

## Georgia's Pre-K Program 2020-2021 Instructional Quality (IQ) Guide for the Montessori Learning Environment

Site Name:	Teacher Name:

Young children are active learners and need to touch, feel, experiment, and create within their learning environment. The most powerful motivator for young children to learn is the natural joy that comes from learning and exploring. In the Georgia's Pre-K Montessori classroom, the learning environment is organized, prepared, and structured according to Montessori method. Materials and activities are structured and changed to meet children's growing developmental needs and changing interests.

The Montessori classroom requires a well-planned and structured environment that meets children's developmental needs. The children are free to follow their own interests within this environment. The result is that children develop in a natural way and are highly motivated. Children develop self- discipline and master basic skills, at their own pace. The teacher is trained in each aspect of the curriculum and grounded in a rich understanding of child development, allowing lessons to be personalized to support each child's unique development.

A key element of the Montessori method is the 'Prepared Environment,' meaning that the physical appearance and arrangement of materials adhere to certain principles which focus on meeting the needs of the child. It is the teacher's role to prepare and maintain the environment. These principles include:

- Freedom of movement and freedom of choice for the children
- Structure and order in the arrangement and sequence of the materials
- Materials that provide active learning experiences
- Vertical grouping (in the age range from 2.5 to 6 years), with permission from Bright from the Start
- A closeness to nature and the natural world, with materials and activities that reflect the reality of life, not fantasy
- An atmosphere that is attractive, warm and inviting

For the purpose of this document, please use the following definitions:

**Enough:** all 22 children or the number of children enrolled **Some:** enough for a small group of children (2 to 8 children)

Accessible: materials are located within the learning areas or in the classroom within easy reach of the children.

Children can freely choose to use materials without asking for teacher permission or assistance.

Available: items are easily brought out for children's use for specific activities or to expand children's learning.

This guide is to be completed first by the lead teacher. This should be completed within the first thirty (30) school/business days of when teachers report and then signed, dated and submitted to the Director/Principal. Upon receipt of the completed IQ Guide, Directors/Principals may designate a second reviewer. The designated reviewer should complete the document while in the classroom, compare results and provide feedback to the teacher. Directors/Principals should sign off at the end regardless of who is designated as the reviewer. A completed copy of the *IQ Guide for the Learning Environment* should be placed with the *Grant Requirement Checklist*. This document was designed to be fluid and used throughout the school year to document changes. Although additional reviews are not required, Directors/Principals are encouraged to set a date for a second review. NOTE: A second or additional reviews can be required as deemed necessary by the Pre-K Specialist.

Additional definitions and clarifications can be found in the FAQ for the Learning Environment. Although completion of this guide is required within the first 30 days and recommended for a second review, monitoring and feedback can be given as often as desired. This document is intended to be a working document and teachers can write specific items needed under each area and reviewer/director/principal can add dates when items are available/ordered/delivered or additional corrections are made.

Classroom Environment and Display						
Research shows that when children are in an attractive, inviting environment they perform better and are happier.						
In a Montessori environment for young children, the children's process of creation is emphasized over the products of their work. Therefore, children's work may not be displayed in the classroom after it is completed. Classroom walls should be sparsely decorated with objects of art, which are rotated on a regular basis.						
	Teacher	Reviewer	Teacher	Reviewer		
	1 <sup>st</sup> 30	// 1 <sup>st</sup> 30	_/_/_	_/_/_		
Date Completed:			<u>Date:</u>	<u>Date:</u>		
The classroom is inviting, clean, organized, and visually appealing to	days	days				
children.						
Materials in every area of the classroom are accessible to the children						
throughout their daily work cycle.						
Photos of children and their families are available to the children.						
Walls are sparsely decorated with plenty of empty space						
The classroom is safe and free from hazards.						
Display includes objects of art and culture, as in a gracious home, rather						
than cartoons or educational posters.						
Comments						
Language and Liter	асу					
The Montessori approach is a very hands-on and tactile experience for children preparing to read and write. Experiences						
in the Practical Life and Sensorial areas offer repeated experiences transferring, pouring, grasping, squeezing, and						
pinching that have strengthened small finger muscles in preparation for writing. Additional learning tools are used to						
focus on writing, such as metal insets, sandpaper letters and the moveable alphabet with the direct aim of improving						
muscle coordination. Language exercises take the child from the concrete, such as working with objects and matching						
them to the correct beginning sound, to the more abstract work of matching objects or pictures to words. A rich						
language area with unique materials, books and experiences such as story times, picture discussions, poetry, rhymes,						
questioning games and discussions involves the teacher as a language role model for the classroom.						
	Teacher	Reviewer	Teacher	Reviewer		
	1 <sup>st</sup> 30	1 <sup>st</sup> 30	<u>Date:</u>	<u>Date:</u>		
Date Completed: days days						
Materials are organized and easily accessible to children.						
Furnishings:						

Coft costing				
Soft seating				
Reading Area Materials:				
An attractive display of books including enough for several children to				
read at any given time.				
Examples: Realistic fiction, wordless, repetitive, informational,				
rhyming, predictable, familiar sequence, repetitive phrase				
Books that reflect current topics are rotated in the classroom.				
Books are displayed and organized forward facing so children can				
easily see the front covers of the books to make choices.				
Puzzle words, moveable alphabet (2 sets; each set red and blue),				
phonetic object box, phonogram lessons, masculine/feminine				
materials, and singular/plural materials, 3-part classification cards (10			Ш	
sets), grammar materials for parts of speech				
Miniature environment (farm or dollhouse with labels)				
Listening center with headphones, books and recorded stories (2				
choices)			Ш	
Writing instruments of various sizes (3 types)				
Examples: pens, markers, chalk, crayons, pencils, colored pencils				
Vocabulary cards with words and pictures	П			
Sand tray to trace letters, sandpaper letters, chalk boards(plain,				
squared, and lined), metal insets				
Paper (3 types)				
Examples: lined, unlined, journals, drawing paper, tablets				$   \sqcup   $
Name cards of children in the classroom with picture and name	П			П
Comments	<u> </u>			
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Practical Life				
Practical Life  The Practical Life area offers non-traditional classroom experiences that	connect the	child to the re	eal world and	l provide a
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Γ-							
Comments							
Sensorial							
Sensorial materials are specifically designed to educate and refine the ch	nild's senses,	each targetir	ng an isolated	d sense as			
well as being self-correcting. The initial purpose is geared for moving fro		_	-				
involves manipulation of specifically designed didactic materials. The use	e of didactic r	materials suc	h as long rod	s, the pink			
tower, the broad stair, and the knobbed cylinders not only stimulates a s			_	-			
difficulty that provides necessary concentration to develop mathematical							
	Teacher	Reviewer	Teacher	Reviewer			
	_/_/_	_/_/_	_/_/_	//			
	1 <sup>st</sup> 30	1 <sup>st</sup> 30	Date:	<u>Date:</u>			
Date Completed:	<u>days</u>	<u>days</u>					
Materials are organized and easily accessible to children.							
Sensorial materials are complete with all necessary components and							
are arranged on shelves in order of complexity (from top to bottom							
and left to right).							
Sensorial area is large enough to accommodate several children.							
Furnishings:							
Basic shelving for sensorial materials							
Basic Materials:							
Knobbed and knobless cylinders, pink tower, long rods and broad stairs							
Color tablets and thermic bottles or tablets							
Touch boards and baric tablets							
Geometric cabinet with wooden insets and frames							
Activities involving the 5 senses (smelling bottles, tasting exercises,							
sound cylinders, touch tablets, sorting exercises)							
Comments							
Math							
The Montessori teacher utilizes hands-on materials to provide the child with a simple, clear understanding of the							
mathematical concept being taught; examples are: number rods, sandpaper numbers, ten and teens boards, number							
tiles, beads and games. Each exercise builds upon another, gradually guiding the child's mathematical mind from the							
concrete to the more abstract areas of numeration, place value, addition, subtraction, multiplication and fractions. At the							
Pre-K age, children move progressively toward the more abstract concepts, as appropriate for each child.							
	Teacher	Reviewer	Teacher	Reviewer			
	1 <sup>st</sup> 30		/_/	_/_/_			
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Date Completed:	<u>days</u>	<u>days</u>					
Materials are organized and easily accessible to children.							
Materials are complete with all necessary components and are							
arranged on shelves in order of complexity (top to bottom and left to							
right).							
Furnishings:							
Basic shelving to accommodate math materials, special shelves for bead							
Basic Materials:	<u> </u>		1				
Materials for measuring (weight, length and time)							

Date Completed:   Date:   Da							
chains with corresponding colored bead squares, cubes, and counters, short bead staip.  Montessori materials for geometry: geometric solids and bases, constructive triangles  Addition and subtraction strip board and chart, positive snake game  Money recognition materials and clock with moveable parts  Comments  Botany, Zoology, Science  Children are curious about the things that are in their world. In a science area young children question, become scientists, and explore and learn about new materials. The science area allows children to examine things closely, compare and contrast, and draw conclusions about observations. The well equipped science area allows children to explore living and non-living things, but most importantly encourages them to learn about the biological and physical world.  Teacher  Teacher  Date Completed:  Date Completed:  Date:  Date:  Date:  Date:  Date:  Date:  Date:  Materials are organized and easily accessible to children.  Basic shelving to house science materials  Basic shelving to house science materials  Basic shelving to not acreate and observe  Montessori materials are on the shelves for sink/float, magnetic/non-magnetic, living/non-living, and vertebrate/invertebrate lessons.  Botany cabinet and contents  Collections of natural items are accessible for sorting, matching, grouping, classifying and comparison work.  Something living for children to care for and observe  Montessori puzzles showing "parts of" fish, bird, flower, tree, frog, etc.  Cards for parts of plant, leaf and flower; cards for external parts of fish, amphibian, reptile, bird, and mammal  Comments  Geography, Cultural Lesson, History, Social Studies  The Montessori classroom invites children to fulfill their natural curiosity to learn about their world. Geography, history, and social studies fall under the general category of cultural studies.  Geography in the Montessori classroom is the introduction to our place in the world: land, air, water, land and water forms, globes and maps, the seven continents, fla	sandpaper numerals, spindle boxes/spindles, cards and counters,						
Addition and subtraction strip board and chart, positive snake game  Money recognition materials and clock with moveable parts  Comments	chains with corresponding colored bead squares, cubes, and						
Money recognition materials and clock with moveable parts	Montessori materials for geometry: geometric solids and bases,						
Botany, Zoology, Science	constructive triangles						
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Date Completed:   Date:   Da	scientists, and explore and learn about new materials. The science area a compare and contrast, and draw conclusions about observations. The we explore living and non-living things, but most importantly encourages the	allows childre ell equipped	en to examine science area	e things close allows childr	ely, en to		
Materials are organized and easily accessible to children.				_/_/_	Reviewer		
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Teacher   Reviewer   Teacher   J	different cultures and people. History concepts are taught through the use of a daily calendar, simple time lines and						
Date Completed:  Date Completed:  Date:  Date:	Celebrations.	Teacher	Reviewer	Teacher	Reviewer		
Date Completed:     days       Materials are organized and easily accessible to children.       Materials are arranged on shelves in order of complexity (top to bottom and left to right).      Date Completed:   days   da		/ /	/ /	/ /	/ /		
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Materials are arranged on shelves in order of complexity (top to bottom and left to right).  Furnishings:							
bottom and left to right).  Furnishings:							
Furnishings:							
Basic shelving for geography materials							
	Basic shelving for geography materials						

Basic Materials:							
Land and water forms with cards							
The flag of the United States	H H	H	H	ㅏ 뉴			
The flags of North America and holder							
Globes (sandpaper, colored, and political)							
Puzzle maps/labels and control maps (North America, South America,							
and the seven continents)							
Additional flags are accessible.							
Additional geography maps are available.							
Seven continent folder containing pictures of habitats, climate,							
animals, dress, terrain, food, transportation, etc. is accessible.							
Additional Montessori puzzle maps and control maps are accessible							
	ninimum of 3).						
Comments							
Art							
The purpose of art in the preschool classroom is to allow children to exp	lore artistic n	nedia and to	provide a vel	nicle for			
creative expression of each individual child. As young children begin to e	xperiment w	ith different	media, they b	pegin to			
understand their world and how to control the tools they use. Young chi	ldren are ver	y creative an	d enjoy using	art			
materials to express their ideas. In the preschool years the process of cre	eating is more	e important t	han the prod	luct the			
children develop. The Art Center should be a safe, comfortable area sup	plied to allow	the freedon	n of creative o	expression			
with materials and teachers who support these endeavors.							
	Teacher	Reviewer	Teacher	Reviewer			
			//				
	1 <sup>st</sup> 30 1 <sup>st</sup> 30 Date:			<u>Date:</u>			
Date Completed:	<u>days</u>	<u>days</u>					
Materials are labeled, organized and easily accessible to children.							
Furnishings:							
Table and chairs							
Drying space or rack							
Shelving for housing art materials							
Basic Materials:			<del></del>				
Crayons							
Markers							
Paper of different sizes, colors, textures (3 different types)							
Examples: construction, tissue, white, manila, newsprint, foil, news,							
wax							
Scissors (appropriately sized) enough for a small group of children							
Collage materials are available at various times throughout the year							
reflecting seasonal or cultural topics of study.							
Glue							
Fresh Paint (powdered/solid tempera, watercolors or finger paint)							
Paint brushes appropriately sized (one for each color of paint)							
Painting smocks or cover-ups							
Materials for three-dimensional creations (variety) and tools to help							
Materials for three-dimensional creations (variety) and tools to help cut/shape (clay, play dough, salt dough, etc.)							
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,							
cut/shape (clay, play dough, salt dough, etc.)							
cut/shape (clay, play dough, salt dough, etc.)							
cut/shape (clay, play dough, salt dough, etc.) Comments							
cut/shape (clay, play dough, salt dough, etc.) Comments  Music	Such as rea	ding readine	ss dramatic	play math			
cut/shape (clay, play dough, salt dough, etc.)  Comments  Music  Music provides an opportunity to reinforce other areas of the curriculum		_	-	•			
cut/shape (clay, play dough, salt dough, etc.)  Comments  Music  Music  Music provides an opportunity to reinforce other areas of the curriculum development and gross motor development. Children develop musical si	kills by singin	g, playing rhy	thm instrum	ents,			
cut/shape (clay, play dough, salt dough, etc.)  Comments  Music  Music provides an opportunity to reinforce other areas of the curriculum	kills by singin sroom envird	g, playing rhy	thm instrum	ents,			

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	Tea	cher	Reviewer	Teacher	Reviewer
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		<sup>t</sup> 30	<u>1<sup>st</sup> 30</u>	Date:	<u>Dates:</u>
Date Comple	ted: d	<u>ays</u>	<u>days</u>		
Music player (separate from the listening center)					
Montessori bells, striker, and damper	l ſ	7			
Musical instruments (various types of instruments)					
Age-appropriate music (3 types)		_			
Examples: classical, children's, jazz, nature sounds, multicultural,					
dance, foreign language					
Comments					
Physical Develo	pment				
Gross motor activities develop the large muscles of the body and er	nable childi	en to d	evelop mast	ery of body	
movements. As children develop mastery over their bodies, their se	elf-esteem i	ncreas	es. Early expe	eriences with	gross
motor activities lay a foundation for a lifetime commitment to phys	ical fitness	. In ord	er to develop	their large r	nuscles,
children need daily access to balls, jump ropes, wagons to pull, slide	es, and a cl	mbing	apparatus. C	ther activitie	s like
marching, running, jumping, bending and dancing also contribute to	the devel	opmen	t of the whol	e body. The o	outdoor
play area provides a space for children to run and play.					
	Teacher	R	eviewer	Teacher	Reviewer
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	<u>1<sup>st</sup> 30</u>	1 1s	t 30 days	<u>Date:</u>	Date:
Date Completed:	<u>days</u>				
Age-appropriate mobile equipment (3 types)					
Examples: balls, hoops, parachute, wagons, tricycles, scooters,					
plastic bats, catching games/gloves, cones for obstacle course	_		_		
Note: Helmets required when riding vehicles.					
Uses stationary equipment daily, weather permitting					
Comments					
4.8.4					
1st Review			Date:		
Teacher Signature:					
Director/Principal Signature:			Date:	/ /	
2nd Review (if applicable)					
Teacher Signature:			Date:	/ /	
		_			
Director/Principal Signature			Date	/ /	
Director/Principal Signature:			<i>Dute</i> :	_/_/	