



Toddler

18 Months to 3 Years Old



A Community-Based Approach to Learning

Nurturing. Purposeful. Inclusive. These are key principles in Montessori learning - a style founded by Dr. Maria Montessori in 1907.

Montessori schools are carefully planned to feel more like a home than an institution. This creates a stress-free, community-based approach to children's learning. Montessori schools use a trio of teachers: a mixed-age group of children, a hands-on environment, and an adult guide (or teacher). Each point of this educational triangle is crucial to the Montessori style.

The Montessori classroom community is structured developmentally. Children of mixed ages share the same space and are

encouraged to collaborate, rather than learn in single aged groupings. This inclusive, combined classroom setting provides rich opportunities for spontaneous learning.

Every child feels like a vital member of the diverse Montessori classroom, regardless of their age. The groupings, teachers, and settings stay consistent every day to create an environment where developing children can truly thrive

Community of Children

Many American public schools rely on an outdated and ineffective “assembly line” education model. At Winston Salem Montessori, we steer clear of standardized learning environments that look or feel like factories.

We feel that children learn best when involved in a mixed community of peers. Our curriculums are built around development needs and characteristics rather than grade level or age. This fosters independence and self-motivated growth in children - even for toddlers under the age of three.

Every child in the Montessori community is guided to learn, play, and make creative choices under the supervision of a highly trained teacher. This adult provides developmentally-appropriate activities that ensure every student feels successful, and a valued member of the classroom.



Toddler

18 Months to 3 Years Old

The first three years of life are full of transformational development and learning. As children learn to walk, climb, and communicate, the need to explore blossoms. They are driven by an irresistible urge to move, taste, and touch - and this helps them expand their physical and emotional worlds.

Tuition and Fees

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Submit an Inquiry



Montessori schools work to strengthen this intrinsic desire to explore. The goal is to provide a sheltered, supported environment in which young children can become increasingly independent.

When developing her educational approach, Dr. Montessori noted the innate drive in toddlers' learning activity. She wanted to create an environment and curriculum in which young children could safely work toward both physical and emotional independence.

One of Dr. Montessori's biggest adaptations for young children was her creation of "The Toddler Realm." Throughout her studies, the doctor noted children's frustrated attempts to use adult tools and furnishings. This led her to design real tools and child-sized furniture that made it possible for toddlers to "do house," not just "play house."

The Toddler Realm brings immense satisfaction and liberty to children ages three and under. They are able to learn chores, independence, and self-reliance in an entirely protected environment.

These activities play an integral role in the toddler's developmental cycle.

Additionally, the Montessori approach fosters a strong connection between toddlers and nature. Children are provided with multiple opportunities to spend time outside every day. Our Montessori classrooms are built with an outside patio that's an extension of the indoor learning space.

Our Montessori playground areas provide a world of sensorial opportunities. Children are encouraged to explore by smelling and touching beautiful native plants, flowers, and trees. We also provide a "loose parts" area with tree stumps, logs, and other natural materials that children can climb on, look under, and study.

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Montessori Teacher

Montessori teachers are not like conventional teachers. They are not just authority figures - they are observers, followers, and experienced guides. Their purpose is to bring wisdom and consideration to children's academic, social, and intellectual journeys.

Our teachers are highly skilled when it comes to guidance in a toddler's learning. They know how to make decisions based on the children's well-being while also facilitating active participation and independence.

In this "child-centered" Montessori teaching approach, the teacher plays an unobtrusive role in the classroom. The child is always an active participant in learning. The adult guide's focus is less on their tasks and more on what the student does.

By observing the children, teachers learn how to best motivate and help individual students. Learning styles differ from toddler to toddler, and this teaching style ensures every learning experience is personalized.



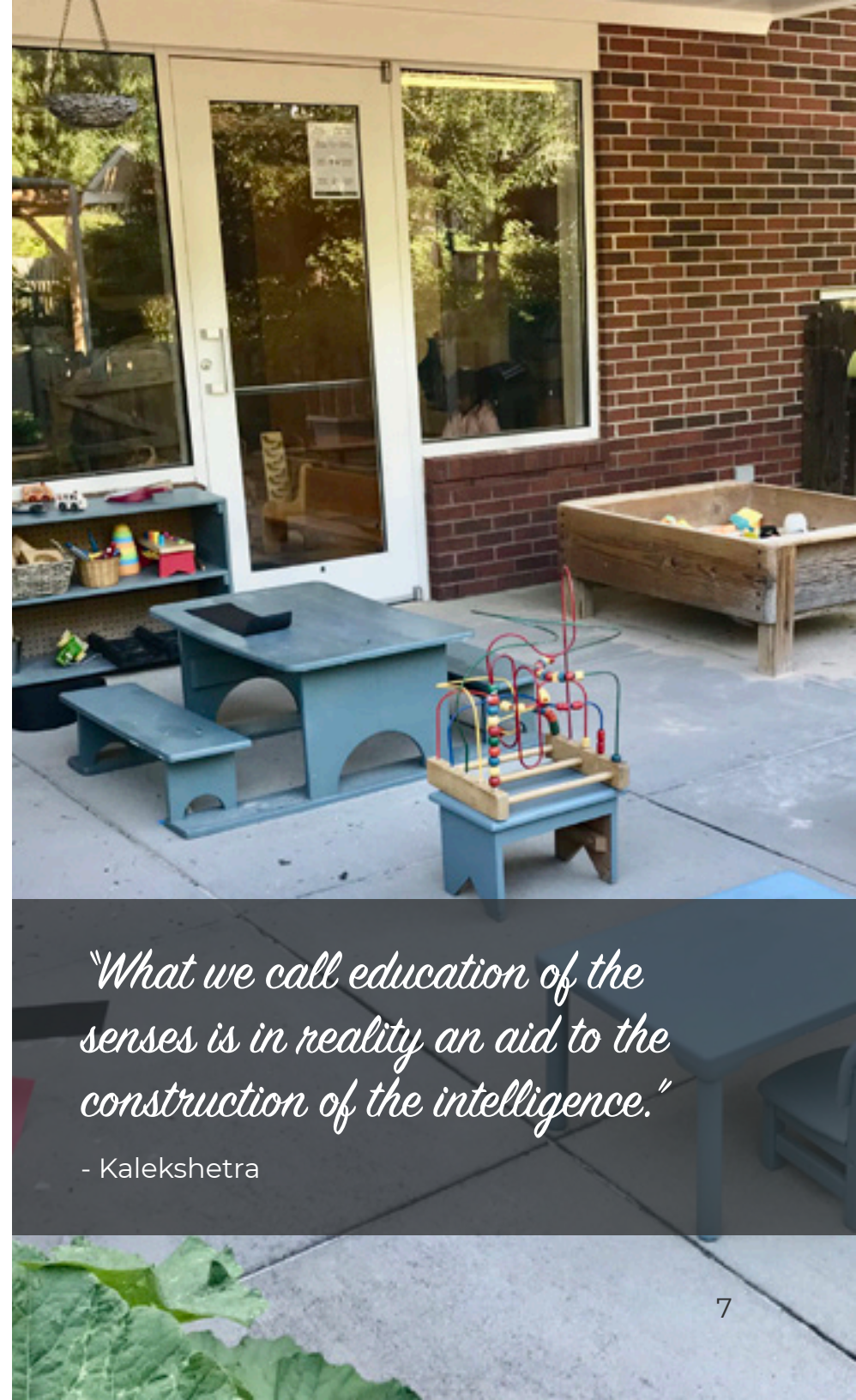
Prepared Environment

The Montessori learning environment is thoughtfully conceived and painstakingly prepared. The classrooms are sensibly customized - some might even say they rely on common sense more than standardized practices. The end goal is always effective simplicity.

At Winston-Salem Montessori School, we provide specially designed, concrete materials to engage children in their own learning. We want children to learn and understand by doing, not just watching. This fosters a toddler learning environment sparked by intrinsic motivation and enthusiasm.

In our classrooms, children feel comfortable. They relate to the size and order of the room, and they know it has everything they need. This contributes to a secure relationship between the toddler and their learning environment - a key element of the Montessori way.

wsmontessori.org/programs/toddler



"What we call education of the senses is in reality an aid to the construction of the intelligence."

- Kalekshetra

An Authentic Montessori School

A Montessori environment for toddlers gives them the freedom to safely explore and learn through discovery. The inviting, homelike setting includes soft rugs, a rocking chair, books on low shelves, and toys in accessible baskets. Colors are muted to create a peaceful and calm atmosphere. Every day, the space is organized, clean, and de-cluttered.



Philosophy

We believe a Montessori education is for life.



Psychology

Our methods are built upon a deep understanding of toddler development.



Method

We are responsive to children's individual needs and interests.



Philosophy

Dr. Montessori believed children were powerful. She saw them as the future of our society - and they are. That's why Montessori teaching focuses on creating students who are ready and willing to serve the world around them.

Parenting and education are arguably the biggest influences in our society. If we want to build a successful and harmonious future, our efforts must begin with the youngest members of our community.

Children are sponges. Their capacity for learning allows them to soak up educational concepts, as well as moral and philosophical convictions. By limiting their power to be themselves, we become an obstacle to their ability to learn in ways that no adult can.

Our Montessori schools embrace this youthful ability to learn and understand. Using modern brain research and Dr. Montessori's early theories, we build curriculums around the subconscious and perceptual learning of toddlers.

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"We often forget that the imagination is a force for the discovery of truth." - Kalekshetra



Psychology

The psychology of Montessori learning revolves around four stages of development, called “planes.” According to Dr. Montessori, the first and third stages are times of tremendous change, while the second and fourth are calmer.

These stages are also broken down into half stages. By understanding and targeting children’s “sub-planes,” Montessori schools are able to provide eight three-year spans of carefully assisted development. Groups consist of mixed-aged children in specific periods of development, not grade levels. This allows Montessori classrooms to meet the needs of every child - regardless of their age.



“If you want to build a ship, don't drum up the men to gather wood, divide the work, and give orders. Instead, teach them to yearn for the vast and endless sea.” - Antoine De Saint-Exupery



Method

There has been a quiet Montessori awakening in America over the last decade. Parents and teachers are beginning to understand how crucial active, developmentally based learning is - and we're seeing that concept in news publications, magazines, and educational speakers.

Dr. Montessori designed educational environments that produced outcomes based on spontaneous choices in a safe, practical environment. She trained teachers to create and adapt this environment in response to children's needs and learning styles.

We believe that education environments should be inspired by children - not the other way around. We cater all of our classrooms to individual development needs, as well as children's needs and interests. This allows children to naturally progress at their own rates while still participating in a social, welcoming community.





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