

## Toddler Class

### Ages 15 - 30 months

**O**ur school's toddler class is especially designed to provide the sense of security, loving care, and the opportunities to safely explore - so essential at this stage of rapid growth and development. We work with parents to be sure each child has a positive experience in a rich Montessori environment.

**T**HE MONTESSORI ADVANTAGE: Montessori training hones the observation skills of the teacher, and develops a mindful balance between standing back, allowing a child to focus and concentrate, in order to succeed all by her/himself; and stepping in to offer encouragement and/or assistance. Children play a meaningful role in their own care, self-development and learning, resulting in higher self-esteem, confidence, skills and overall happiness.

Children of this age are explorers, and need freedom to investigate a wide variety of activities. Montessori classrooms offer many carefully chosen, age appropriate experiences, in a peaceful, orderly environment. As excellent role models, our teachers speak very quietly in the classroom, resulting in a calmer environment - a more ideal environment in which to learn. Children have freedom within safe limits, and enjoy their purposeful play.

Children enjoy and learn from repeating the same activity many times. This too, is allowed for and encouraged. They always know where to find their favourite activities. There are, by design, not many of the same activity. Thus, they may have to wait for their turn. Building the ability to delay gratification, and self-regulate their emotions helps develop emotional intelligence. We help them to deal creatively with a few such frustrations of social life, preparing them well for these situations in and out of the classrooms.

**T**HE CURRICULUM: There are both group and individual activities. Emphasis is on developing independence, and the self-esteem which comes with growing independence and understanding. This involves many practical life experiences, including self-care and care of the indoor environment, and nature outdoors. It includes many language development activities, fine and gross motor skills experiences, and pre-math (sequencing) activities. The Montessori 'sensorial materials' develop and refine spacial awareness, visual and auditory acuity and tactile perception. Development of the senses so receptive in the earliest years, and the language to describe them, is unique to the Montessori approach and is supported in scien-

tific research to enhance cognitive development.

Arts, crafts, music and movement are incorporated into each day, as are lunch time, snack times, naps, and plenty of outdoor and gross motor time. Social awareness and skills are incorporated and built upon throughout.

Toilet training is a part of growing up, and of each child's physical and psychological development. Each child is unique, some requiring more time than others.

French language skills are integral in our bilingual school. In the toddler class French is spoken within the environment throughout the Montessori session and also includes French language books, and French learning songs and games at circle times.

Whereas the 'casa' level has a 1-8 teacher-child ratio, toddlers require one teacher for every five children to allow for adequate supervision and attention from the teachers.

While our toddlers have mainly separate work and play areas, there are some mixed age experiences at playtime and for special events. They enjoy the same beautiful building facilities and playground as well as the same excellent standards in quality of care and learning our school's reputation continues to uphold for all its students.