



**Toddler Program
2021-2022**



*“Any unnecessary help is a hindrance to the child”
Dr. Maria Montessori*

Toddler Program

The toddler classrooms are structured to accommodate the needs of children ranging in ages from 15 months to 3 years. In order to foster confidence within each child, the prepared environment is designed to develop independence while also nurturing a sense of community. Keeping in mind the many developmental milestones achieved during this transitional time and the intensely curious minds of toddlers, the prepared environment invites each student to choose, practice and repeat. Establishing this cycle of work is fundamental for both increasing a child's ability to focus and to ultimately transition into the primary level. As a result of participating in our toddler community, each child will have learned: (1) how to trust and build secure relationships with humans outside of the immediate family; (2) what it means to be a part of a Montessori community; (3) the importance of taking on new challenges and the resulting consequences of those challenges, good and bad.

The best way to support your toddler during this time is to create consistency through routine living and through setting appropriate boundaries. Encourage your child to participate in life while understanding that perfection is not the goal. The journey is most important to a toddler.

Program Options:

- 5 days (M-F)
- 3 days
- 2 days

* There are no make-up days for any sick days that might occur for your child.

Program Hours:

8:45-11:45, 8:45-1:00 (lunch program), 8:45-3:00 (nap program)

*no lunch or nap programs for 2 day students

* Arrivals after 9:15 are highly discouraged as they are disruptive to the community.

Toileting:

The early toddler years are ripe for toilet training. Much like how a toddler learns at this age to talk and walk without direct instruction, learning to use the toilet is a skill that is instinctual. A toddler simply needs consistency and practice to master the new skill.

- Home and school must work in harmony
- 2 changes of clothing and 4-8 pairs of underwear available every day, label each item

Dress code:

- Elastic waste bands are best
 - Plain, “natural” clothing (solids, prints, subtle patterns)
 - Indoor shoes (crocs are good choice), Velcro shoes for outside
- *Please avoid lights and cartoon characters

Personal items:

Are not necessary! Please leave personal toys and other treasures at home.

Snack Schedule

We will assign each family 1-2 weeks for the year; we will ask for specific items.

Lunch:

- Must include an ice pack
- One serving of a protein and 1-2 fruit and/or vegetable
- Lunch is served community style on Wednesdays. (Schedule will be delivered.)

We provide flatware, dishes, napkins, and milk (2% organic).

We also have a microwave.

Please label your containers and lunch boxes.

Again, please avoid commercial images and cartoon characters.

Also, please avoid yogurt in tubes, gummy fruit snacks, and pureed fruit foods.

Nap:

Please send in a nap mat that can roll up for storage.

We will send home on Fridays and/or after a toileting accident for laundering.

*According to DHR Code 591-1-1-03, “Supervised nap or rest periods for a minimum of 1 hour during the day shall be provided for children under 5 years of age.”

**If a child is having a difficult time resting and is disruptive to other children, the parents will be notified and other arrangements will need to be made.

Birthdays:

At this age, birthdays are best celebrated within the home and family unit.

Transition to the primary level:

Advancement is based upon levels of readiness in each of the developmental areas: social, emotional, physical, and intellectual. This transition typically occurs around the 3rd birthday, but transitional timelines also take into consideration the school calendar (natural transition points) and is not limited to or by the actual birthday. Primary teachers also take part in this process through observation, feedback and an interview with the toddler. Every effort is made to ensure a smooth transition; however, any change in a child’s routine requires time, patience and support.

Admission & Fees

Enrollment forms:

- **Due the first day of school**

Tuition:

- **Due the 1st of each month**
- Please mail to school or drop off in Tuition box in front office
 - Check or money order only
 - Late fee of \$40 after the 5th of each month
 - Additional late fee of \$40 after the 15th and \$3/day thereafter
 - Fee of \$35 for returned checks

A **90-day written notice of withdrawal is required** for any withdrawals. Tuition will not be refunded in the event of withdrawal without 90-day written notice.

Registration Fee:

- There is an annual registration fee
- This fee is non-refundable and is not applied toward regular tuition.
- Registration is reduced for contracts that are returned by a specified date.

Supply Fee:

- Due with the registration payment and covers some of the cost of consumable supplies.
- **Supply Fee is \$145**

Attendance

Arrival and Departure routines:

Drop-off → 8:35 – 8:45 carpool

Pick-up → 11:45, 12:45, and 2:45

*Fee of \$1/minute after 1:10 and 3:10

- Changes in carpool must be documented in writing; alternate driver must show photo I.D.
- **No cell phone** use in carpool
- Enter from Steeple Run and exit on Woodstock Road

Tardiness:

Young children need a dependable schedule. The classroom is a collaborative community that has a definitive schedule. It is upsetting to a child if he/she is often “out-of-sync” with the rest of the class.

Please avoid unnecessary late arrivals, which can be frustrating for your child and disruptive to the class. It is vital that your child arrives to school on time.

- Tardy students must present a written note from the parent or legal guardian.
- Arrivals after 10:00 will require a note from a doctor verifying an appointment.

Absenteeism:

- A student must have a written note from the parent or legal guardian after an absence
- Excessive absences will result in meeting with administration and the child's teacher

Medication, Health, and Safety

Immunization records:

- **Due the first day of school;** attendance prohibited without form
 - GA form 3231 revision 1/100

Medication:

- First aid for minor incidents will be administered
- DHR prohibits regular dispensation of medicine; however, a parent may fill out a waiver for special circumstances
- Front office staff has the waiver and will monitor implementation of waiver

Health:

- *Village will adhere to DHR guidelines for all sicknesses; complete chart is in the front office
- No rashes, vomiting, diarrhea, sore throat or green mucus will be allowed in school
- Must be fever and/or symptom free for 24 hours without the help of medicine before returning
- Please notify school as soon as possible of any diagnosis
- If your child is diagnosed with a communicative disease, you must have a doctor's note to reenter school

Visitation and Observations

Visitors:

- Classes are in session after 8:45 A.M.
- Parents and other visitors must sign in at the front office after 8:45 A.M.

Classroom Observations:

Parents are encouraged to observe their child's class as well as other classes. Observation of a class in progress is an exciting experience. However, in order to maintain the orderly environment, and out of respect for the child's work pattern, we have certain guidelines and suggestions.

- Please make an appointment with the front office
 - The size of the classroom permits only two people to observe at a time
 - Please remain as unobtrusive as possible so the natural activities of the children can be sustained for your observation
 - Prior to entering a classroom, Observation Guidelines will be given to you. We appreciate your cooperation in following these guidelines.
 - If you have any questions arising out of your classroom observation, please feel free to schedule an appointment with your child's teacher, as well as with our Director of Education.
- Please note: Parent observations are available throughout the year after October 1st**

Communication

School Calendar:

A separate summer program is offered each year.
Please refer to the school calendar for specific holidays and special events.

Office Hours:

Phone: 770.552.0834
August – May: 7:30 A.M. - 6:00 P.M., Monday - Friday
Summer office hours: 9:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M., Monday – Friday

Forums:

- Conferences (2 times/year); *no school for students on these days
- Parent Education classes
- Silent Journey

Direct Communication with Teachers and Staff:

- Communication between parents and Village Montessori teachers and staff is crucial.
- Teachers are often unable to speak at length during school hours while children are present. An appointment can be set up after school.
- Please send in a note or call the office and leave a message to schedule an appointment.

It is school policy that no one on staff other than the lead teacher and the Director of Education communicate with parents in matters of their child's behavior or gives advice on that subject. If you have questions or concerns about any administrative issues, please contact the office.

Questions...

Regarding your child or your child's classroom, please write a note or leave a message for your child's teacher and he/she will contact you promptly.

Regarding tuition policies or procedures, please contact Annmarie Gever

Other questions regarding your child's education and classroom, please contact Yoshi Hansen.

Discipline and Behavior Guidelines

Village Montessori School strives to create a safe, loving and supportive environment. Our staff is highly qualified to guide and direct children along the path of development. Children will be taught what is and is not acceptable behavior and encouraged to participate in cooperative learning. Consistent guidelines will be set and discussed with the children. The Montessori environment instills self-direction, self-motivation and self-control. The acquisition of these traits is critical to the success of the program. Our staff will guide and direct the children toward these goals of acceptable behaviors wherein the child grows in self-esteem and self-confidence. Montessori professionals are trained to redirect children's behavior and to connect to the child's inner interests so that he/she may express that interest in his/her daily activities. However, not all children are able to become self-directed and independent and thrive in the Montessori environment. Children who are unable to exercise self-control, despite various approaches to behavior modification, may be referred for alternative placement.

VMS retains the rights to dismiss a family or student for any reason deemed appropriate. All forms of harassment and discrimination based on race, religion, national origin, ethnicity, sex, sexual orientation, age or disability are strictly prohibited. Causing physical or emotional harm to anyone, damage to property of others, or creating a hostile environment at school will not be tolerated. *Reference: Thacker Montessori School Policy*

Discipline Policies:

1. All classroom and playground rules and procedures will be clearly outlined and explained to all students.
2. All staff will apply rules and limitations consistently.
3. All children will be treated with respect and empathy.
4. Children will be encouraged to learn to interact with respect for one another, to manage conflict and to cooperate without an adult's direct intervention. However, if the teacher believes intervention is necessary, he/she will intervene to achieve this result.

Behavior which is not acceptable and which will receive intervention when excessive or frequently repeated may include but not be limited to:

- ⤴ Physical aggression such as hitting, kicking, biting or pushing.
- ⤴ Purposeful destruction of the school's or other children's property.
- ⤴ Excessive outbursts or frequent "temper tantrums," such as throwing items, screaming or hurting self and others.

- ⤴ Consistent refusal to adhere to or cooperate with teacher's instruction or the classroom rules, schedules or procedures, especially in a manner which might create hazards for self and others.

When a child poses a threat to himself or others in the classroom, or any other behavior threatens the integrity of the classroom, the child will be sent to the office to meet with an Administrator and an incident report will be filed. Removing a child from the classroom occurs rarely; however, this action will be at the discretion of the teacher if she/he deems it necessary for the welfare of the entire classroom. If the behavior is repeated, the parents will be requested to come immediately to pick up the child. In this event, you must make arrangements to have your child picked up from school. If any of the above behaviors are frequent, parents will be consulted and suggestions for addressing these behaviors may involve contacting the Fulton County Dept. of Family and Children's Services or the special education department in the local school system or a child psychologist or professional. Parents who enroll their children in VMS must be willing to fully cooperate in addressing the special needs of their child.

Being a Village Montessori Parent

When parents choose to enroll their children in Village Montessori School, they agree to support our mission statement, follow rules and guidelines set out in the Parent Handbook, and abide by Village Montessori policies.

We expect the following from our parents:

- ⤴ Make continuing efforts to understand and embrace the Montessori approach and work in partnership with the school
- ⤴ Demonstrate respect for all adults and children, the school and the school's programs
- ⤴ Strive to parent according to Montessori principles
- ⤴ Maintain active, direct and respectful communication with the school

As parents, you can expect the following from us:

- ⤴ We strive to fulfill our missions as an AMI Montessori school.
- ⤴ We aim to maintain open, honest, timely and respectful communication with you about your child and about information affecting the school community.
- ⤴ We strive to ensure that the environment is physically and emotionally safe and supportive, as well as aesthetically beautiful.
- ⤴ We work hard to ensure that the school building and grounds are physically safe, secure and well maintained.

VMS Parent Association:

Philosophy: The VMS parents' association acts as a forum for VMS parents to gather in support of each other and to support the goals and spiritual growth of VMS.

Goals:

1. Parent support - The VMS-PA provides an opportunity for parents to not only interact in organized settings, but also an informal way for social interaction and mutual support for families with similar needs

and values, with a goal of building a sense of community and providing a substitute “extended family” for our families.

2. Parent Education
3. Community Outreach
4. Growth and expansion of school or programs

Membership: All parents of children enrolled at VMS are members of the Parent Association. Meetings will be held periodically throughout the year and dues of **\$40.00** are requested. This small amount funds social events, seminars, festivals, family picnics, etc.

Lending Library:

VMS maintains a collection of books and articles which parents may borrow to learn more about Montessori education or parenting.

- Since these items are limited, please return them after one (1) week.
- A sign-out/sign-in sheet is provided to check out an item.
- Please ask for assistance from the office staff.

Summary

Thank you for taking the time to read our Parent Handbook.

Village Montessori School reserves the right to make revisions to this handbook.

Village Montessori School is dedicated to exploring and maintaining the principles of an AMI Montessori education in a warm and nurturing environment that is meticulously prepared to meet the needs of your child. In addition to our commitment to your child, we are also dedicated to family support. We provide parent conferences, study groups, parenting classes and Parent Association to support Village Montessori families. We encourage parental involvement and allow many opportunities to volunteer. Look for our newsletter each month to keep you informed.

We at Village Montessori School welcome all of our families and are looking forward to another great school year!

Please sign and return this page to your child's teacher on the first day of class.

PLEASE PRINT

Child's name _____

Teacher's name _____

I _____ *have thoroughly*

(parent signature)

read the 2021 - 22 Village Montessori Toddler Handbook and agree to abide by the guidelines within.

Date: _____