

Toddler Program

Overview

Our Montessori program for the youngest children, age 18-36 months, at the Montessori School of Huntsville, acknowledges that a child's mind is most receptive to learning during the time before three years of age. In accordance with what Dr. Maria Montessori termed, "the absorbent mind," children develop many language and motor skills without formal instruction, as long as their environment is rich with learning opportunities. A tremendous proportion of brain development takes place during the first three years.

The primary goal of MSH's toddler program is to create a nurturing and secure environment where young children can do what they do best – explore everything! The main focus is on language and motor development, assisting the child in practicing self-help skills (including toileting), and helping children build trust in relationships.

The entire toddler environment is designed to allow the children to explore and to develop concentration, focus, language, and coordination. Teachers observe the children each day and prepare materials that are designed to challenge each student.

We emphasize peaceful classrooms to encourage newly emerging grace and courtesy skills. Teachers employ redirection to guide children into productive activity and away from conflict. Children receive lots of

cuddling and are always gently introduced to being away from parents.

MSH conducts one classroom for toddlers. Children may attend from 8:30 to either 11:30 ("short day") or 1:30 ("long day") for three, four, or five days per week. MSH offers Extended Care (EC) from 7 to 8:30 a.m. and from 1:30 to 6 p.m. daily.

We encourage you to observe the classroom in session and meet with the teachers after class. You are welcome to bring your child, but some parents prefer to visit the first time alone so they are not distracted from learning all they can about the program, then bring their child on a second visit.

Before a child attends school at MSH, we must have a Preadmission Form and Addendum, and a State of Alabama Certificate of Immunization (the "Blue Card") obtained from your child's Pediatrician or Health Department.

A non-refundable annual Application Fee of \$150 is due upon enrollment (\$100 if child pre-enrolls) and Registration Fee of \$200 by the first day of school. Tuition for the toddler program for the school year is based on an annual fee and payable in ten equal monthly installments, August through May. A \$250 advance deposit is due in May with your child's registration forms and will be credited to your child's tuition amount in the fall.

