



Under a Gallon ...

MONTESSORI OF GREENWICH BAY

Lynne Way, M.Ed., Montessori and certified RI teacher, is the owner of Montessori of Greenwich Bay. Lynne, who is also the Program Director and Preschool-age Teacher, became interested in Montessori education while researching preschools for her two oldest daughters. "Once I understood how powerful this [Montessori] process of engaging children's brilliance is, I was hooked. All four of my children have gone through a Montessori preschool program and it has made a wonderful difference in how they learn and view their role in the educational process."

After getting her Masters Degree in Education, concentrating on Montessori teaching in 2004, Lynne set up a preschool in her home. Starting with just five children, the



school has grown to serve over 24 families and now includes a toddler classroom in its new location on South County Trail.

The educational approach used at Montessori of Greenwich Bay is child-centered, and adult-guided. This is different than regular preschool programs where children are assigned to certain types of activities for specified periods, and where teachers direct the learning.

Lynne says, "We're different in that our classrooms are carefully prepared with awesome materials that provide children the opportunity to explore and learn at their own pace, and in their own way. Our teachers guide children, but the children learn under their own steam. As a result, they tend to look to themselves for the satisfaction that comes from having mastered a skill—we call that the beginning of a lifelong love of learning."

Montessori of Greenwich Bay recently became the first program in East Greenwich to participate in BrightStars which recognizes quality care and learning across national standards. "BrightStars raises the bar for early childhood programs in RI," says Tammy Camillo, BrightStars director. "Montessori of Greenwich Bay's participation is a sign that they are a leader in a statewide effort to invest in high-quality early childhood care and education."

Montessori of Greenwich Bay prides itself on having highly educated and nurturing teachers who are passionate about what they do. Lynne says, "Our goal is to respect each child as a unique individual. Their curiosity and learning is piqued through fun and purposeful activity using beautiful materials. Our environment exudes a cheerful orderliness and calmness. Children leave our programs well prepared for their next educational experience; often a grade-level ahead in one or more areas. We invite residents to visit us and observe this wonderful childhood experience for themselves."

Montessori of each Greenwich is located at 3285 South County Trail, East Greenwich, RI. For more information, email lynne.way@montessorigb.com, call 234-1243, or visit www.montessorigb.com.

