

COVID-19  
edition



“ Times have changed, and science has made great progress,  
and so has our work; but our principles have only been confirmed,  
and along with them our conviction that mankind can hope for a solution to its problems,  
among which the most urgent are those of peace and unity; only by turning its attention  
and energies to the discovery of the child and to the development of the great potentialities  
of the human personality in the course of its formation. ”

Dr. Maria Montessori, From the foreword to "The Discovery of the Child", Poona 1948

## Dear Parents,

As you all know, we have been ordered by Moroccan authorities to offer online schooling, until further notice. We are living a historical moment that is affecting our planet and each one of us. This can certainly create confusion, panic, and chaos in the world, but it can also be an opportunity for each and everyone of us to pause, take a step back, and reflect on what is essential. We are being forced to adapt our lifestyles, our habits and routines, and to stay in our homes and act as a "family".

### MONTESSORI PARENTING

We, parents, are now being given the responsibility of their own children's education. This is not an easy task however, EMC is committed to support our families through these

extraordinary circumstances. As you know, Montessori is not just a school, but a way of life. We cannot stress enough the importance of creating environments in our homes that reflect the lives of our children at school. We obviously cannot recreate a typical school environment, but there are ways to prepare our homes in a way that allows our children to remain active and responsible members of their community.

### HOW WE SUPPORT YOU

This is essentially where we come in, as a community of Montessori professionals. This is a first for us, as well as a challenge for our type of hands-on experiential education, but we have an extremely strong and dedicated team. We have been having meetings for the past few days to prepare ourselves for such an unprecedented situation, and despite a climate of fear and anxiety, what resonates the most in our meetings are voices of our teachers saying: "No matter how scared and anxious we are, our children and families need us, and we will be there for them." (Banke Faloye, Elementary Guide).



Our guides are working hard, with outstanding creativity and positivity, to ensure that our children are not abandoned during this crisis. They are coming up with a plan that will offer parents, caregivers, and children guidance and tools to nourish the children's development. It involves preparing individual lesson plans, packets and resources for each family. You can expect online communications with our guides who will offer you personalized guidelines and tools that will transform your homes into a learning environment. They will be available during working hours to provide online sessions with yourselves, the caregivers, and the children.

### **THIS IS NOT A VACATION**

It is important to keep in mind, that whatever age your child is, they are not on an extended vacation. Your children must keep up with their learning, as if they were at school. Montessori is an aid to life, which makes homes possible ideal learning environments when guidelines are followed. You must consider this as a home-schooling situation, and we are looking forward to your collaboration. Let's use this crisis situation as an opportunity to restructure your home environments that will benefit your children on the long term, when this is all behind us.

It is extremely important that you please DO NOT put your children in front of screens. They are at an age where they need to engage mind, body and soul in meaningful and purposeful activities. We would like to resume school with children who have not gotten lost in passivity over a few weeks it will not only have a negative impact on their development, it also requires a lot of energy to start over and get them back into an active rhythm once school resumes.

We shall be keeping you informed of next steps very shortly. Should you have any questions, concerns, ideas, please do not hesitate to contact us by email. We are not yet sure of the duration of this situation, but it is evident that we must stand strong as a community to support one another. For the wellbeing of our families, we must all, as parents and staff members, transition from an understandable sentiment of shock, denial, and panic, into accepting and facing all that is coming upon us with strength, endurance, and love.

Peacefully,

Aicha Sajid  
Head of School

