"We are eternally thankful to all the teachers of Montessori & ME (M & M), mainly Ms. Judith, our child's mentor. We can see the positive impact M & M and Ms. Judith has had on our child, and how it has shaped the person she has become today. Our child started attending M & M at age 2.5 yrs and she is 5 now, going on to attend Kindergarten this fall, along with the M & M program for another year. The environment at M & M is very welcoming, fun and inclusive.

The delivery of the program at M & M models respect, loving kindness, building values important in life, along with academic excellence. This is customized to nourish each child's area of interest, hence making learning fun at M & M. The instructions are broken down step-by-step, clear, and are concise and easy to follow, even for the very busy parents (especially these days!)

M & M teaches life skills like pouring, cutting, cleaning, dressing, hygiene, and cooking with the same ease as they teach kindness, respect, altruism, teamwork and academics. This helps engage each child in a meaningful way and makes them independent, while enjoying freedom within reasons for the developing brains.

Our daughter has become a strong independent minded child, and a compassionate human with solid skills in reading, math, culture, and with a vast curiosity in science and keen to learn the why and how of things!

Teachers (every single one of them), go to extraordinary lengths spending time with each child one on one (making sure the child understands and excels in their academic or carrying them and hugging them if they are feeling overwhelmed at a public performance), staying after hours to develop customized worksheets, taking calls from parents and caregivers to help manage behaviors at home, helping continue learning even in the midst of pandemic shutdowns by bringing the program to each student's home (avoiding screen exposure!), to ensure that guidance stays consistent and the parents are fully informed and involved.

It is our firm belief that the values and skill sets that our child learned at M & M, will be of tremendous benefit in her future life, and we cannot thank Ms Judith enough for laying such a strong foundation in the most important formative years of our daughter's life. This is so much so that our daughter wishes and hopes that she could attend ONLY M & M for her entire school years without having to attend another program and transition directly to university:))

Ms Judith is our daughter's first and most important GURU, that we will cherish for the rest of our lives."

Dr. Soumí Síkder & Mr. Sanjíb Howlader



As a mother, it is with great pleasure that I share our family's experience with Montessori & Me. It is my sons 2<sup>nd</sup> year attending Montessori & Me and he looks forward to going each and every day. The development I have seen in my son over the last two years is truly impressive. I have seen a huge effect on his confidence and his ability to socialize with his peers, especially in his ability to make new friends. Cognitively, I have seen a great deal of growth as well, in regards to recognizing letters, numbers and words, writing, counting and his fine motor skills. Every day I observe the genuine affection and concern Judith and her teachers show the students. I find all the teachers are accessible and more than willing to discuss development and progress with parents. The teachers truly treat each student as an individual to meet their respective needs, knowing that all children do not learn the same way or at the same pace. I highly recommend Montessori & Me and look forward to my son's 3<sup>rd</sup> year of learning with Judith and her talented team of teachers.

Jen D.



While there are a vast number of preschools in Edmonton and the choices are countless, very few are geared towards actually preparing kids during these very important stages of early childhood development. The vast majority are just supervised playschools.

Only less than a handful are actually designed to teach; but not one of these has given us the confidence to leave our children with, other than Montessori & Me. Their level of professionalism and care are unsurpassed, mainly due to Ms. Judith's tireless efforts in continually maintaining ground rules and standards set for all the teachers, students and parents alike.

After a very successful 3 years at Montessori & Me with our 1st born, it came time for our 2nd child to go to preschool. After other options were thoroughly investigated and considered; we again came to the conclusion that Montessori & Me is still the best preschool for our child.

The Chan Family



Both of our children have attended Montessori & Me, and we cannot say enough about the program. Our daughter graduated from kindergarten at Montessori & Me last year, after completing a 4-year casa program, and entered Grade 1 full of confidence and at the head of her class. Prior to Montessori & Me, she had some difficulty navigating social situations, which is why we decided on Montessori & Me for her. Throughout her years with the school, with the well-curated program of academics and life skills, not to mention the care, encouraging support, and love offered to her by the unparalleled staff at Montessori & Me, she has blossomed into an intelligent, socially aware, and charismatic child.

Our son, with a more gregarious personality, has benefitted greatly from the structure and routine, and with the Montessori method allowing him flexibility to continually pursue academic success, based on his skill set. Overall, we have been part of the Montessori & Me family for over 5 years, and cannot say enough about the staff, programming and community it engages. We firmly believe it takes a village to raise a child, and we are SO very grateful that Montessori & Me has been part of our village.

The Nijjar Family



From day one, we were so impressed by the teachers, classroom and students at Montessori & Me. Our oldest daughter graduated from Montessori & Me in 2017, our second graduated in 2018, and our youngest still has 2 more years left at Montessori & Me. We have seen our children grow academically, emotionally and socially after spending just a week at Montessori & Me! One of my biggest fears when they started preschool was how they would be without me, but the teachers and the students were all so wonderful with welcoming our children, when they started preschool. Our children have excelled academically by being able to read, write and do basic math prior to entering Kindergarten. Also, my daughter has mentioned to me that one of her favourite things about preschool is that they get to learn about the traditions of different countries and get to taste different foods, monthly. Montessori & Me is not only about academics, our children also enjoy ballet, music, and field trips. Montessori & Me is so much more than just our children's preschool, we have grown to trust the teachers and cannot thank them enough for the hard work they have put into creating a safe and fun learning environment for the children.

The Masilungan Family



My family has spent 6 years at Montessori & Me, for two separate children. It's been an amazing experience and allowed them both to excel in the public school system now. My only regret is not being able to keep them participating indefinitely.

Dallas Hoggan



Montessori & Me is an amazing preschool with very personable, dedicated and caring teachers. The preschool offers a broad curriculum and lots of learning opportunities for young children. Our children have had great learning experiences and have developed important social and academic skills that they will need as they progress through school.

Our little girl loves to go to school every day and we have seen a great improvement in her communication and interpersonal skills, within a few months of attending Montessori & Me.

We cannot thank the staff enough for the wonderful experiences they have provided for our children and we highly recommend Montessori & Me to parents looking for an exceptional preschool.

Mrs. Ríta Manuwa & Dr. Oghogho Manuwa



Judith, over the past 3 years, it has been my privilege to have my son attend Montessori & Me. I never knew it would have had this much of an impact on our family. I am forever grateful to have met you, and thank you from the bottom of my heart for everything you have done for us.

I remember our first encounter together. We visited the school during the summer months. Declan had just turned 3 and was a very busy little boy. When we arrived at the school he was instantly comfortable and quite curious to explore. You were very laid back and we talked at ease about both of our expectations while we observed Declan in this new environment. When I left the school that day, I remember feeling so relieved and excited that we had found each other. Over the course of 3 years, there were different obstacles that Declan needed to overcome. You always had his best interest at heart, offering solutions and support each step of the way. I always felt that you truly cared about Declan. It was organic and natural for you to love him. Your knowledge of children is unparallel to anyone I have ever met. You are so consistent and seem to manage each situation with kindness and compassion, for what the child is experiencing. This leads to the best possible out come each and every time.

The way Montessori & Me is run provides the children with a sense of safety and routine that is so comfortable for the children to be free spirited and learn at a rapid pace. The boundaries and social environment you provide, sets them up for inevitable success in the years to come. Declan's social skills, problem solving and friendship building was expedited throughout the years. When I receive compliments on his behavior I always respond with, "he was raised in a Montessori environment".

Your educational programs were beyond anything I could have anticipated. I loved talking to Declan about his day. He was excited to share all the interesting facts he learned and over the years his sense of wonder blossomed into an amazing thirst for knowledge. Your program is carefully crafted to provide the children with crucial life skills that they just wouldn't get in any other program. He learned how to learn. He was thought how to figure it out so he could understand it. This is not something that is implemented to the children in schools these days. You instill a sense of wonder and empower each child with the confidence to be all that they can be. Tempo believes Declan entered his Kindergarten year at a Grade 1 level. His teacher said his Science was at a Grade 2 level and his Math was way advanced for his age. All of this Judith is

because of your programs at Montessori & Me and your commitment to the children. You and Ms. Asma are the ones that provided Declan with this advantage.

Judith, you are the mother and teacher I aspire to be. You have not only helped my son by providing him with the necessary life experiences and the social skills for success, you have also taught me how I can help my son be the best he can be. Thank you Judith. There is no one else like you. I will miss you so much! 3 years went by too fast. I will always hold you dear to my heart, forever.

## Tara Johnston



We are very pleased to write our testimonial about Montessori & Me as our preferred preschool of choice. Our daughter Madeleine enrolled at Montessori & Me at 2 ½ years old in 2012, and received her Kindergarten Diploma in June 2016. Throughout her four years of preschool, Montessori & Me's academic programs such as Language Arts, Math, Culture, Science as well as Practical Life, has fostered Madeleine's intellectual development and critical thinking, as well as trained her to develop good manners, discipline, proper social behavior and communication skills. We truly believe that Montessori & Me's educational philosophy and its traditional teaching methods played a vital role in promoting Madeline's future learning and inspired her to achieve higher educational goals at the Tempo School, which she is currently enrolled in.

We are thankful that Ms. Judith has made every effort to ensure each student's birthdays were celebrated, as well as they with taught about the significance of special occasions including but not limited to the celebrations of Mothers & Fathers Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas, Valentine's Day, Easter, St. Patrick's Day, etc. All of these celebrations provided Madeleine with very positive and fun preschool experiences, along with its comprehensive academic programs. In summary the preschool experiences from Montessori & Me laid a very solid foundation for Madeleine's future development in the school system, and enabled her to excel in her academic programs.

## Wendy & Michael Reuscher



My daughter, Ella Zhang, started her preschool education at the Montessori & Me (M & M) preschool when she was just two and a half years. The first time we visited the preschool, Ella loved the place, as it had so many attractive things like an in-school library, the aquarium, the cozy corner, etc. The young children at M & M were calm, confident and open to chatting with us. I liked the whole physical environment; especially the high ceilings that brought bright natural light into the preschool. Once an offer of enrolment was made, we decided to enroll our daughter, immediately. Since then, we have come to realize that we made a great decision for our daughter. Since English was not a language that Ella was familiar with, her transition to M & M was quite hard and she cried a lot, at the beginning. Ms. Judith, Ms. Ellen and Ms. Asma are very caring teachers and they helped Ella a lot, so that her transition got better and easier. They treated my child like their own and I could tell that they treated all the children in the same caring way, as well.

M & M organizes great field trips every month; they charter a big school bus, which all the children love and all the parents prefer, as a safe mode of transportation. I like the Montessori teaching model where one teacher works with a small group of seven children, with mixed ages.

This allows the younger children to learn from the older ones, and allows the older children to serve as role models for the younger ones.

When my daughter was at M & M for three years, she did not just learn the academic components of the program, she received an all-rounded education that allowed her to develop her own individual personality and other skills sets, which will be useful for life.

At M & M, everyday, they provide a freshly cooked snack/light lunch for all the children and go out of their way to cater for children with allergies and other dietary or religious restrictions. I was very surprised that they have different cuisines every month based on the country they focus on, in that month. Ella used to be a very picky eater when she first enrolled and stayed away from vegetables, but after she graduated from M & M, she eats lots of veggies and is always willing to try different/new cultural food. Global festivals are also celebrated at the M & M preschool. Ella experienced lots of fun times, and lots of food and culture presentations, where she loved to learn about different cultures. Ella's favorite area was Practical Life, where she loved working with all the Practical Life activities. Later on, she developed a great interest in Language Arts and Math too!

I think the Montessori system of education at M & M helps children to develop a great foundation that will help to set them up for long-term success. It not only provides advanced academic learning experiences and opportunities but also provides opportunities for holistic development. Children are free to learn in their own way and work at their own pace, while developing their personality. I feel lucky that my daughter spent three exciting years at the Montessori & Me preschool, before graduating from KG last year, and it is my pleasure to provide this testimonial! Yuki Yu



Thank you for being such a positive influence in our children's lives and for making each day feel rich with excitement, warmth and a sense of discovery...

You have continually inspired our children to awaken their curiosity and put their best foot forward, while making our family feel welcome and loved.

The Braaksma Family



Our grateful thanks for your dedication to the school, our kids and our family. We are amazed and pleased at how far our kids have come and more importantly, at their love for learning and for school. We know that this is all thanks to your leadership and direction.

The Custodio Family

