



## **Deciding Between Summer Camp vs. Finishing at BCMS**

During this time every year, some parents are in the process of thinking about / deciding if pulling out of BCMS to go to a summer camp is the correct option to help their child transition to elementary school.

Often times, this is prompted by either:

- a) friends who are sending their kids to camp
- b) older siblings who are going to summer camp
- c) parents being invited to their child's future elementary school's summer camp to "acclimate" the child to new surroundings.

While some children may need this change, the majority of young children simply do not.

**Please come and talk with us if you are currently involved in this thought process so we can help you make a decision that's best for your child.**

### **Things to consider when thinking about finishing the program at BCMS (*just to name a few*):**

1. **BCMS is intended as a three-year program** that follows the development of your child's brain, which goes through developmental stages that are open only once in a lifetime! This window in time is called the "Sensitive Periods." According to Maria Montessori, children experience five basic sensitive periods of human development from birth to age six. We find that remarkable! While your child is enrolled at BCMS, his or her brain is absorbing all of the carefully crafted cognitive, neurological, and emotional programs that lay a foundation for development, decades into their future. Having the opportunity to enhance a

child's brain for a lifetime motivates us every day, and the BCMS staff enjoys the privilege of teaching your children until their last day in the program.

2. **Your child's life skills and academic knowledge will only become stronger and more permanent the longer he or she stays with the program.** One of the big differences between a traditional program and a Montessori education is that we prepare your child to "learn how to learn," which allows him or her to adapt to any environment.
3. **At BCMS, the four and a half and five-year-olds often spend the rest of their year helping the younger children work, teaching lessons with the teacher, and correcting errors.** As many of us know from experience, teaching a new concept or helping someone practice a new skill leads the "teacher" to learn even more! This is supported by research, and we love to see our older children perfecting skills by teaching the younger children.
4. Since **most Kindergarten classes (and summer camps) have a much lower set of expectations for five-year-olds**, your child could potentially lose many learning opportunities that are crucial during this point in his or her life. During the next five months, your child will be one of ten children who work every day with his or her teacher to prepare the academic skills that will carry him or her through life. Whether it is for reading, writing, math, focus, or social skills, he or she is never going to have a teacher formulate a program that is solely for his or her individual development ever again!

### **Things to consider when thinking about sending your young child to summer camp (*just to name a few*):**

1. **Your child is used to going to school, and learning, year-round. They have no concept / awareness of "summer break".** Because your child will no longer be enrolled in a year-round program *after* BCMS, they will most likely spend each and every summer at a camp until they are old enough to remain at home. Therefore, there is no need to start your young child in this process a year early.
2. **Enrolling your child in a summer camp will remove them from the stable learning environment he or she loves.** By leaving early, your child won't be completing the program or the critical goals we have all invested in, and have been working towards, when we are just at the pinnacle of completion.

3. **Do I want to transition my child twice?** That is to say, your child has been in a stable environment for several years. Do you want them to transition / adjust to a new summer environment / teachers / program for a month and then transition / adjust again when they go to elementary school?
4. \*Because **you have signed a school year contract with BCMS** (which ends August 20, 2015), it will actually cost you money to break the contract (**early withdrawal penalty**) to attend a separate summer program.

**\*Business together – closing your account:**

Because you have signed a 12 month school year contract with BCMS, your service contract ends on 08/20/15. Your tuition obligation ends on 08/01/15, upon payment of your 12<sup>th</sup> and final amortized installment.

Should you elect to leave early (i.e. break the contract) before the completion of the 12 months, for any reason, 60 days advance notice – *in writing* – is required and there is an early withdrawal financial penalty.

We encourage you to look at your school year contract, and talk with Miss Jill for further details, before you make your decision to leave early - as **the financial aspect of early withdrawal could impact your decision.**

**In conclusion:**

Ultimately, we understand and respect that it is your choice as parents as to whether you want your child to finish at BCMS or exit early for a summer camp or summer program. But, in our opinion, allowing your child to complete their Montessori education is the logical choice. After all, isn't this what we have all invested in and been working towards since your child began at BCMS?

**Again, please come and talk with us if you are currently involved in this thought process so we can support you in making a decision that's best for your child.**