

The road to independence is not always easy. We want you to know it is OK...

Toddler

...if your child complains a bit about doing what they have been asked to do; stand your ground!
...if your child cries to be carried; tell them that they can walk.
...to be the parent and not a friend. "You have to love your child enough to let them hate you."

- Carol Burnett

...if your child is crying or whining when they come into class; just let them go and they will be fine.
We will call you in the event they do not settle down.
...if your child makes mistakes. It allows them to learn on their own.
...to allow them to dress themselves even if their clothes do not match, or if they are in their PJ's

Primary

...if your child complains a bit about doing what they have been asked to do; stand your ground!
...if your child is crying or whining when they come into class; just let them go and they will be fine.
We will call you in the event that they do not settle down.
...if your child's clothing is not perfectly matched. It shows that they have been given the opportunity to make their choice independently. This includes shoes on the wrong feet.
...if your child makes mistakes. It allows them to learn on their own.
...if your child's hair is not perfectly coifed and/or groomed.
...if your child spills when pouring, drops when carrying, or does not clean up "perfectly."
...if your child forgets his backpack, folder, etc. on occasion. The natural consequences that occur may keep it from happening in the future.
...if you let your child try to solve their conflicts on their own before intervening.
...if your child is brought to school in their PJ's if you have had a particular difficult time that morning.

Lower Elementary

...if the laundry is not folded perfectly or in just the right place in the closet or drawer.
...if your child feels some frustration at having to figure something out on their own.
...to miss a favorite television show to have time to wind down and read before bed.
...to go to bed early to keep from being too tired to get up on time in the morning.
...to make two trips to move all of their belongings from one place to the next.
...to spill.
...for your child to feel disappointed because they were told "no."
...for your child to search for something that has been lost.
...for your child to complain about taking care of belongings.
...to not be able to explain all of the work done at school and why.
...to not watch television or play video games before school.



BENCHMARKS TO AID IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF

Independence guide

Helping your child

"Never help a child with a task at which he feels he can succeed."



Oak Grove Montessori School
180 Oak Grove Road
Carrollton, GA 30117 770-214-0112

What does independence look like at each stage of development? Look inside to find out...

Benchmarks of Independence

Care for Self

<i>Toddlers can...</i>	<i>Primary students can...</i>	<i>Lower Elementary students can...</i>	<i>Upper Elementary students can...</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ...dress themselves. ...walk to class without being carried. ...carry their belongings (backpack and coat) to class and place them on their hook without parental help. ...feed themselves without constant clean-ups. ...drink from an open cup. ...eat while sitting in a regular chair (no highchairs). ...go to the bathroom independently as long as their clothes are not a hindrance. ...entertain themselves without the TV or computer. ...help to brush their teeth and hair. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ...help in making meals. ...brush their hair in the morning. ...dress themselves and put on their own jacket/coat. ...put on their socks and shoes. Even if they need help with tying, etc., they can make the effort. ...remember their backpack, jacket, work folder/binder, etc. ...carry their own belongings (backpack, snack, etc.) to class. ...walk into class from the morning car line by themselves. ...go to the bathroom independently as long as their clothes are not a hindrance. ...pour their beverages. ...clean up after themselves upon finishing eating. ...carry their plate to the kitchen after meals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ...wake to an alarm clock, get dressed, and be ready for breakfast. ...make their breakfast. ...fill their water bottle. ...remember to bring coat and belongings to and from school. ...walk in from car line alone. ...carry their things. ...serve themselves. ...clean up spills and accidents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ...dress and prepare their own breakfast each morning. ...be responsible for remembering water bottle, take home folder and other paper that are due. ...remember to wear/bring a jacket for outdoor recess. ...pick up after themselves. ...complete most of their work-plan most weeks.

Care for the Environment

<i>Toddlers can...</i>	<i>Primary students can...</i>	<i>Lower Elementary students can...</i>	<i>Upper Elementary students can...</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ...clean up and put their activities away. ...prepare fruits and veggies. ...water plants. ...clean up spills. ...help sweep the floor. ...put some laundry away. ...be respectful of other living creatures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ...sort silverware after it has been washed. ...sweep floors. ...put away their activities. ...straighten their room. ...sort clean socks, fold towels, etc., on laundry day. ...have responsibilities in keeping the environment clean and tidy. ...help prepare veggies/fruit for meals at home. ...help plant flowers, weed flower beds, water plants, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ...make their bed every day. ...fold laundry and put it away. ...feed and care for pets. ...put away toys, games and books. ...set the table for meals. ...help to do the dishes. ...sort their trash (recycling and compost). ...take out the trash and recycling. ...sweep and vacuum the floors. ...read a book to parents, siblings, and by themselves. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ...pick up after themselves (they do it at school). ...clean their rooms and help out daily around the house. ...take out the trash and recycling. ...care for pets. ...put away groceries. ...help wash the car (it transports them everywhere). ...help with yard work. ...do laundry

Interpersonal Skills

<i>Toddlers can...</i>	<i>Primary students can...</i>	<i>Lower Elementary students can...</i>	<i>Upper Elementary students can...</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ...let others finish a sentence before interrupting to ask a question. ...ask for a drink/snack when desired, rather than walking around with a bottle, sippy cups, or snack. ...learn to deal with frustrations without having a parent solve every problem for them. ...use words rather than whine. ...make a choice between two alternatives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ...show respect for others. ...wait patiently without interrupting conversations. ...use nice table manners. ...understand not to take or use things that belong to others without asking for permission. ...begin to solve problems with little or no interference from adults. ...feel empathy for others. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ...say please and thank you. ...help others with work. ...solve problems with friends, with little adult help. ...begin to learn the value of money through allowance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ...write thank you notes for gifts received. ...exhibit grace and courtesy. ...use Conflict Resolution skills. ...help others problem solve. ...respect authority.