



TODDLER WELCOME PACKET

Dear Toddler Families,

Thank you for entrusting us with the care and education of your child! We are excited to welcome your family into our Montessori Toddler Community and to share this important stage of your child's development. Our goal is to provide a warm, enriching environment where your child can grow in independence, confidence, and a lifelong love of learning.

Classroom Goals

In the toddler classroom, we focus on fostering habits of independence, respect, and exploration. Each day, children engage in activities that encourage self-sufficiency, such as carrying their own lunchbox and garment bag, removing their shoes and coat, and putting belongings in their cubby. These routines are designed to help children feel capable and confident. As they master these skills, they develop a sense of pride and enjoy helping others.

Throughout the day, children participate in activities that nurture responsibility and care for their environment. This includes preparing food, setting the table, keeping the classroom clean, caring for plants and animals, and exploring outdoor spaces. Developing physical skills—whether fine motor activities like cutting and gluing or large motor movements like climbing and jumping—helps build focus, independence, and self-confidence. Toddlers are working very hard to be able to do things for themselves. We take time with the child to guide them on the way to this independence.

As Maria Montessori said, "Any unnecessary help to the child is a hindrance to development."

Community Snack

The children have a morning and afternoon snack. Families take turns providing a community snack for the class for the week, and a recommended snack list will be shared. Please note that all snacks must be **nut-free**. This approach encourages independence as children decide when and how much they want to eat at snack time as well as the independence of serving themselves and the community aspect to meals and eating with others. The teachers will also make sure to check in with the child to see if they would like to eat snack before it is put away.



Lunch Time

Lunch is brought from home each day in a lunchbox. If food needs to be kept cool, please include an ice pack. We will warm food as needed and encourage children to self-feed as much as possible. We do not allow **baby bottles** in the classroom. However, if you would like to provide milk, an **insulated, spill-proof water bottle** in your child's lunchbox is a great option. We will do our best to return any uneaten food so you can adjust portions and choices accordingly. Please provide lunch boxes and containers that can be opened independently by the child. Small, individual containers work best so children can remove the food to put on their plate themselves. Bento boxes and other multi-compartment lunchboxes create a challenge for children to be able to carefully place food on their plate. Please do not send silverware—we provide these.

Diapers and Toileting

Toileting is approached with patience and encouragement. If your child is still in diapers, we practice standing diapering to support their eventual transition to underwear. Toilet-trained children are encouraged to use the bathroom at regular intervals, and we provide many opportunities for them to do so throughout the day. We follow the cues of the child on their toileting readiness. Typically a child at least 20 months of age will be beginning to become aware of their movements and will be curious to start their toileting journey. Children must be toilet independent before moving into the Primary classroom at 2.5-3 years of age.

Birthday Celebrations

On your child's birthday, we will celebrate with a song at circle time. Please bring in a photo of your child from each year from birth to the present that we can show the children at circle time. This allows the children to see their growth over time as well as share something special with their friends. If you'd like to send in a treat, we ask that it be a **healthy, store-bought option**.

Morning Drop off and Pick Up

We ask that morning drop-offs be quick, warm, and confident. Having your child walk into the building allows the child to already feel independent and is easier emotionally when you say goodbye. If you like, give your child a hug at the door, say something like "I will see you later" or "Have a good



day", using a soft and reassuring voice, and then leaving promptly. Children look to adults for emotional cues—when you exude confidence, they feel safe. Prolonged goodbyes or leaving and coming back to say a second goodbye, create confusion and anxiety, making the separation harder for your child and disrupting the morning routine for the class. Our teachers are here to support your child as they transition into their day, and most children settle in quickly once their parents leave. If there are any concerns, we will reach out with an update.

Please leave any of their items on the floor by the door and we will help the child with learning how to put them away.

Remember to sign your child in and out via Brightwheel!

For afternoon pick-up, please come into the child's classroom or outside to pick them up. Please remember to take their lunch box, waterbottle and jackets and sweaters, ect. home for the day. Sheets and blankets should be picked up every Friday. Please keep pick up prompt as well for the sake of consistency for your child and for the safety of allowing the staff to pay focused attention to the children still in our care.

Clothing and Labeling

To ensure children can fully participate in daily activities, we ask that their clothing be eventually manageable by them—easy to pull up and down, with no snaps, buckles, onesies, or overalls, as these make toileting and diaper changes more difficult.

All items must be labeled with your child's name. Companies make washable name stickers that are worth investing in, as they do not fall off in the laundry.

What to Bring

- Water bottle with a lid that covers the mouthpiece or a mouthpiece that folds closed (sent home daily for washing). The water bottle must be spill proof as well so that if the child leaves it open the water does not spill out if knocked over.
- Family photo
- Diapers, wipes, and/or underwear if toileted
- 3–5 changes of clothes and a wet bag with a loop we can hang on a hook



- Inside shoes that children can put on and take off themselves
- For toilet-learning children, shoes that are easy to clean (such as Crocs or Native shoes)
- Nap blanket and crib-sized sheet (thin enough to fit in the cubby, sent home weekly for washing)
- Outdoor gear: In colder months, proper snow gear is required, including insulated snow boots (not rain boots or cowboy boots), snow pants, and snow mittens. Light cotton mittens are fine for cool days, but on snowy days, waterproof mittens are necessary.

Items Not to Bring

To maintain a peaceful and focused classroom, **do not send** toys, stuffed animals, back packs or pillows, or any other objects from home.

Communications

Monthly newsletters will share a little about topics or events in the classroom and school.

Photos and occasional updates will be sent via Brightwheel.

Parent Teacher Conferences are twice a year.

Please reach out to your child's teacher any time with questions on how your child is doing or if you need any other information.

We are thrilled to have your child in our toddler classroom and are looking forward to a fantastic year filled with growth and exploration. Thank you for your partnership in creating a nurturing and supportive environment for our children!

Please reach out to us any time with any questions.

Warmly,

The Toddler Team



Not sure what we mean? Here are some visual *examples*:

Inside shoes:



Waterbottles:



Snow Gear:





Cotton Mittens (not snow proof):



Wet Bag:

