

## Commitment Agreement

Parent(s) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Child Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*We strive to help families fully understand our school philosophy and its programs. Your child's success at the House of Kids greatly depends on this commitment. Below are some of the main expectations we have for our parent/ guardian community.*

*For Parents/Guardians: please initial with your acknowledgement.*

### Program Commitment (end of Kindergarten years)

\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ I understand that by enrolling my child in the kindergarten at the House of Kids, I am making a multiple-year commitment for my child to attend through the official kindergarten years until they leave the House of Kids for the first grade. It is a program dedicated to authentic Montessori principles of education and I understand that continuity and consistency are best achieved when my child completes the full developmental cycle of the Kindergarten. An early withdrawal is an interruption of my child's Montessori education and the House of Kids community.

### Authentic Montessori Education

\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ I acknowledge that House of Kids is recognized by Association Montessori Schweiz (AMS), which requires the school to adhere to a philosophical approach that is consistent with Association Montessori Internationale (AMI) standards, such as hiring highly trained guides (teachers) and fully equipping classrooms with certified Montessori materials.

### Learning about Montessori

\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ I understand that House of Kids creates opportunities throughout the year for families to gain a deeper understanding of Montessori principles through parent education events, classroom observations, and parent-teacher conferences. By attending these functions, I understand that I am helping to create a community that is well-informed and supportive of the belief that education is an important and integral part of our lives.

### Family Involvement

\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ I understand that becoming involved sends the message that my child's education is meaningful. As a member of the House of Kids community, I will be encouraged to get involved in a variety of ways, such as participating in school-wide events, attending all parent-teacher conferences, attending the Montessori Information Night and/or joining the parent committee.

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## Philosophical Agreements

*Following the Child – “Never help a child with a task at which he feels he can succeed.”*

\_\_\_ / \_\_\_ I understand that the Montessori method emphasizes independence and the ability for a child to act for oneself. Unnecessary assistance to my child may interrupt precious learning moments and impede natural development of abilities. I understand that I can best support my child by incorporating at home what he or she is learning in school. Supporting my child’s independence starts with the freedom to practice basic life skills (such as walking, talking, dressing, eating, sleeping, toileting) and leads to a natural love of learning.

*Reality-Based Learning – “Imagination is the real substance of our intelligence. All theory and all progress come from the mind's capacity to reconstruct something.”*

\_\_\_ / \_\_\_ I understand that children under the age of 6 are best served if they have little to no screen time, and are presented with stories embedded in reality instead of fantasy. The Montessori method stresses the importance of a foundation that is set firmly in the real world by offering children opportunities to work with their hands. Real engagement and personal interaction are emphasized, while screen time and commercial influences become obstacles to a young child’s ability to grow, develop, imagine and create. I understand that my child’s guide may approach me with concerns of over-exposure to media, as it interferes with my child’s ability to concentrate or relate sociably at school.

*Respect, Responsibility and Relationship – “The things he sees are not just remembered; they form a part of his soul.”*

\_\_\_ / \_\_\_ House of Kids values a strong family-school partnership which can lead to a positive and everlasting impact on a child’s experience of school. I understand that my role as a parent is to approach the relationship with my child’s guide with mutual respect and responsibility, which will ensure the best chance of success for my child.

*Please return this signed statement of acknowledgement with your forms.*

Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

School Administration \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_