

# Madison Montessori Received Golden Acorn Award

Madison Montessori School Received Award for Excellence in Preschool Education

By Anne De Silva (Patch Poster) - January 12, 2017 10:45 am ET

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Madison, NJ January 12, 2017 - Preschool Advantage awarded its Golden Acorn award for exemplary quality in preschool education to Madison Montessori School. The award was presented to Terry Armstrong, Director, and her staff. Preschool Advantage congratulates Madison Montessori on providing exceptional early education since 1981.

This year, the Preschool Advantage School Committee wanted to formally define “quality preschool” with the Golden Acorn Award. The Golden Acorn Award is based on five criteria: teacher and child interaction, curriculum, family involvement, staff

qualifications professional development, and management of the school. The School Committee is comprised of numerous current and former preschool directors and teachers who care deeply about early childhood education. Members volunteer to visit the Preschool Advantage partner schools on a three-year cycle to ensure quality is maintained. A checklist has been developed using National Association of the Education of Young Children guidelines, the Grow NJ Kids program and the considerable experience of the Preschool Advantage committee.

Madison Montessori has partnered with Preschool Advantage since 1996 when it was then known as Project Acorn. Terry Armstrong explains the reason for this long-term association: “Critical brain and cognitive development occurs in the years prior to kindergarten. Research has shown that investment in preschool education not only advances cognitive ability, but also motivation and self-esteem which are why we proudly support the mission of Preschool Advantage.”

Preschool Advantage is a non-profit organization with the vision that all children should have access to quality early education. It partners with 18 area schools to fund preschool for children whose families cannot afford the cost. Together with its donors, supporters, volunteers, and community partners, Preschool Advantage seeks to provide opportunities for a lifetime of learning that will create a better world for students, their families, and the community.

Preschool Advantage is accepting applications for scholarships to its partner preschools for the school year beginning in September. Families can apply to Preschool Advantage for funding for a half day of preschool for 3 or 4 year old children. Children must be 3 or 4 years old by October 1, 2017 to be considered for funding for the school year beginning in September 2017. The deadline for applications is February 28, 2017. Families demonstrating commitment to education and financial need can access the application at [preschooladvantage.org](http://preschooladvantage.org), or by calling (973) 532-2501.

Pictured from left to right: Mark Cardone, Preschool Advantage Trustee, and Judy Martinez, Preschool Advantage School Committee member, present Golden Acorn Award for exemplary quality in preschool education to Terry Armstrong, Director,

Madison Montessori School and Kathy Jenco, Admissions Director, Madison Montessori School.