



## **AFM Toddler Program**

### *Practical Life*

The Montessori Practical Life curriculum for Toddlers focuses on care of one's self and care of the environment. Children work on simple Dressing Frames, washing activities, pouring activities and activities that develop self-care skills such as washing hands and face, self-feeding, and keeping the classroom tidy.

### *Movement*

Movement is an essential facet of the Montessori Toddler curriculum. In addition to the movement that is built into the nature of the Montessori materials, children will practice large motor skills by walking the line, climbing, jumping, crawling, playing with sand and water, as well as pushing, pulling and carrying objects.

### *Sensorimotor*

Sensorimotor activities allow the child to explore concepts within the Montessori environment primarily through the use of the hands. Children experience the difference between rough and smooth textures, they practice identifying colors and sounds, and they learn to identify and sort shapes. Bead stringing, cut and paste activities, and manipulating play dough help the child to develop hand/eye coordination and to build strength in the hand.

### *Language*

Language development is integrated into all areas of the Toddler classroom. The children are given the proper names of the object they are using and the food they are eating. Teachers read aloud to the children every day using engaging, age specific literature. Songs and finger plays are part of the daily routine. Language development is further augmented through object and picture matching activities, vocabulary cards and creative play.

## *Math*

Children are exposed to counting and quantification through songs, rhymes and games. Children explore the concept of “sets” through the use of sorting and matching activities. The concept of sequence is introduced through the use of the grading materials. Math vocabulary such as “less than” and “more than” are integrated into the classroom structure.

## *Additional Curriculum*

AFM’s Spanish curriculum is integrated into the Toddler Program through the use of songs, rhymes and games. Children receive Art instruction with a focus on the elements of shape, color and line. The Music curriculum will focus on rhythm and movement with a basic introduction to instruments.

## *How is a Montessori Toddler Program different from Traditional Daycare?*

Montessori education focuses on the child as an individual, and as such, learning plans are tailored to the needs of each child. On the contrary, traditional day care programs often use center-based models that address the class as a whole unit. Children in a Montessori Toddler program work with materials that isolate a single skill or concept, allowing the child to focus on building knowledge in a specific subject area. Children acquire a sense of order from the prepared, well-organized Montessori classroom and gain independence by having the freedom to explore their environment. The Montessori materials and teachers assist the child in developing coordination in both small and large motor skills. The Montessori work cycle is designed to increase each child’s level of concentration over time to prepare for more complex lessons and concepts.

## A TYPICAL TODDLER DAY AT AHWATUKEE FOOTHILLS MONTESSORI

8:30 – 9:00	Work time: mat work, practical life activities, individual and small group <b>instruction and activities based on the child's abilities and interest.</b>
9:30 - 10:00	Playground Time.
10:00 – 11:30	Snack Time & Work time: mat work, practical life activities, individual and <b>small group instruction and activities based on the child's abilities and interest.</b>
11:30 – 12:00	Lunch time
12:00 – 2:00	Nap time
2:30 – 3:00	Playground Time.
3:00 – 3:30	Snack Time
3:30 – 4:00	Art, Spanish, or Music class
4:00 – 5:00	Playground, story time, craft, free choice of classroom materials or toys during hot or inclement weather which requires us to spend more time inside.