

**MONTESSORI CHILDREN'S CENTER
INFANT – TODDLER CURRICULUM**

PRACTICAL LIFE:

Practical life at this level basically allows the child's participation in caring for themselves and eating independently. Once the child is walking, their new interest is in accomplishing things with their hands.

As they reach about fifteen months, toddlers love to spend time with their hands in water. These young children enjoy activities, such as table washing, hand washing, dishwashing, sweeping and mopping.

FINE MOTOR SKILLS:

To assist young children in gaining control of their arms and hands, we provide mobiles, rattles, and objects to grasp and move. When spoon feeding a child of five to nine months of age, we allow the child to hold one spoon and the adult another, so they can make beginning attempts to feed themselves.

Because they are gaining coordination of their hands, toddlers enjoy fine-motor tasks, such as puzzles, spooning, pouring and stringing beads.

SENSORIAL DEVELOPMENT:

We provide bells, music, rattles, and the human voice for listening; mobiles and mirrors for visual stimulation, and varied textures for touching.

Toddlers are learning to discriminate sounds, colors, and textures. They especially enjoy the outdoors; sand, water, dirt, leaves, sounds of birds, wind, and raindrops. They also get pleasure from feeling the sun or wind on their skin.

LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT:

We provide language materials such as books, objects, and pictures for naming, but most important is that of the adult talking and listening to the child.

ART:

Toddlers enjoy basic creative work, for example, cutting paper, gluing, coloring with chalk and crayons, and painting with watercolors.

MUSIC:

We present music in several ways, singing in large groups, or with just one or two children, listening to music and singing along. Music need not be limited to a certain time of day.

Toddlers are learning language, so they are interested in the words, as well as, the melody. They are learning to control their movements, so they also enjoy simple finger plays and movements to music. Toddlers also have the opportunity to choose to listen to music on headphones.