



Bowen Island  
Montessori School

## Gradual Entry

A child's first experience of preschool and group activity is important, so the first few weeks of September are directed towards setting a positive tone and an atmosphere of fun in the classroom. Time is spent going over the limits and guidelines, introducing children to their new classroom, and getting to know each other.

We have a gradual entry or phase-in period to ensure that each child begins the year positively. The first days of September begin with all children returning to BIMS from the previous year. After these first few days, new children (2 or 3 each day) are gradually introduced to our childcare programs. This enables the teachers to spend time bonding with each new child; any fear or anxieties a child may have are lessened when this special kind of attention is given.

The gradual entry gently brings a child through a variety of adjustments and changes associated with starting preschool or group care. The phase-in period is crucial in developing a secure, predictable, and loving atmosphere, which leads to an enjoyable and productive year for all.

A typical schedule for gradual entry:

First week	one hour (9:15 to 10:15 am) (1:00 to 2:00pm)
Second week	one and a half hours (8:45 to 10:15 am) (12:30 to 2:00pm)
Third week	two hours (8:45 to 10:45 am) (12:30 to 2:30 pm)
Fourth week	three hours (full session)

Please remember that the tone and the atmosphere established in these early days are critical; naturally, this schedule will be adapted to meet the social and emotional needs unique to each child. Phase-in may be slower than is outlined or quicker depending upon the individual's and the family's needs.

Our door is always open so please do not hesitate to call us, drop us a note or email us if you have any questions or concerns about this important aspect of starting preschool at BIMS.