

TODDLER COMMUNITY

“The development of the child during the first three years after birth is unequalled in intensity and importance by any period that proceeds or follows in the whole life of the child.”
Maria Montessori



Children from 18 months to 3 years of age form this community, where children are encouraged to develop according to the natural laws of development. Children this age have a strong tendency towards exploration, movement, repetition, independence, order and the acquisition of language. Dr. Montessori describes the child's mind from birth to six years as the “absorbent mind,” with their focus being on their individual formation.

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*ADDITIONAL MATERIALS
REGARDING MONTESSORI
EDUCATION MAY BE FOUND AT:*

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TODDLER MATERIALS



TODDLER PRINCIPLES

Dr. Montessori observed the young child and identified various stages of development. She calls this stage of development "the absorbent mind". The absorbent mind takes in everything in its totality. This would include the language, culture, customs, feelings of kindness, values and morals, manners and virtually all aspects of life in the family and society. The absorbent mind lays the foundation for the intellect and is the builder of the mind.

Children in this stage of development have a need for purposeful work with their hands. They would rather be washing real dishes than pretending to wash dishes. Children have a tendency to explore their surroundings, repeat activities that are interesting to them and thrive on order in their routines and surroundings. Children during this age are naturally active and curious. Through their movements they are developing their intellect.

Since children from birth to three years of age have an amazing ability to take in everything around them, the environment is a very important aspect of their development

TOILETING

Children in the toddler room do not need to be toilet trained. The staff works closely with parents to encourage the development of independent toileting skills when the child shows readiness. For example, changing the child in the bathroom helps to encourage toileting skills.



TODDLER ENVIRONMENT

The environment is specifically designed to meet the needs of a toddler. Everything is child-sized. The toddler has a strong desire to do for himself. Several choices are available to the toddler child, such as: pouring water from glass pitchers, washing dishes, setting the table, and arranging flowers. These activities all encourage the child's desire for independence. Areas to practice large motor movements of rocking, sliding, stair climbing and jumping are also available. The environment is a calm and peaceful one, where the child can begin to develop concentration, independence and learn to interact positively with others.

The toddler room has up to 12 children with one trained Montessori guide and two assistants. Children enjoy a beautiful outside environment on a daily basis when weather is permitting, complete with their own garden and climbing structure. The gymnasium is also available to our toddlers to practice their large motor movements of rocking, sliding, climbing, and using small tricycles to pedal.

PHASE-IN

Children in our toddler community phase-in to the program over the course of two weeks or more. After a home visit your child will come to the room for a visit. Over the course of the next few days you will be in the room with your toddler, then slowly phase out of the room to allow your child to gain the confidence of saying goodbye and continues to develop his/her independence.

