

Understanding Montessori

Also, be sure to consider charter and magnet school options in your area.

If your child's grandparents are in a position to help pay for tuition and have offered to help, don't be too proud to take them up on the offer. Over the years I have known grandparents who were truly thrilled that they could help get their grandchildren off to a good start in life.

A friend's in-laws chided her about the amount of money she was spending on Montessori preschool. "You should be using that money for a college fund," they said every time they talked on the phone. When they visited after a few months of school, they apologized after hearing their three-year-old grandson sing a song naming the continents and count to ten in French after serving them cookies with the phrase, "Would you care for a cookie, Granddad?"

"Please," they said, "let us pay for his Montessori school as long as you want him there. We can't think of a better way to invest our money."

And so they did.

11. Do both parents feel that school tuition is a wise investment for our family?

Both parents need to be committed to their child's education with both time and money. Remember the education equation? If one parent is not committed, there will be tension in the relationship, and more likely than not the child will be pulled from a program as that parent becomes more and more dissatisfied.

Be fair to your child, the school, and your marriage. Make sure you have commitment from all parties concerned.

12. Is there enough time and money in the family budget for us as parents to pursue some of our interests?

It's no fun to have every penny in your budget earmarked for your children and not any for you. Keep yourself interesting by making sure you give yourself enough time and money to pursue your dreams.