

An opportunity to Observe in Montessori Inclusive Rooms- Blog Post #3 October 25, 2025

Recently I had an opportunity to observe in Montessori Inclusive Preschool Classrooms and Long Day Care Classrooms, all on one site. During my visit I was able to talk with the principal and her team of Educators about how their center can cater for children with Diverse Learning needs.

The center has four 3-6-year-old classrooms and each of the classrooms have children with diverse needs, all being catered for. They have extra educators, who are part of the team working with every child in the room and unconsciously supporting the child who need more.

A colleague who came with me commented that it supported her personal growth watching the educators in the room. She noted that the educators appeared calm for the children and in tune with each of their individual needs. She felt that they were probably in quite a bit of turmoil inside however, they reflected the calm so needed by the children.

The classrooms have a common playground and outdoor classroom which is available and accessible for all the children. Unfortunately, it was raining on the day I visited and I was unable to observe the children making full use of the outdoor classroom. I did however see children having meaningful experiences with the covered outdoor space - walking around a garden bed made of two rows of trapezium shaped bricks that gave a wider space for them to walk around; walking up wide stairs and back down again. There is an educator whose role is Outdoor educator who (on the day I was there) can have up to 10 children in that space.

I was privileged to observe an Occupational Therapist working with a child in the environment. The OT respectfully followed the child and took opportunities that were offered to her to extend the child's learning. Making use of the expansive outdoor classroom, the child went between the outside and the inside environment and took materials from inside to work outside. They worked inside with the months of the year, (a work that was on the shelf in the classroom) they went outside to do it again. There were many opportunities for movement as the child came in and out of the room to collect items he needed and walked around the outdoor space. At one point the child was moving around the area and the OT suggested he was jumping like a kangaroo, this elicited a laugh and more movement.

The center is accommodating of Occupational Therapists, Speech pathologists, Behavioral Therapists, and other Allied Health Professionals as needed by the children. The classroom educators are very aware of the need to communicate with the parents. I saw an example of a folder, sharing the work opportunities the child engaged in and goals they were working on, that went back and forth between home and school every day, with the child.

There were clear achievable visual schedules on display. In discussion with an educator, she shared how one of these was a bit overwhelming for the child at the moment, so they were going to modify it. There are visual charts showing the range of emotions - "what zone are you in at the moment," in all the classrooms. One classroom had a visual of the morning routine - photo of the fridge, (lunch box in the fridge); photo of drink bottle (where it is placed); photos of a hat and sunscreen and then where to put their bag. The educator shared they have many more which I am sure would be well used and appreciated by all concerned.

One of my main takeaways was the value of observing other environments, it is invaluable to share experiences and ideas as well as having the opportunity that you are not responsible for the care of the environment and can simply observe and note children's behaviours and interactions with the environment and the educators. Observing the children who have diverse learning being integrated seamlessly into these environments was also a privilege. I cannot thank the team and their principal enough for the opportunity they gave me and my colleague, sharing ideas and just the privilege of observing.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "R. L. [unclear]", is written on a white rectangular piece of paper that is slightly tilted and placed over the bottom right of the text.