



## *The Toddler Program at The Westmont Montessori School*



*Our Toddler classroom is a unique place where children have the opportunity to explore, learn, grow, and develop in a loving community.*

## *Learning Areas in the Toddler Classroom*

The work of a toddler, and what brings that toddler the greatest joy, is learning to do things for himself. Whether the task is putting on his own shoes, pouring a glass of milk, setting the table, or riding a tricycle, the confidence and joy that comes from a toddler who is encouraged to help himself, is what Westmont is all about. Our curriculum focuses not just on the traditional academic subjects, but on the development of the whole child.

**Care of Self:** Learning to care for oneself includes dressing independently, organizing work space, washing hands, bathroom independence, cleaning up after oneself, being respectful, and patiently waiting for a turn.



**Motor Development:** This development involves learning to control the whole body: walking up and down steps with ease, carrying large items, and having coordination while playing outside. It also focuses on the small muscles of the hand, enabling the child to scoop and pour, use utensils, and develop the muscle strength and memory required for writing.



**Social Development:** Children interact with peers and adults, learning to show empathy and care for others, while developing their first steps towards independence and self-reliance.

**Speech and Language:** As vocabulary grows in the toddler year, our classroom provides countless opportunities for practice with language. Our curriculum seeks to not only increase vocabulary, but to focus on sentence use, answering verbal questions, expressing feelings, and following directions. With an introduction to the alphabet and the sounds that the letters make, children begin to make correlations between written and spoken language.

**Cognitive Development:** Development of processing, perception, reasoning, and memory takes place at an early age. In the Toddler classroom, we introduce children to the concepts of order, matching, and sorting, which serve as the foundation for mathematical concepts. Children learn numbers, shapes, and colors not simply by memorizing their names, but by experiencing them with hands-on materials that engage the whole body and mind, while developing concentration and focus.



## ***A Day in the Toddler Class at Westmont***

Children arrive into the Toddler classroom, are greeted warmly by their teachers, hang up their tote bag and jacket, and begin “working” on the classroom materials that interest them. The classroom is divided into five sections, math, language, practical life, sensorial, and art, with work that frequently changes to grow with the children and pique their interests.

Children are free to work in all areas of the classroom and receive new one-on-one lessons with the teacher throughout the day. Opportunities are provided for children to develop their fine and gross motor, language, spatial, math, and social skills while having fun in a loving environment.

### **Daily Opportunities to Learn and Grow**

**Community Time:** Children all come together during to sing songs, play language games, and share with one another.

**Special Group Lessons:** There are often special lessons that may involve cooking, holiday celebrations, craft projects, or nature lessons that all children participate in together.

**Playground Time:** Children explore the Toddler playground and the indoor movement classroom to explore, run, bike, slide, and play.

**Lunch and Rest:** Toddlers who avail of our longer day program participate in a group lunch and the opportunity to rest at Westmont.



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