



Toddler Montessori Program

"Help me do it by myself"

Maria Montessori- The Secret of Childhood.

The teachers, materials, curriculum and environment all respond to a Toddler's fast changing developmental age and prepares them for future growth activities. Through direct observation of each child, we are able to meet his/her needs and guide their developmental growth.

We provide experiences based on independence, which is at the core of a Montessori experience. The environment is carefully prepared to aid the toddler in achieving this goal. Teachers help develop their desire for independence and self help skills through practical life activities. They guide children with social interactions with peers and expose them to the world of language. Activities include opportunities to explore and develop visual discrimination through the senses and special learning materials. The environment also provides opportunities for large motor skill development, coordination of movement through music and equipment and materials to meet these needs.

The Montessori Toddler environment is prepared to meet the high energy level of children at this age. They develop a new kind of "play" which is purposeful at helping them develop and understand their place in the world and to learn to trust the children around them. Our small (9:2 child to teacher ratio compared to the state standard of 12:2) nurturing environment guides children towards appropriate behavior through a positive, non-judgmental atmosphere where they learn social skills and develop a sense of community through curriculum and Practical Life work. As the children work together in the classroom, they are gently guided in a manner that enhances their innate sense of independence and order, as well as respect and kindness.

Children are exposed to math material to develop awareness for numbers and counting as well as special language materials that help develop pre reading and writing as they explode into language.

This program also prepares the child for their future, larger work of the Primary class, with a focus on independence, self-care, grace and courtesy and the ability to make choices in the classroom. They begin to gain a sense of satisfaction and become more independent in their learning. Our first priority as educators is to make sure that each child is treated with respect, love, and acceptance.

You may be wondering what a Montessori Toddler program can offer your child. This following introductory will give a clear an insight into a child's day.

When you walk into our Toddler rooms you will feel warmth from the soft colors and beautiful furniture and materials. Children will be pouring their own water and serving snack on their own, choosing material from the shelf and using mats or child size tables as a work stations for themselves. We as adults are modeling for your child and giving them the confidence to explore and challenge themselves.

Language is an extensive part of your child's day, as socialization and communication lead the way to a broader vocabulary for his/her growing dialogue with others. By speaking quietly and kindly, speech becomes our foundation. We take care in ensuring the correct and appropriate names for things. Conversations, stories, finger plays, songs and books are some of the ways we promote language.

Toddlers have a natural curiosity to do as they see others do, and love to be part of the action. Practical life provides real life experiences for your child to model what they observe around them both at school and at home. Small dust pans, brooms, washcloths to dry their own hands, pictures of real items, and a cozy atmosphere are some examples of how practical life plays a part in your child's day.

"What I do, I remember", is a vital part of the Toddler experience. Their senses are the springboard to exploring their world and providing the stepping-stones to enhance their interests. In the classrooms you will find many resources for your child to have hands on learning experiences. From making letters with shaving cream to testing out temperature by providing ice in the sensory table, your child will have the tools to spark their curiosity. A treasure box can also be found in the room, which has various materials to feel, items to manipulate, and smells inside. This changes periodically to accommodate a new sensory experience.

Climbing, running, exercising a child's growing need to challenge their gross motor skills is also provided both inside and out. By introducing and encouraging your child to use their large motor skills they will become confident in their abilities to overcome any obstacle. Balance beams, stairs, push toys, and tunnels will be used at various intervals to stimulate your child. Parachute games, interactive songs and music also come into play as they move throughout their day. Vestibular stimulation is also key, as children rock on the wooden boat, balance on labyrinth boards, sit and spin and roll on large yoga balls.

In culmination, the teachers, materials and curriculum all respond to the toddler's fast changing developmental age, and assist in their desire to fulfill the basic human tasks of trust, separation, independence and self-control as well as their sensitivity to acquisition of their language and culture. Our small, nurturing environment guides children towards appropriate behavior through a positive, non-judgmental atmosphere where they also learn social skills and develop a sense of community.