



What to Expect in the Toddler Community

The Classroom

- The Toddler classrooms have 10 children each ranging from 14-36 months in age.
- The teacher to child ratio is 1:5 with one Montessori Certified lead.
- Each classroom has one or two full time assistant teachers.

Toilet Learning

- In the Toddler community, one of the major areas of focus is toilet learning. The teacher and parents will partner together to determine when your child is showing readiness. When your child begins toilet learning, you will be asked to provide ample amounts of underwear and extra clothes. The children wear underwear throughout the day in order to begin to understand their own bodily functions.
- Once a child starts toilet learning, it is important for there to be a full commitment to the process. Pull-Ups and diapers should not be used, except during sleeping hours.
- The children have numerous opportunities for group and individual toileting throughout the day.
- It is of utmost importance at this age that the children be provided with clothing that allows them independence. This means that they are able to put on and remove every article of clothing on their bodies with little to no assistance from an adult.
 - Parents are encouraged to refrain from dressing their children in items such as tight-fitting pants, overalls, tie-shoes, belts, and button up shirts.

The Program

- Our base program is five days a week from 8:15-3:30. You can add morning and/or afternoon care if you choose.
- Class starts promptly at 8:30 each morning.
- Language development is essential at this age. Teachers do many lessons involving language. Adults will model for children how to use their words to communicate their needs and feelings. Pacifiers are not age-appropriate in the Toddler communities because they inhibit the child's language development by causing him to resort to the object rather than express himself through language.
- At this age, the children will begin participating in group time. This is a time of day when all of the children gather with an adult and enjoy group discussions, songs, and books as a classroom group.
- Children will participate in the exercises of Practical Life, like food preparation and cleaning exercises, that will encourage them to take responsibility for caring for themselves and their classroom environment.
- Parents escort their child by holding his hand or allowing him to walk on his own into the Toddler classroom and help change his shoes upon arrival. Exiting the classroom soon after is best. The teachers are there to assist you and your child in the case your child needs extra help separating.
- Nap time happens from 12:00-2:30 for the entire group of children. They sleep in the classroom on a mat provided by the school. Parents must provide a labeled crib sheet and blanket that will be sent home on Fridays to wash and return on Monday. If your child does not nap the entire duration s/he will be given a quiet activity until the rest of the classroom has woken.

Snacks & Lunch

- The school provides a morning and afternoon snack. We strive for a full organic or natural menu. Organic milk or water is provided by the school and served at lunch. Lunch is to be provided daily by the families.
 - We do not offer snack substitutions for children with allergies—these will need to come from home. We are a nut sensitive school.
- Children will be introduced to using open lidded cups at all meals as well as using utensils.

