

Little Canaan Montessori Preschool

1439 Pacific Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94109
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The Toddler Program

Little Canaan is a small, Montessori-based school providing quality education and childcare services to children ages 2-6 years old. Our toddler program is for children ages 2 to 3.5 years. This is a one-year program but may extend depending on the child's readiness to move to the primary level. To support our toddler's developmental needs, our program focuses on physical, social-emotional, and cognitive development.

To support their physical development, toddlers play, dance, and move throughout the day. An active day also support the refinement of their gross and fine motors. Additionally, the curriculum focuses on health, wellness, and nutrition for children to develop healthy lifestyles and eating habits at a very young age.

For emotional and social development, our curriculum aims to guide children so they:

- develop a strong sense of self (self-efficacy) and empathy for others
- learn how to communicate using positive and effective language
- know how to understand and express their emotions and needs
- learn coping mechanisms to deal with their feelings and transitions
- know how to cooperate, get along, and take turns
- feel their independence is supported and encouraged

For cognitive development, toddlers will learn to establish routines and coping mechanisms necessary during (oftentimes, difficult) transitions. They will learn ample skills that will help develop their independence, and empathy for others and the environment. They will have many opportunities for artistic self-expression, and they will be indulged in exploring their curiosity.

We practice Montessori-based methodology in teaching our core areas – Practical Life, Sensorial (including Math and Geometry), Language (including Natural Science and Social Studies), and Arts, Music, and Movement. Enrichment classes are also offered to encourage children's other interests.

Using the *Whole Brain Child* approach, we aim to support children's development base of how the brain works and is designed for learning.

Our small teacher to student ratio of 1:8 will provide quality and appropriate learning opportunities for toddlers, while affording them adequate attention and care. The program will be supervised by credentialed and experienced Montessori toddler teacher.

We work hand in hand with our parents and families to support them during the child's potty-learning, as well as on issues related to health, wellness, and good nutrition of children.

The most important aspect of our toddler program is to help children learn self-efficacy so that they become intrinsically motivated and love learning. Using our learning framework Life MAP (Mastery, Autonomy, and Purpose), our goal is to help families raise children who will succeed in achieving their future endeavors in their own terms, with their own innate resources, and learned life skills. Our big picture is to see our Little Canaan children thrive wherever they are, whatever they want to be, and become contributors to their community and the society.