



DEARBORN HEIGHTS MONTESSORI CENTER

## SCHOOL CLOSING AND OUTDOOR POLICY

### SCHOOL CLOSING

If circumstances (i.e., weather, power failure, etc.) necessitate closing the school, and the decision is made prior to the beginning of the school day, the information will be communicated in several ways. An email will be sent via Constant Contact, and the school's answering machine 313-359-3000 will carry a recorded message letting you know about the closing. The information will also be provided on our website, [www.dhmontessori.org](http://www.dhmontessori.org), the DHMC Facebook page, and local radio and television stations. A separate sheet detailing these procedures will be distributed in the late fall.

We do not close casually, and almost always will keep day care and latchkey open even if classes are not in session. DHMC sources will provide accurate information about this; television and radio listings may not include complete details.

### OUTDOOR POLICY

DHMC's outdoor policy is based on several principles:

**FIRST**, that going outdoors is a positive experience for the children. It gives them a change of pace in the middle of the day, fresh air, and the opportunity to move about freely (and loudly) with a minimum of restriction.

**SECOND**, that unless weather conditions prevent it, outdoor time is a scheduled and required part of every day for all students.

**THIRD**, that any child well enough to attend school is well enough to go outdoors. Germs make people sick, not air, and the warm indoor environment harbors far more of the organisms that cause illness than the colder outdoors. *If a child is to be kept indoors for medical reasons, the school must be provided with a current signed, dated letter from his or her doctor outlining the conditions of the restriction.*

**FOURTH**, that children are expected to come to school every day with clothing that is appropriate for outdoor play. This includes appropriate footwear. If needed, we can borrow from the lost and found, but this does not encourage the children to learn responsibility for their belongings.

**FIFTH**, that the school staff will use reasonable discretion in deciding if weather conditions are appropriate for the children to be outdoors.

We don't take children out in the rain, and similar judgment is exercised when the weather is extremely hot. In cold weather, toddlers and 3-6 classes do not go out when temperature combined with wind (wind chill) is lower than 20 degrees Fahrenheit. Extended Day, elementary, and Middle School groups stay in when temperatures are below zero. We use the National Weather Service Heat Index Chart to guide decisions about outdoor play in hot weather.

Our staff members are reasonable people, and their foremost concern is the children's welfare. Please remember, too, that the teachers are outdoors with the children, and are aware of the conditions firsthand.

The staff of Dearborn Heights Montessori Center appreciates your cooperation with the above policies.