



The Toddler Program—Ages 18 months through 3 years

The Toddler

To be a Toddler is to be curious—to be an explorer of one’s world. Toddlers begin building the foundation for who they are to become: their character, self-esteem, purpose in life, social skills, and learning processes begin to form. With this in mind, the environment is a prepared “little society” in which the child is not “served”, but is encouraged to become a functioning member of the community and to explore it fully.

The Toddler Program

The Toddler Program serves children in an intimate group of twelve children, a Montessori trained Toddler teacher and a trained teacher’s assistant. The environment conforms to the physical needs of the children, both in the size of the furnishings and in the opportunities for development.

School Hours:

Full-day 8:00 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.

There is no Extended Day provided for the Toddler Program.



“Help me do it myself.”
~ Maria Montessori

The Prepared Environment

In this safe and caring environment, young children are encouraged to explore and challenge themselves as they develop into independent human beings.

The Toddler Program provides a nurturing place for toddlers to begin what Montessori referred to as their “education for life.”

The main goal of the Toddler environment is to help the children to function independently, to allow them to explore the environment and manipulate the objects in the environment freely, to assist them in their rapid language development and to introduce them to methods of developing their minds and bodies. This highly ordered environment allows toddlers to explore, refine movements, increase language in a language rich setting and to move toward independence in a safe, warm and stable venue where they will acquire the skills to “do it myself.” The child launches into social relationships with peers and begins to understand the importance of cooperation and assertiveness. The freedom to explore and learn in a safe place is crucial to the Toddler Program. The freedom to choose is tempered by the three basic ground rules of the Toddler Program that will be beneficial for a lifetime: respect of self, respect for others and respect for the environment.

The Montessori Teacher

The teacher assists the child in developing self-control and self-confidence through communication and real life activities. Our teachers are Montessori professionals certified specifically for this age group and are skilled in the “language” of interacting with toddlers; providing the respect, tenderness, warmth and patience that allow the child to blossom.

*The
Toddler
Environment
has
provided a
great
learning
foundation
for my
daughter.*

*It has been
exciting to
watch her
grow into an
independent
learner.*

*I feel very
secure
Knowing
that I have
placed my
child
in a safe and
loving
environment
where she
will
continue to
blossom.*

Toddler
Parent

The following areas of exploration are included in our Toddler Program:

Practical Life

Toddlers enjoy learning life skills. Activities, which until now have been going on around them, they can now do themselves and are seemingly irresistible i.e., getting dressed, preparing snack, setting the table, washing dishes, and sweeping/mopping the floor. Being able to use breakable objects for the first time, rather than their plastic substitutes, creates an instantaneous surge of pride at this age.

Language

Language is the basis for conveying human thought and knowledge. Through communication we are able to exchange ideas, share and relate experiences, get needs met and divulge our personalities. A young child in the Toddler Environment is practicing with the overall pattern of language. Everything in the environment lends itself to the incorporation of language and the increase of vocabulary.

Fine Motor

Fine motor skills are being acquired and refined through the use of specially selected manipulative materials. Eye/Hand coordination, finger dexterity and strength, and wrist rotation are all important factors for future academic endeavors.

Gross Motor

Movement is a key component in a toddler's ability to learn. This child must have unlimited opportunities to move purposefully throughout the environment to become more agile, more spatially aware, and more knowledgeable about the world in which he or she lives. The Toddler Environment provides optimum gross motor activities both indoors and outdoors.

Sensorial

Toddlers are sensorial learners. They absorb everything through their senses. Sensorial experiences with the world increase cognitive skills, and therefore help the child to think and to reason.

Social/Emotional

A key component in a toddler's social-emotional development is trust. Children must have trust in the adults around them, in their peers and in the environment. Children in the Toddler Environment are shown clearly that their needs will be met, that they will be safe and that they are viewed as being capable and self-reliant people.

Food

Carrying their own lunch is an opportunity for children to bring a part of home to school each day. Parents volunteer to provide healthy snacks in the morning.

Naptime

Rest is essential for a child this age. Each child in the environment has a cot on which to rest/sleep. The naptime ritual is soothing and predictable which enables the children to prepare for and allow themselves to relax.

Evaluation

Conferences to discuss your child's development are held twice a year. Parents are also provided with a written Student Developmental Report at that time.