



Toddler Programme Supplement Information

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Toddler Class Routine

Our Montessori Toddler programme follows a daily routine rather than schedule. Transitions are often hard for children this age, especially when settling in so we do things in the same order each day, around the same time, but are not strictly tied to the clock. The result is a class of children who know what to expect next and once settled in, enjoy knowing what happens next and often remind the teachers when it is close to the time to move onto the next part of our day!

<p>7:30 Morning Arrival</p>	<p>Our door opens and drop off begins. Please feel free to drop off your toddler at whatever time suits your family and morning routine. You cannot “be late” for the Toddler class and part of the Montessori is a drop off window so that the children can arrive happy, fed, and not rushed. We also realize life doesn’t always allow for this and we are there from 7:30 ready to start the day with your child. The children are encouraged to carry in their own belongings, take off their own shoes, find their cubbies and come inside where they wash their hands.</p>
<p>7:30 – 8:45 Morning Work Cycle</p>	<p>The Montessori morning work cycle. As children arrive, they are free to choose shelf activities or sharing work as they choose. Teachers are there to guide them and suggest activities, but ultimately the children are encouraged and free to choose their own work. Children soon learn to complete a cycle of activity (choose work from a shelf, take work to a table or floor mat, use the work, tidy up the work, and finally return it to where they found it) independently. During our morning work cycle we use our side garden classroom to allow the children to come and go between the indoor and outdoor environments as they choose. The outdoor classroom is equipped with activities to encourage this cycle.</p>
<p>8:45</p>	<p>Class bell rings to signal clean up time</p>
<p>9:00 – 9:20 Circle Time</p>	<p>We sing the same songs to start our day (as well as others request!) We sing about the weather, our feelings, days of the week, sing hello to our friends and teachers and talk about any celebrations, events or changes to our routine happening that day. This is also the time of day that we do our Montessori birthday walk for anyone who is celebrating a birthday.</p>
<p>9:20 – 10:00 Outside Play</p>	<p>Outside play in the large Toddler Garden. During this time our students have free access to the climbing frame, bikes, balls, playhouses, mud kitchen, swings and more. Our class loves messy, sensory and water play, and this is often the main event for some children during garden time.</p>
<p>10:00 Snack Time</p>	<p>We offer fresh fruit and a dry snack each day. During holidays and celebrations, we often cook dishes in the morning to be enjoyed during snack time.</p>

10:15 – 11:00 Outdoor Play & Work Cycle	Continued outdoor play and small group work indoors. Children who are enjoying being outside and are productive there continue to enjoy the outdoors while those who arrived later in the morning or would prefer to be indoors, are brought inside for individual Montessori presentations, small group work or art opportunities.
11:00	Transition to inside for more free flow work between our side garden classroom and two indoor classrooms.
11:30	Story time
11:30 – 12:00	Half day pick up
12:00	Full day lunch, outside if weather is permitting on the deck.
12:30	Transition to Naptime
1:00 - 2:30	Naptime for full day children. We request that children not be collected up during naptime as it disturbs the other children. If you need to collect your child early, please email or text the Toddler Class Phone ahead of time to arrange.
2:30 – 2:45	Afternoon snack
2:45 – 3:00	Full Day pick up
3:00 – 5:00	Aftercare programme for registered students.

Toddler Class Essentials

We ask parents to ensure that the following items are kept at school for their toddlers:

- A full pack of nappies and wipes (if applicable). We will message you when these need to be replenished;
- Two sets of spare clothes to be kept in your child's cubby (more if your child is recently toilet trained);
- A sunhat to be brought each Monday and left at school until Friday when it is sent home to be washed;
- Full day children will also need a packed lunch and naptime bedding. Bedding will be sent home each Friday to be washed'
- Full water bottle (it will be replenished with filtered water, as needed throughout the day. Children will also be given a cup with their name on it to use at snack time);
- Please apply sunscreen and bug spray to your child before arrival as desired. Sunscreen and bug spray can also be left in your child's cubby to be reapplied as needed;
- Please label all of your child's belongings.



Toddler Programme Curriculum

Our Toddler Programme curriculum is designed to foster independence, practical life skills, motor skills, language, and early mathematics. Through positive encouragement and activities that foster growth and development the children are encouraged to explore and learn in a safe and nurturing environment. The children are welcome to observe before participating and are given the freedom to repeat activities as often as they choose. In keeping with the Montessori philosophy, the teachers encourage the children to work as independently as possible and provide guidance when needed.

Practical Life

As adults, there are things we do on a daily basis that have become commonplace and second nature for us, things such as pouring a glass of water, washing dishes, caring for flowers or even just walking in a line with others. For young children, there is something special about these tasks and allow them to act like their role models, particularly as imitation is one of the child's strongest urges during their early years.

In this area of our curriculum, children perfect their coordination and refine their motor control while continuing to learn manners and courtesy, care for themselves and their environment, lengthen their span of concentration, pay attention to details and learn good working habits. Practical Life exercises will focus on four unique areas of concentration: elementary movements; self-care; caring for their surroundings, and development of social skills, all of which will provide their foundation for future growth.

Sensorial

Exploration is one of the most important parts of learning at any age. Our curriculum encourages the children to explore the world around them to allow them to distinguish and relate new information to what they already know. Our sensorial materials and curriculum allow the five senses of taste, touch, smell, sight and hearing to be explored through a variety of methods in our classroom and gardens.

Language

Our classroom is designed to ensure that activities align themselves naturally towards the development of skills required for oral and written language and reading. The children will be exposed to the phonetic sounds of the letters before they move onto the alphabetical sequence. This approach helps the children gain an understanding of the sounds heard in words that they will later read.

Language is also encouraged in the classroom through the freedom of conversation allowed to the children when they are working. In this environment, encouragement of self-expression is fostered through communication between children and their peers and adults. Vocabulary is further enriched through using correct grammar, as well as the correct names for all objects and tools.



Mathematics

Mathematical concepts in a Montessori classroom are developed from simple to complex, with process being taught before facts. Order, coordination, concentration, and independence are experienced by the child using the materials which have been beautifully designed and are appropriate for the children during their sensitive periods of learning math. The apparatus available to the children provides the necessary stimulation for the children to learn math concepts readily and at their pace, and using number rods, cards, golden beads and more, children will begin to associate numerals and quantity, decimals, skip counting and more.

Nature & Science

Science is an integral part of the Montessori curriculum, providing the children with as many real, hands-on experiences as possible before introducing concepts such as naming and classification. Our belief is that through a connection with nature, children will develop a lifelong interest in the sciences and apply a clear approach to information gathering and problem solving. Through botany, geology, ecology, zoology, astronomy, physical science and weather we encourage children to explore their world and begin to comprehend the foundations of physics and nature in their everyday life.

Arts and Crafts

Art is one of the many ways children learn to express themselves and communicate their feelings. It is through art that children further develop their fine motor skills and explore their imaginations in a variety of mediums used for expression. As adults, we are taught to produce a product, however as a child works to develop their self, the focus becomes the process and not the product. In our classroom, arts and crafts are traditionally done at the child's decision during their independent work period.

History

Where we come from is equally as important as where we are going. Through our history curriculum, the children will develop an appreciation of the human story and how our past shapes our present and our future. Through re-creation, model building, storytelling and picture books, the children develop a sense of the 'living' history found in the world around us. To help further develop this area, we also use the children's personal histories to introduce timelines with them.

Health & Physical Education

Our school has a strong focus on adopting a healthy lifestyle that includes balanced diet, exercise and personal care. Through a variety of games and activities, as well as free outdoor play time, children develop their motor development, body awareness, balance, flexibility and strength. In addition to the outdoor playground equipment and tools, we also incorporate anxiety reduction techniques through our Yoga and Mindfulness programme which is taught to all Toddler and Casa students.



Personal Care

We begin to practice skills to aid toilet training as soon as our toddlers join the class. If the situation allows, nappies are changed while the child remains standing up. This way they can help remove their nappy, hold up their dress or shirt and practice pulling shorts or skirts up and down. Any interest in using the potty or toilet is encouraged and communicated to you.

Parent Volunteers

If you are willing or able to be called upon for occasional classroom support, please speak to any one of our teachers. Education Council guidelines require that all teachers and classroom volunteers have a current Child Protection Training Certificate which we can assist with arranging, as well as a Cayman Islands Police Clearance certificate; however, these can be obtained online through the RCIP at

https://online.gov.ky/cro/faces/home?_af.ctrl-state=6tt83uqdo_14

As always, should you have any questions please feel free to email us on Toddler@IslandMontessori.org, or speak with us at any time.