

# Toddler



The Toddler Community offers space for the young child to naturally explore and engage within a purposefully prepared environment designed to encourage and build independence, self identity, and enjoyment. This is a stage of rapid development for the child, and our Toddler staff is committed to supporting and guiding the child in a loving and respectful manner. The adult to child ratio is 1:5 with one Montessori Certified Lead Teacher and two Assistant Teachers. Each Toddler classroom has ten children ranging in age from 14-36 months old.

## Our Toddler Program is a space where a child's independence and confidence flourish.



### **Innovative Academics**

Dr. Maria Montessori observed that children learn through movement and exploration. Our Montessori trained teachers individually observe each child and prepare the environment in a certain order, with specifically designed Montessori materials, so that the child is drawn to and can stay engaged in their activity. Teachers guide social interaction through modeling slow and purposeful movements and respectful communication. The most vital component of the class is the dynamic social and linguistic experiences where each child is immersed into the more ordered world of communication and learning. During the child's time in Toddler, their language development explodes. Teachers encourage children to practice the art of conversation and foster gross and fine motor skills, providing structure and organization for pre-academic learning.



#### **Exploration of Character**

Toddler children are motivated to make sense of their world through their strong sensitive period and need for order. The child learns how to make a choice and act on that choice. Classrooms specifically encourage independence, with items located on shelves that are child-sized, where each child is given a thoughtful presentation of each work. This gives the child the opportunity to choose their own work and replace it when done. Toddler children come in each morning and excitedly place their belongings in their cubbies, put their lunches away and learn to move about the classroom with intention. They begin to understand routine and engage in activities that teach the care of oneself and the environment.



#### Fearless, Forward Mindset

An accessible space allows the child to pursue their interests on their own, solidifying their ability to "do it myself." Toddler children learn the ability to use their words when conflicts arise, and practice independent skills such as toileting and dressing. An emphasis is placed on toilet learning and teaching children to "listen to their bodies" allowing them the space to make mistakes until the repetition of mistakes becomes individually perfected practices. Our teachers provide opportunities to refine independent skills so the children become confident, autonomous, and helpful learners.