



MONTESSORI
School of Denver

Parent Programs 2022-2023

MSD offers unique, thoughtfully designed, informative, adult events during the school year that we refer to as our “Parent Programs.” These events provide the opportunity to learn more about child development, best practices when it comes to teaching and parenting, gives you a peek inside the classroom, and more about the hallmarks of a MSD education. There are virtual morning coffees, evening presentations, weekend workshops, and much more! All of these events are dynamic experiences that get you even more engaged in your child’s education. We look forward to seeing you, whether it be in person or online!

1460 SOUTH HOLLY STREET, DENVER, CO 80222
303-756-9441 • montessoridenver.org

Details

RSVP

Please RSVP for all programs that denote a reply request. Events are subject to cancellation due to low RSVPs. Notice of cancellations will be emailed. For virtual events, Zoom links will be emailed out the day of the events.

RSVP for all events on ParentSquare or by emailing events@msd-co.org.

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Work Bond

By attending select Parent Program events, Work Bond may be awarded. Please check the description in this brochure, or in the MSD Bee, for the number of Work Bond credits awarded for each event listed. In fulfilling a family's Work Bond obligation for the school year, each family is required to earn at least two Work Bond credits by attending Parent Program events. Of course, we hope you will attend as many as you can!

Please keep track of the Parent Program events you attend and submit the number of credits you earn through your ParentSquare profile. If you have any questions regarding Work Bond, please contact Sherrie Dumler (sdumler@msd-co.org). Thank you for your participation!

Did you know?

When scheduling Parent Program events throughout the school year, we try to accommodate all parent schedules. We plan events in the mornings, mid-day, early-evening, evening, and even a weekend or two! If you have feedback that you would like to share with us regarding these events, or if you have an idea for a topic, please email events@msd-co.org.

MSD Distinguished Speaker Series

Please join us for this year's event featuring Dr. Wendy Mogel, brought to you by MSD's Distinguished Speaker Series!

Dr. Wendy Mogel

Voice Lessons for Parents: What to Say, How to Say It, and When to Listen

Tuesday, October 11, 2022


7:00-8:30pm, Arts & Athletics Center

Dr. Wendy Mogel is an internationally acclaimed social-clinical psychologist, author, and public speaker who specializes in the protection and promotion of self-reliance, resilience, accountability and exuberance in children. *Publisher's Weekly* gave her—now classic—parenting book, *The Blessing of a Skinned Knee*, a starred review, calling it “impassioned, lyrical and eminently practical...a real treasure.” Her revelatory second release, *The Blessing of a B Minus*, addresses the challenge of parenting adolescents in a culture of anxiety and entitlement. *Publisher's Weekly* raved, “Mogel’s compassion and authenticity will ring true with parents of all faiths facing the tumultuous teen years.”



Mogel's third book, released in April 2018, is about cultivating the art of conversation—from infancy to adulthood—in an age of hurry, worry, and digital distraction. In *Voice Lessons*, Mogel elaborates on a novel clinical approach she began talking with parents who were struggling with their kids, demonstrating how a shift in tone, tempo, and body language led to a surprising outcome: the children responded by cooperating with greater alacrity, and communicating with more warmth, respect, and sincerity. As

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the parents found their voices, so did the children. Mogel also addresses an obstacle that flummoxes even the most seasoned and confident parent: the distraction of digital devices, how they impact our connection with our families, and what we can do about it. *Voice Lessons* debuted to a deluge of praise, with international editions released in the U.K., China, Hungary, Turkey, Russia, and all of the major Latin American markets.

Dr. Mogel is known for her enlightening, frank, and deft approach to “parenting” parents by supporting and guiding them in raising their children and coaching them into becoming mature stakeholders in our schools.

A graduate of Middlebury College, Wendy Mogel completed an internship and post-doctoral fellowship in Psychology in the Department of Psychiatry at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. She previously served on the scientific advisory board of *Parents Magazine*. She contributes articles to a variety of publications including *Independent School Magazine*, *Parents Magazine*, and *Camping Magazine* and is regularly featured as a guest expert by The TODAY Show, and in interviews by reporters from *The New York Times*, *The Chicago Tribune*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Forbes*, *Newsweek*, CNN, and NPR.

She has served on multiple boards, including the national Council for Spiritual and Ethical Education of Children, the scientific advisory board of *Parents Magazine* and Challenge Success, a research based student advocacy organization affiliated with the Stanford University School of Education.

She is the host of the popular podcast *Nurture vs Nurture with Dr. Wendy Mogel*, brought to you by the producers of *Armchair Expert*. Each week, she brings her forty years of experience working with families to these intimate and wonderfully voyeuristic conversations with a different set of parents. The second season launched in the Spring of 2022.

Dr. Mogel currently lives and practices in Los Angeles. For more information, visit her website at www.wendymogel.com.

This event is made possible by donations to the Distinguished Speaker fund. We want to thank Cristin and Lindsay Brown for their support!



Program Level Coffees & Buzz Ins

Program Level Coffees

New this year! We are offering a series of Parent Coffees throughout the year that will be tailored to each program level. At each coffee, you can expect to get an update from the Program Director on what is happening in the program, learn of any specific areas of study or lessons that the students are exploring in the classroom, and hear from a guest speaker on a specific topic. All parents and care givers are welcome to attend all Parent Coffees; **September's coffee is in-person and not to be missed!**

Work Bond Credits: 1 per coffee

September

In-Person, 8:30-9:30am, Arts & Athletics Commons

- 9/26 - Middle School: Planes & Brains
- 9/27 - Elementary: Planes & Brains
- 9/28 - Primary: Back to School Transitions – How's It Going?
- 9/29 - Toddler Q&A for Toileting

November

Virtual, 9:00-10:00am, Zoom

- 11/2 - Primary: DEIB at the Primary Level
- 11/4 - Elementary: Social Beings – Navigating Friendships in Elementary
- 11/7 - Middle School: DEIB in the Middle School Three-Year Curricular Cycle
- 11/9 - Specials – What's the Buzz about Specials?

December

In-Person, 8:30-9:00am, Arts & Athletics Commons

- 12/12 - Toddler: Montessori in the Home Q&A

January

Virtual, 9:00-10:00am, Zoom

- 1/20 - Upper Elementary: Belonging and Significance at School and Home (Positive Discipline Primer)
- 1/23 - Toddler: Looking Ahead (Primary 101)
- 1/24 - Primary: Looking Ahead (Kindergarten 101)
- 1/25 - Lower Elementary: Belonging and Significance at School and Home (Positive Discipline Primer)

- 1/26 - Middle School: Assessment at the Middle School Level

April: Supporting Your Child's Healthy Sexual Development with Human Sexuality Educator Debbie Roffman

Virtual, 9:00-10:00am, Zoom

- 4/10 - Toddler
- 4/11 - Lower Elementary
- 4/12 - Middle School
- 4/13 - Primary
- 4/14 - Upper Elementary

May

In-Person, 9:00-10:00am, Arts & Athletics Commons

- 5/8 - Middle School: Preventing the Summer Slide – Promoting Math & Literacy Skills Over the Summer
- 5/9 - Upper Elementary: Preventing the Summer Slide – Promoting Literacy Skills & Love of Reading
- 5/10 - Lower Elementary: Preventing the Summer Slide – Promoting Literacy Skills & Love of Reading
- 5/11 - Primary: Parenting Primer – Positive Discipline
- 5/12 - Toddler: Preparing for the Toddler to Primary Transition

Buzz Ins

We are delighted to continue this MSD tradition this year! Look for more information from your classroom teachers on how and when you can “Buzz In” to the classroom for a look at the good work going on inside.

October

- 10/17: Toddler, 9:00am, Virtual
- 10/17: Primary, 10:30am, Virtual
- 10/17: Middle School, 1:00pm, Virtual
- 10/18: Elementary, TBD, Virtual
- 10/18: Specials, TBD, Virtual

December

- 12/5: Toddler, 8:10am, Virtual
- 12/5: Middle School, 8:10am, In Person
- 12/6: Primary, 8:10am, In Person
- 12/7: Primary, 8:10am, In Person
- 12/8: Specials, TBD
- 12/9: Elementary, 8:10am, In Person

January



- 1/17: Toddler, TBD, Virtual
- 1/18: Middle School, 1:00pm, Virtual
- 1/19: Elementary, TBD, Virtual
- 1/20: Primary, TBD, Virtual

March

- 3/6: Elementary, 8:10am, In Person
- 3/7: Middle School, 8:10am, In Person
- 3/7: Toddler, TBD, Virtual
- 3/8: Primary, TBD, In Person

April

- 4/17: Toddler, TBD, Virtual
- 4/18: Middle School, 1:00pm, Virtual
- 4/19: Elementary, TBD, Virtual
- 4/20: Primary, TBD, In Person

May

- 5/15-5/19: Buddy Lunch Week (Elementary-Middle School); details TBD
- 5/16: Primary, TBD, In Person
- 5/19: Toddler, TBD, In Person

Overview of Topics

MSD 101

Saturday, August 20, 2022, 9:00am-12:00pm

Work Bond Credits: 4

This special event is just for our new families. Parents will enjoy a morning filled with learning about the ins and outs of MSD, the school's history, and all that is in store as they begin their MSD journey. A true rite of passage for all new MSD families! Sorry, no childcare will be provided on campus.

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Eighth Grade Outplacement Meeting

Wednesday, September 7, 2022, 9:00-10:00am,

A&A Commons

Work Bond Credits: 1

Eighth grade parents are highly encouraged to attend this very informative chat. We will discuss the high school admissions process and schedule individual meetings with your family to talk more about how to make this big transition go smoothly, with regards to finding a great high school fit for your child.

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Back to School Night

Tuesday, September 13, 2022, 6:00-8:00pm

Join us as we embark on a new school year! Come and find out what's in store for the year from our Head of School, Board, Family Association, and your Classroom Teachers. We are looking forward to connecting with you all!

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RiverSweep - Fall Family Stewardship Day

Saturday, September 17, 2022 9:00-11:00am

Bring your whole family and join our MSD community for this annual do-good opportunity. Each Family Stewardship Day starts with an hour-long volunteer project, followed by activities and crafts with the South Platte River Environmental Education (SPREE) staff!

Register at <https://thegreenwayfoundation.org/event/fall-family-stewardship-day-2022/>.



MSD DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES

Dr. Wendy Mogel - Voice Lessons for Parents: What to Say, How to Say It, and When to Listen

Tuesday, October 11, 2022, 7:00-8:30pm, MSD Campus
Work Bond Credits: 2

Renowned speaker, parenting expert, and New York Times bestselling author Dr. Wendy Mogel offers an essential guide to the new art of talking to children, showing how a change in tone and demeanor can transform the relationship between parent and child.

Most parents are perfectly fine communicators—unless they're talking to their children. Then, too often, their pitch rises and they come across as pleading, indignant, wounded, outraged. In tone and body language they signal, *I can't handle it when you act like a child.*

Dr. Wendy Mogel saw this pattern time and again in her clinical practice. In response, she developed a remarkably effective series of "voice lessons" she shared with parents who were struggling with their kids. The results were immediate: a shift in vocal style led to children who were calmer, listened more attentively, and communicated with more warmth, respect, and sincerity.

In *Voice Lessons for Parents*, Mogel elaborates on her novel clinical approach, revealing how each age and stage of a child's life brings new opportunities to connect through language. Delving into sources as diverse as neuroscience, fairy tales, and anthropology, Mogel offers specific guidance for talking to children across the expanse of childhood and adolescence. She also explains the best ways to talk about your child to partners, exes, and grandparents, as well as to teachers, coaches, and caretakers. Throughout the book, Mogel addresses an obstacle that bedevils even the most seasoned and confident parent: the distraction of digital devices, how they impact our connection with our families, and what we can do about it.

Click [here](#) to RSVP.

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Alumni Night Round Table

Thursday, November 10, 2022, 6:30-8:00pm, Zoom
Work Bond Credits: 1.5

This is one of our favorite nights of the school year! Join

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us as we welcome MSD graduates in high school, college, and beyond, to talk about how MSD's education and values have shaped their school and life experiences after MSD. You will be able to ask questions about how the skills they learned at MSD aided in the transition to high school, college, and even choosing a career. Come and meet these inspiring young people for yourself!

RSVP on ParentSquare, or click [here](#).

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**Parent Education: Montessori Beyond Primary -
Elementary and Middle School 101**

Friday, December 9, 2022, 8:45am

Work Bond Credits: 1.5

Come and learn about the Montessori experience at the Elementary and Middle School levels! Annie Springer and Carrie Ross will discuss the milestones, experiences, and the continuum of learning that happens in these MSD programs. Current parents and teachers will also be on hand to share their experiences and perspectives. After the presentation, you will have the opportunity to observe these programs in action! Don't miss this chance to see how Montessori continues to support and foster a love of learning all the way through Middle School.

RSVP on ParentSquare, or click [here](#).

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Parent Choice Night

Thursday, January 12, 2023, 6:00-7:30pm

Work Bond Credits: 1.5

This evening of choice gives parents the opportunity to select a topic of interest, spanning from Toddler to Middle School program levels, presented by MSD Faculty and Staff members. Topics will be finalized prior to the event. Childcare will be available for current MSD students.

RSVP on ParentSquare, or click [here](#).

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Town Hall

Wednesday, January 18, 2023, 6:30-7:30pm

Work Bond Credits: 1

An opportunity to hear an update from Head of School, Julie Bragdon, about the good work that continues to



happen at MSD to keep the school year going. Questions to be submitted prior to the event and answered by Julie and other members of the Administration and Education teams.

RSVP on ParentSquare, or click [here](#).



MSD Podcasts

You can listen to MSD's podcasts on Podbean, Apple Podcasts, Google Play, and Spotify - just search 'Montessori School of Denver.' Links listed below open in Podbean.

[Toilet Learning \(Toddler Level\)](#)

Mary Broeckling, Toddler Teacher at MSD, sharing her expertise on successful Toddler toilet learning.

[Smooth Morning Routines](#)

Anne Hewetson, former Director of Elementary Education and current Dean of Programs and Student Life at MSD, sharing tips and tricks for helping you and your child get out of the house in the morning on time—and happy!

[Raising an Independent Child](#)

Rachel Northrop, Director of Early Childhood Education at MSD, sharing her perspective on raising an independent child – the Montessori way!

[The Power of a Daily Gratitude Practice](#)

MSD Mom, Michelle Dawson PsyD, teaches you how a simple daily gratitude practice can massively improve your resiliency to stress, make you happier, and improve your sleep. She introduces the neuroscience behind why noticing the good helps to rewire our brains and decrease stress.

The Adolescent Experience

Part 1. [Transitioning to Middle School and Adolescence](#)

Travis Snyder, former Director of Middle School Education at MSD, gives insight on the transition to Middle School and adolescence. This is the introduction to a three-part series called, "The Adolescent Experience."

Part 2. [Navigating the Adolescent Years](#)


Travis introduces the Four Montessori Planes of Development, as well as gives some suggestions to navigate the adolescent years. This is part two of a three-part series on this very important topic, "The Adolescent Experience."

Part 3. [The Teenage Brain](#)

Travis explains how the teenage brain works and how you can stay sane while raising an adolescent. This is part three of a three-part series, titled, "The Adolescent Experience."

[Staying Connected as a Couple While Raising Kids](#)

It's so easy to get swept up in the demands of parenthood



that you forget about being a couple. Listen to MSD mom, Sarah Tie, MA, NCC, share her wisdom about how to stay connected to your life as a couple while you're raising kids. She will show you that it's a great investment in the family because when you and your partner are happy and healthy, your kids are getting the best from both of you.

[The Importance of Sleep](#)

Listen as two MSD moms, Michelle Dawson, PsyD, and Lisa Kerscher, LCSW, share the latest brain research to show how vital sleep is in order to clear out toxins, prevent disease, and regulate our stress responses. They will teach techniques that you can implement to manage stress, find better sleep and be a better YOU!

[Reflections on a Montessori Education: MSD Graduates Tell Their Stories](#)

Listen to four of our amazing graduates briefly reflect on the outcomes of a MSD education.

[Supporting Literacy Development at Home with Dr. Tori Virlee](#)

Listen as Dr. Tori Virlee, MSD's School Psychologist, offers her insight into how you can support your child's literacy development at home through various techniques that you can put into practice today.

Work Bond Credit Chart

Event Name	Date	Work Bond Credit
MSD 101 (new families)	8/20/22	4
Eighth Grade Outplacement Meeting	9/7/22	1
Back to School Night	9/13/22	0
Riversweep - Fall Family Stewardship Day	9/17/22	0
Dr. Wendy Mogel - Voice Lessons For Parents	10/11/22	2
Alumni Night Round Table	11/10/22	1.5
Montessori Beyond Primary	12/9/22	1.5
Parent Choice Night	1/12/23	1.5
Town Hall	1/18/23	2
Program Level Coffees	Various; see list	1 per coffee
Buzz Ins	Various; see list	0

Other classroom and school-wide volunteer opportunities are available for Work Bond. Please reach out to one of the following contacts for information regarding Work Bond opportunities:

- Sherrie Dümmler, Manager of Family Programs & Events (sdummler@msd-co.org)
- Emily Vaca, FAM President (emilykagan@gmail.com)