



Our World at Small World

January 2024 Volume 04 Issue 01



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January Newsletter

Volume 04 Issue 01

Upcoming Events

MONDAY, JANUARY 15TH

Martin Luther King Jr. Day --
Small World Montessori School of
Miami Gardens will be closed in
honor of Martin Luther King Jr.
Regular school hours will resume
on Tuesday, January 16th.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH

Lunar New Year Celebration --
Small World Montessori School
of Miami Gardens will be
celebrating Lunar New Year
and embracing the joy of
cultural festivities!

CLICK ON ICONS BELOW
to follow the classroom fun...

-  Small World Montessori
School of Miami Gardens
-  @montessorischoolofmiamigardens
-  Small World Montessori TV
-  SWM Miami Gardens

What did we do this month? Step into our world at Small World!

Dear Parent(s),

Welcome Back! During the month of January, our students came back from Winter Break re-energized and ready to take on all of the exciting activities and lessons teachers have in store for this new semester. We also welcomed a lot of new faces to our program this month, so a special greeting is in order to all new families. We hope your children have an exceptional first month of school.

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 "**Manners, Naturally.**"



What did we do this month? Step into our world at Small World! (continued)



Breakfast with Santa

At the beginning of December, we hosted our Annual Breakfast with Santa, where families had the opportunity to eat breakfast together, decorate Gingerbread cookies & most importantly meet Santa Claus! A huge thank you to everyone who attended in order to make this such a success.



“HOPE” Holiday Show

We hosted our Annual Holiday Shows for both our Toddler and Primary Program. On December 13th, we hosted our Toddler Program's Annual Holiday Show, which was launched on our YouTube Channel. On December 16th, we also hosted our Primary Program's in-person Holiday Show. Both Holiday Shows were a great success, and we were so proud to see our students' hard work and practice pay off. Both Holiday Shows can be seen by clicking the buttons on the right.

Click here to watch the Toddler Holiday Show!



Click here to watch the Primary Holiday Show!





Featured Article:

Manners, Naturally

by Donohue Shortridge

“ Being considerate of others will take your children further in life than any college degree. ”

This quote, often attributed to children’s rights activist Marian Wright Edelman, came to mind recently. Walking toward my local market, I could hear the jovial banter between a father and son, who were about ten steps behind me—something about a birthday later that day and their mission to get the cake. Listening to his vocabulary and articulation, I estimated the boy to be 4 years old. Just as I reached the front door, the boy rushed past me, yanked the door open, and was halfway into the store when Dad called him back. “Let’s hold the door open for this lady, son.”

I looked at them both as I entered, said “thank you,” and then we were all off, each into our separate worlds—they to the bakery department and I to the produce section.

Dad managed the episode with grace because he didn’t react as though his child should know better; he understood that the boy’s rushing was due to 4-year-old exuberance (it would be different if the boy were 10). At the same time, the father did not let the opportunity pass to demonstrate to his son what to do.

That is the secret. We teach our children manners in the million moments we have with them. The episodes often come up without warning and can catch us off guard. What should we keep in mind so that when an opportunity presents itself to show our child what to do, we too will handle it with grace?

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Featured Article:

Manners, Naturally

by Donohue Shortridge

(continued)

Our Children Adore Us

They love us with their entire being. Whatever we do, they want to do. They want to be close to us; they want to watch us, hear us, learn from us, and be loved by us. They want to be just like us. So instilling manners, aka “social competence,” is simple and natural in these early years, from the age of 3 or 4 on.

Now is the Time

Young children want to know—actually, crave knowing—the right thing to do. Their bodies and minds have grown beyond the toddler stage. Now that they are sturdy on their feet and language can be employed in meaningful communication, they are ready for the next phase of self-construction: socialization. They encounter the world as if asking, “What am I to do here? And would someone please show me how?”



Correcting is Not the Same as Modeling

Like the rest of us, children are easily shamed. If the father at the market had said, “Watch out, son, you’re in that lady’s way,” the boy would have felt judgment, rather than learning what he should have done. Thus, even if we are annoyed or embarrassed by our young child’s behavior, our exasperation is not the lesson—there is another way. Trust that the conduct is not malicious but likely stems from the child not knowing what to do. Then demonstrate what we want our child to learn. Dad didn’t need to say anything further to his 4-year-old son; the boy absorbed the lesson. And if Dad does the same thing the next time and the next, the lesson will be reinforced.

Parents and caregivers are the most potent teachers of social norms. What we show our children, they will do. Even so, for our lessons to adhere, we must be consistent and positive. And most important, we must model the behavior we want to instill in our children.

As Maria Montessori said, **“What is social life if not the solving of social problems, behaving properly, and pursuing aims acceptable to all?”**



What did we do this month? Step into our world at Small World!

(continued)



Thank You!

We hope you enjoy seeing all the activities your child took part in. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. This newsletter is for parents, and we are open to suggestions including Article Selections. Join us in February to see our Lunar New Year Celebration & all the exciting activities of the New Year!

Sincerely,
Montessori School of Miami Gardens

