

HALTON WALDORF SCHOOL

Parent & Child Program



Program Overview

This nurturing program provides a warm, welcoming space for parents, caregivers, and their children—from infancy up to 3 years old (children who turn 4 after September 1 are also welcome).

Together, we'll create a gentle rhythm for the morning where children are free to explore, engage with their surroundings, and meet new friends. Parents and caregivers also have the opportunity to build community, share in meaningful conversation, and find support on their parenting journey.

Throughout our time together, I will share insights into Waldorf education and child development, offering ways to bring the values and rhythms of the classroom into your home life.

What To Bring:

- Indoor slippers/shoes for both you and your child
- Appropriate outdoor clothing for play after 10:30 am
- Please note: On Outdoor Mondays, we will not be baking muffins. Kindly bring a nut-free snack for you and your child.

Our Morning Rhythm:

Arrival & Free Play – Beginning at 9:00 am

While we begin at 9:00 am, you are never “late” to Parent & Child—arrive when you can. As the children settle into free play, adults are encouraged to observe, enjoy a warm drink, connect with others, or contribute to our snack preparation or a quiet handcraft you've brought from home.

Creative Play

Children absorb everything around them. In our space, we strive to cultivate a calm, warm, and thoughtful atmosphere worthy of imitation. We let play unfold naturally and strive to keep adult conversation minimal and respectful of the children's world.

Circle Time & Puppet Play

I will guide you and your child through a simple and joyful seasonal circle, followed by a puppet show. If your child feels shy or hesitant (which is entirely normal), you're welcome to observe from a distance and allow them to watch at their own pace. Building a sense of security and comfort takes time.

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Our Morning Rhythm, Continued:

Consciousness of Gesture

Our actions and attitudes create the atmosphere in which our children play and grow. Gentle gestures like sweeping, tidying, or returning toys to their place all offer meaningful moments of modelling. These small acts help establish a mood of calm and presence. Please refrain from using your cell phone during the program whenever possible.

Snack Time

Following circle and story, we gather around the table to enjoy our warm soup or muffins (or your own snack on Outdoor Mondays). After a short blessing, we eat and share conversation. Once finished, we clean up together and prepare for outdoor play.

Outdoor Play

Rain or shine, we head outside to our play yard. Children enjoy digging in the sand, raking leaves, shovelling snow, or simply exploring. A covered deck provides shelter for those wishing to stay dry. Please dress appropriately for the weather—hats, splash pants, and sturdy footwear are recommended.

Rhythm and Repetition

Children flourish in an environment that is predictable and familiar. The comforting rhythm of our mornings helps create a sense of security and joy.

Supporting Social Development

Parent & Child is a unique opportunity to observe your child in social settings—watching how they engage, solve conflicts, and find their place among others. While each caregiver is responsible for their child, we support one another in allowing space for learning and growth.

Remember, young children are just beginning to understand social interaction. They are not yet developmentally ready to share, apologize, or say “please” with sincerity. Modelling respectful, clear language is far more effective than explaining abstract social concepts. For example, calmly saying, “Madison is riding the horse right now,” is more helpful than prompting a lesson on turn-taking.

Together, we can help one another practice patience and presence as we guide our children with care and compassion.

Parent Support

Parents will receive weekly emails containing a brief review of the week together, including interesting information about events happening around campus. These emails may include helpful articles, podcasts, and websites that support our lives as parents.

Choose a morning that works best for you:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

9:00 am – 11:00 am