
Jellybeans Toddler Classroom

— classroom for toddlers between the —
ages of 18 and 36 months

Environment

- Our classroom is a Montessori early childhood education classroom for toddlers of ages 18 to 36 months



Design of a montessori classroom

- Cultural Area
- Math Area
- Language Arts Area
- Practical Life Area
- Sensorial Area
- Reading Area and BookShelf
- Science Shelf and Nature Table
- Outdoor Area
- Art Shelf

Food preparation activities - Practical life

- Helps children feel involved in the classroom community
- Supports development of coordinated movements: pouring, cutting, sorting
- Helps children learn to care for themselves



Shelf manipulatives - Math area



Hand-eye coordination activities for toddlers

- Scoop and transfer tray
- Shape puzzles tray
- Stacking cubes tray
- Object permanence ball drop toy
- Fitting objects through holes tray
- Pasta threading tray

Cultural studies area



Curriculum

Montessori Infant & Toddler programs offer a curriculum that emerges from each child's unique skills and interests. Based on daily observations, teachers introduce new materials and activities that pique curiosity and stimulate learning. Learning objectives for your child at this age include developing skills such as language, concentration, problem solving, visual discrimination, and physical coordination. (American Montessori Society)

Philosophy

A Montessori classroom for toddlers safely supports your child's drive to do things alone, developing confidence and a sense of competence.

In this learning environment, children work independently, observe others, explore freely, and express their curiosity and creativity.

(American Montessori Society)

How does our team handle guidance and discipline?

We..

- Set clear and consistent rules
- Make the environment safe and worry free
- Show interest in what the child is interested in
- Provide appropriate furniture and appropriate playthings for their age
- Encourage self-control by providing choices
- Build child's image of themselves as responsible and cooperative
- Encourage children often
- Focus on the behavior we want to see, rather than the one to be avoided

What are meals and snacks are served and how are they served?

Mealtime is an opportunity for toddlers to work on their social skills, on their language development and on motor skills.

The children eat a variety of fruits and vegetables that are served in appropriate servings

They will be encouraged to sort through and wash their food to help during preparation and pour their own drink.



How do we support toilet learning?

Instead of “potty training,” or “toilet training” we refer to the process as “toilet learning.” We do that because a child learns how to use a toilet through a process natural acquisition like walking or crawling, which don’t require training.



Items for Toileting Environment

- Small “potty” seat or toilet a child can access independently
- A wipeable hamper for a child’s wet clothes
- A small stool or bench a child can sit on to change into dry clothes
- A little basket with a collection of several books
- A small sink or source of water where a child can wash their hands

What is the nap experience for toddlers?

- Naptime (or rest time) is a very important part of toddler's routine
- It prevents children from being overtired but the children are not forced to sleep
- The process is a learning opportunity for them
- The children prepare their sleeping area by placing their crib-sized, fitted sheet and blanket (both labeled and brought from home on the first day of school) on their school-provided sleeping mat.
- They are instructed to rest quietly on the mat for one hour and may fall asleep if they want to



Daily Schedule

- **Arrival:** Toddlers arrive for the school day between 8:30am and 9am, They start their day by hanging up their coats, washing their hands and greeting their teachers and friends.

Montessori Work Cycle: Uninterrupted morning of hands-on activities. Teachers work with children one-on-one or in small groups. The types of activities available for the children include:

- **Practical Life:** Children enjoy activities from everyday life that are scaled down to toddler size. Examples include peeling and slicing bananas for snacks or pouring own water or juice.
- **Fine Motor:** such as puzzles, shape sorters, and stringing beads.
- **Language:** language objects, pictures, songs, books, poems, and flannel board stories.
- **Art:** The Montessori philosophy is “process oriented, not product driven” and we have all kinds of media for children to explore including paint, clay, finger crayons, and chalk.

Daily Schedule

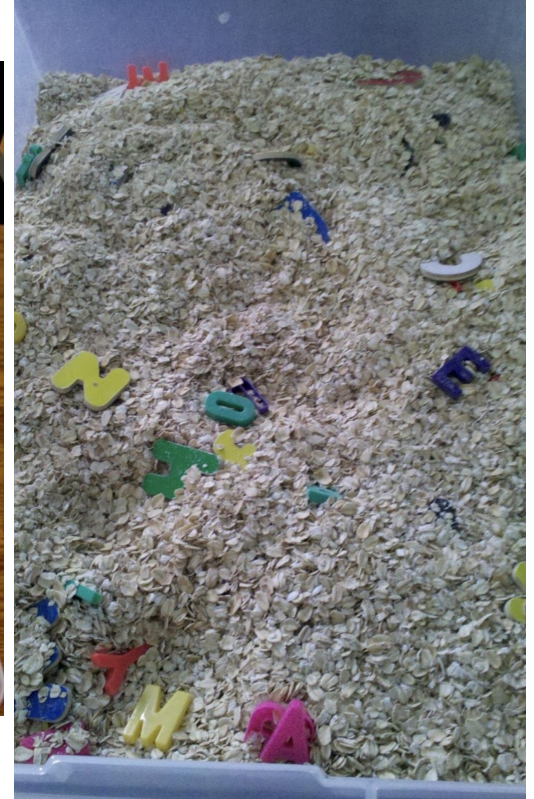
- **Outdoors:** Weather permitting, we spend a lot of time outdoors in our spacious playground equipped with a play structure, sand box, tricycles, water table, and balls of all kinds.
- **Lunch:** We have a group lunch at noon. We provide nutritious lunch every day. Weather permitting, we eat our lunch outside at the picnic tables. Toddlers set the table, pour milk for themselves and clean up afterwards.
- **Nap:** Children start napping at 12:30pm
- **Afternoon:** Toddlers wake up at their own time, eat a snack, go outside again or continue exploring the classroom until their parents pick them up. The school day ends at 5:00pm

Sensory Experience

Oatmeal sensory bin experience for toddlers

- Materials used: large storage container, oatmeal, wooden letters and kitchen utensils/ small containers
- Each child gets to choose their own bin
- They play independently by searching with their hands for the wooden pieces or scooping and pouring the oatmeal in containers

Sensory experience photos

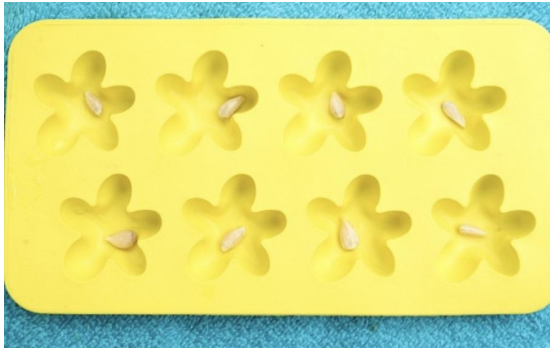


Sensory experience

Lemon squeezing, smelling, tasting and counting sensory experience

- Materials used: large storage containers, water, ice trays, lemons, kitchen utensils (for scooping) and manual juice press.
- Lemons will be cut in different shapes and placed in the bin with water
- Children are free to explore the lemons, squeeze them using the press or their hands
- The children will be encouraged to pick the seeds out and place them in the ice trays for counting (early math skills)

Sensory experience photos



Books for toddlers

We have a variety of board books that the children have free access to, they will pick them up and “read” by themselves or request that a caregiver reads to them. The favorites in our classroom at the moment are the books by Sandra Boynton

- Barnyard dance by Sandra Boynton
- Pajama time by Sandra Boynton

Songs for toddlers

A few of the children's favorite songs are:

- *Clean Up, And Put Your Work Away (From Frank Leto, who is Montessori trained)*
- *Hello, Mary, How Are You? Who Is Sitting Next to You (Sung like a chant)*
- *I Wish I Had a Windmill (Use hand motions to act out)*

Goals for toddlers

Our goals are:

- Math skills: toddlers use hands-on materials for learning concrete math concepts. Begins to understand number concepts, both quantity and symbol, and the meaning of zero.
- Language skills: Paper letters help the child learn the phonetics of the alphabet. Naming cards and matching introduce foundations for alphabet and language. Stories, finger plays, singing, and spontaneous conversation time encourage both social and language skills.
- Cognitive skills: toddler is encouraged to explore books and various jobs that ultimately increase ability to concentrate, work independently, and create foundations for learning.

Diversity - How we embrace all families

- We enjoy playing music for the children from all different languages, learning about cultural culinary differences when preparing different foods, and having materials that provide opportunity for children to be exposed to and learn from different cultures.

Opportunities for family involvement

- Our classroom is open for family/parent visits and engagement with the children one day a week. Each week, one family/parent will submit their request to come. During that time, the family/parent who chooses to visit can choose an activity such as baking, gardening or reading books, anything that is open for all children to participate.

Philosophy of family involvement

**Visit the American Montessori Society
website**

<https://amshq.org/>

Websites used for research

<https://hilltopmontessori.com/>

<https://busytoddler.com/>

<https://dayswithgrey.com/>