement:

Monitor family engagement and improve future efforts by collecting and analyzing data:

- Parental feedback from Campus events.
- Parental Input during twice-a-year Guide/Parent conferences

Goodwater Montessori School's Prekindergarten program is unique in that it provides students ages 3 and 4 the opportunity to be in the same classroom as Kindergarten students. This multi-aged approach serves children in many ways, including opportunities to be exposed to the kindergarten curriculum, learn from peers, socially interact with students of different ages, and stay with the same Guide for more than one year. The connection established with families at the prekindergarten level becomes strengthened as students progress to lower elementary, upper elementary, and adolescence programs at Goodwater Montessori School.