

Montessori Toddler (18 months to 3 years)

Montessori Academy's Toddler Program is specifically designed to cater to the needs of young children by establishing a home-like environment that encourages sensory based learning. The focus of the Toddler Education Program is to cultivate this age group's growing need for independence, order, sensory exploration, movement and language. Our program covers the five curriculum areas, with a strong focus on physical education, art, culture and community partnerships. As with any Montessori environment, the children's activities are set out to entice the child to discover and explore. Toddlers work independently, or in small groups, and are introduced to each material at the appropriate time for their individual development.

Toddler Program Goals

- Provide a safe, engaging and nurturing learning environment
- Foster the growth of functional independence and autonomy
- Develop children's sense of confidence, self-identity, and belonging
- Promote respect for diversity and their environment
- Refine gross motor coordination and fine motor skills
- Encourage children to develop skills and processes such as critical thinking and experimentation
- Foster the development of effective communication skills

Practical Life:

Practical Life activities form the cornerstone of the Montessori classroom and prepare the child for all other areas. The emphasis is on process rather than on product. Through the repetition of Practical Life activities, children develop and refine the basic skills that will serve them all their lives. The Toddler classroom offers the early Practical Life exercises, such as Pouring, Opening and Closing, Spooning, Bead Stringing, Polishing and Large Water Activities. These activities are aimed at enhancing the child's development of fine motor control, hand-eye coordination, balance, sense of order, concentration and independence.

Language:

Around the age of two, children's speech development experiences an explosion of words, soon followed by sentences. The Language materials in the Toddler classroom encourage the refinement and enrichment of language as the first steps on the road to writing and finally reading. Early Language materials and oral exercises like storytelling and reading aloud support the toddler's need to be immersed in language. Activities include books, puzzles, naming objects like fruits, vegetables and animals, sound games, sandpaper letters.

Sensorial:

We all learn through our senses, and this is especially true of very young children who are at the beginning of taking in and understanding the world around them. Sensorial activities assist Toddlers in the great task of organizing, integrating and learning about their sensory input. Sensorial materials include Knobbed Cylinders for practice with dimension, Color Paddles, tactile exercises like Rough and Smooth, Musical Equipment, Sorting and Shapes.

Mathematics:

To help prepare the mathematical mind, Toddlers are exposed to the world of numbers through counting games and concrete materials. These exercises encourage the development of important pre-math skills such as order, sequence, visual discrimination, sorting, one-to-one correspondence and directionality. Toddler Math activities include stacking and nesting cubes, number blocks and puzzles, and sorting and counting materials.

Culture:

The work of classification and language are extended in the Cultural area. Materials are available to enable scientific exploration of biology, geography, history, and physical/earth science.

Art and Music:

Toddlers enjoy music classes learning concepts such as beat, meter, and rhythm. Toddlers learn to use their bodies with the rhythm of the music.

- Works in various mediums: Dough, crayons, markers, finger paints, tempera, watercolors, chalk, glue
- Uses various implements: Brushes, sponges, stamps
- Explores various crafts: collages, pictures, more
- Free-form art
 - Self-expression
 - Exploration
- Purposeful art: gift projects for festivals

French:

Toddler and Primary children are exposed to the sounds and rhythms of the Spanish language through games, songs, and activities.

P.E.

They practice moving their bodies and developing their gross motor skills.

We communicate the curriculum and each child's progress through the semi-annual parent conferences and progress reporting system.