



# Garden Oaks Elementary

"A Place Where Children Flourish!"

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# Montessori

## Pillars of a Montessori Education:

- **Prepared Environment:** Children move from concrete to abstract thinking through the use of sequenced, kinesthetic materials.
- **Interdisciplinary Approach:** Children make connections across the broad, internationally-developed curriculum.
- **Time to Develop Deep Relationships:** Children are with the same teacher for three years.
- **Opportunities to Learn Independence and Self-Direction:** Children make choices about their work in the classroom and develop time-management and organization skills. The multi-age classroom fosters the development of leadership skills.
- **Differentiated Curriculum:** Children work on their own level individually and in small-groups, which accelerates progress and builds confidence.
- **Respectful and Peaceful Community:** Teachers work with children to create a peaceful community built on mutual respect and care for self, others, and the environment.

## Setting Your Child Up for Success:

- Arrive on time each day and ensure regular attendance.
- Check red communication folder regularly to look for updates.
- Make sure your child receives adequate rest each evening and a solid nutritional foundation each day.
- Read *to* and *with* your child daily.
- Support your child to successfully complete his/her homework.
- Use standardized tests (e.g., TAKS, Stanford, TPRI, benchmarks, etc.) as an opportunity to get an objective measure of your child's progress.
- Build self-confidence by allowing children to carry their own backpacks, lunches, etc., to and from the classroom.
- Develop independence at home by encouraging children to participate in household chores, clean-up after themselves, attempt to solve their own problems, etc.
- Create a stimulating environment by taking your child to museums, performances, enrichment classes, the library, etc., but also allow plenty of time for free play, relaxation, and time with family.

Houston Independent School District



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