



Toddler Program Introduction

Dear New Parents,

Welcome to the Toddler program at Little Acorn Montessori Academy. We want to introduce ourselves and give you a more detailed description of our program. We want to assure you that all of your toddler's needs will be met.

To learn your child's schedule and needs, we ask for you to fill out the attached Needs & Services Plan. This will need to be updated every 90 days as your child is growing and their needs change. Feel free to be as detailed as possible and ask any questions which you may have; the more specifics we have, the better we are equipped to provide quality care for your child. As moms and teachers, we keep in constant communication with the families and we would like to partner with you to provide optimum service for the children entrusted within our care.

We have an open door policy at Little Acorn Montessori Academy which means you are always welcome to visit and observe at any time; there is no need to call ahead. You are also welcome to call or email us at any time to check on your child.

Our toddler environment symbolizes Maria Montessori's impression of a nest. It is a peaceful, spotlessly clean and loving dwelling where little ones can move freely, explore and feel protected. "Since it is through movement that the will realizes itself, we should assist a child in his attempts to put his will into act." Our Toddler room welcomes children as young as 12 weeks of age. Teachers speak with soft loving voices, the daily pace is tranquil, and the décor replicates the warmth of a peaceful home. Each child is an individual to be nurtured with affection and respect. Our Montessori environment leads the child to interest and activity, which invites the child to conduct his own experiences in repetition. Through freedom of movement, the toddlers are developing coordination of their bodies, grasping skills and hand-eye coordination.

Each day you will receive a daily communication sheet via our digital app KidReports. This will inform you of when your child ate, napped, and had their diaper changed. We also write little notes concerning their Montessori lessons or any reminders about supplies to be replenished. There is also a space at the top for any special instructions you may have such as: early pick up, mom is in a meeting, call dad first or be aware that my child is teething and may require some extra tender love and care. You can login daily and check the daily sheet and it will be sent directly to you once you log our child out for the day.

As we are sure you have realized, toddlers require numerous appropriate personal belongings. Please make sure to label all personal items with a permanent marker or clothing labels. You will need to bring the following items for your baby:

- ✓ Water cup with enclosed spout
- ✓ Table food that is easy for child to self-feed and manipulate independently (all food must be in plastic containers, not glass)
- ✓ Diapers - We check diapers every hour and change every two hours, or sooner if soiled. Feel free to bring in a large package and we will let you know when more are needed. Approximately six diapers a day are needed.
- ✓ Wipes (travel packs or containers are okay)
- ✓ Diaper cream if used - All diaper cream is considered medication and will need to be locked in a cabinet.
- ✓ Sunscreen and a Sunhat
- ✓ Please sign sunscreen and diaper cream waiver if you would like it to be applied.
- ✓ 2 x Pacifiers - We will use non-toxic markers for labeling pacifiers.
- ✓ 5 X Fitted Crib or pack in play sheets.
- ✓ Small thin throw blanket
- ✓ At least 3 full changes of clothes

Soiled crib sheets will be returned to you daily so that they can be laundered and returned the following day. We will also have a spare set in the event of extra soiling throughout the day.

Many children have similar belongings so please **label** everything. The water cups must be **labeled daily** with your child's name, date, and contents. We will use masking tape, but there are permanent dishwasher-safe labels you can order online. We have a refrigerator for all cups and opened food. Water cups will be returned at the end of every day.

All prepared food will be returned or thrown away at the end of the day if not heated up. Please consider joining our healthy hot lunch program which introduces children to a variety of healthy lunch options in a peer social setting. Children are more likely to want to try what other children are eating and is a great way to expose them to a variety of food. You are always welcome to bring backup food as well if you choose the lunch program.

Our school's website is: www.la-montessori.com. We appreciate your reviews and comments. On our website, you will find a Parent section with a drop-down option listing each classroom. Each class is password protected, please contact the office to access your child's classroom page. Here, you will find lots of information about what activities your child has been doing or what is planned for the coming month. We will also post photos of activities.

In addition to our own website, within your child's class under 'Available Links' you will find a link to a 'Myprocare account'. Use the same email supplied to us when registering and you will be able to access your child's records, run off accounting reports, check their schedule, immunization records etc.

Little Acorn Montessori Academy has an active Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages. It is a forum for current parents to connect to each other and the school, and a way to market ourselves to prospective parents. We want our page to be both vibrant and relevant, and we need your help to accomplish this. You can find us on all platforms once you are logged in under: Little Acorn Montessori Academy.

If you have a Facebook account, go to our page and "like" us. When you like us or comment on our posts or photos, it helps our page become visible to more people. Once you are on the page, please browse the tabs and links. You'll find up-to-date photos from each class, videos and links about Montessori.

Little Acorn Montessori uses KidReports for digital communication and recordkeeping. Please download the app from your Google or Apple playstore. You will also receive a welcome email from KidReports on your first day of attendance. This app will let you check your child's daily sheet (Walkers and Preprimary classrooms), as well as receive photo and video updates, communicate with teachers and staff, and get reminders about items your child may need at school. If you have any questions on how to use the app, please stop by the office.

Please provide us with your E-mail address for school-parent communication. We are always here to help you with any questions you might have.

We are honored that you have chosen us to provide care for your precious little one! We are looking forward to getting to know you and your family, cherishing this time together.

If you have any questions, please always feel comfortable to share them with us.

Thank You!
The Toddler Staff

Food Ideas for Toddlers

In the Montessori environment, we love to watch a child succeed as they learn new skills that improve their independence. One of these important skills is self-feeding. Our School provides a nutritious snack and lunch menu created fresh every day. If that is not an option for your family, we have put together a list of nutritional & toddler friendly food suggestions that will help make the skill of self-feeding easier for your infant.

Main Courses (Finger foods):

Pastas

Sandwiches cut into small squares

Chicken Nuggets

Omelets (Can mix with veggies, cut up spinach, etc.)

Hardboiled Eggs

Quesadillas cut into small squares (can include shredded carrots and meat)

Meat cut into small squares (Ham, turkey, meatballs, meatloaf, etc)

Fish

Sides

Cut up cheese

Steamed veggies

Berries and other fruit cut up (pears, cuties, mango, banana, etc.)

Dried cranberries

Cut up pieces of bread or bread sticks

Rice Cakes

Fruit/Veggie pouches (can be bought at store)

Yogurt

Apple sauce

cucumbers

Foods that makes it hard to self-feed:

Loose rice

Soups/Broth