



What Is A Montessori Toddler Program All About?

The Absorbent Mind

Maria Montessori described the young child's unconscious creative state as, "The Absorbent Mind." She compared the mind to a sponge because the child literally absorbs information from his environment. This quality allows the child to see the world using his five senses as tools. In the same way a two-year-old child absorbs his native language and reproduces it perfectly without ever being taught, the child in a Montessori environment is given the opportunity to have "hands on" experience with his world. The toddler is not interested in academic pursuits; what he is interested in is his world. In a Montessori toddler environment he is given the keys to its exploration through the materials offered to him. It is the real world that we give to him, because it is in the real world he is going to live.

The Prepared Environment

Rest and inactivity are foreign to the toddler's nature; something that every parent of a toddler knows first hand. The prepared toddler environment is a place where the very young child is able to act upon his natural energies and curiosity. We all know the toddler is in constant motion and

objects just seem to leap up into his hands. The toddler is encouraged to touch and handle and explore everything in his surroundings. His attention span is limited, so the prepared environment provides a wide variety of materials.

The child is given freedom in the indoor and the outdoor environments to select activities that satisfy his needs. We encourage this within appropriate limits.

We also encourage independence. The toddler wants to do things by himself. Unfortunately, in today's hurry-up pace, there is not always time or patience to allow the small child to complete the job at hand all by himself. The toddler prepared environment and program are designed to be convenient for the child. The prepared toddler environment is his place, a place to feel at ease and at home. It is our aim, as the aware adult, to remove the obstacles that frustrate the child by building furnishings to his size and having materials at his arm's reach and at his eye level.

The Aware Adult

Another difference in a Montessori toddler program is the teacher, or the aware adult. The Directress is not continually entertaining the children nor does the Directress consistently initiate activities. Instead the Directress is an aware observer of the children and their needs and prepares and maintains an appropriate environment and atmosphere. The Directress respects the child and guides him into purposeful activity. When the Directress is needed the Directress is there, but when the child can do it on his own, the Directress steps back.

Admissions Correspondence

Welsh Hills School
2610 Newark-Granville Road
Granville, Ohio 43023

v. 740-522-2020 f. 740-522-1500
866-266-4242 (toll free)
email: WelshHills@laca.org

General Admissions Process

- Parents visit, either by appointment or during an Open House (2nd Wednesday of the month October through April)
- Fill out the application and return with non-refundable fee.
- Acceptance decisions are made upon completion of the admissions process and availability of space.

General School Timeline

- February 15 - March 1
Re-enrollment of current students
- March 1 - March 15
New enrollment contracts will be issued to accepted students who have completed the admissions process
- March 15
New enrollment contracts are due with completed documentation. Welsh Hills continues to enroll throughout the school year as long as openings are available.
- On-going throughout the year
Open Houses, Parent Visits, Rolling Admissions

Welsh Hills School does not discriminate in recruitment, admissions, employment, or other matters on the basis of race, color, ethnic origins, sex or religion. Decisions are based on the availability of openings and other relevant information.



Welsh Hills School

Nurturing the child • Inspiring the mind

Montessori Toddler Program

"...the most important period of life is not the age of university studies but the first one, the period from birth to the age of six. For that is the time when Man's intelligence itself, his greatest implement, is being formed."

Maria Montessori





The Montessori curriculum looks at the toddler as a child between 18 months and 36 months. It is a period characterized by the need to explore everything, move and develop large motor coordination and strength. We believe at this age there is huge expansion into language. They develop a capacity to create symbols, images and concepts and become aware of him/herself as a separate and independent person.

The toddler classroom offers very young children a unique year or two of self development in a tender atmosphere of special understanding, respect, and support. It is unique in that the classroom provides a very specific structure which fulfills the social, physical, emotional, and psychological needs of each child.

Toddlers are given opportunities to work in the development of Language Skills, Art, Music, Sensorial, and Practical Life. Activities in the Practical Life area give children the chance to develop skills to care for themselves and their environment. Emphasis is placed on control of movement and grace and courtesy. Practical Life activities are simple and can be accomplished by each child. They offer repetitive cycle, which helps the child establish patterns of order and sequencing. Due to the fact that these are very real activities, each child becomes grounded in reality. Building the child's self-esteem is the ultimate goal and this is accomplished through repeated successes with these activities.

Through song and dance, and freedom of choice, toddlers have access to a variety of large muscle activities that offer them opportunities to jump, climb, balance, crawl, or skip. These exercises as well as creative art activities are offered for each child to choose. This freedom in a safe space is crucial to the toddler program. However, it is always tempered by two important limits that will be beneficial for a lifetime, respect for others and respect for the environment.



The Environment

The toddler needs a self-contained environment prepared just for him/her. They will learn to take care of all their own needs in their children's house. They need the facility to toilet train, prepare their own meals and snacks, hang up their own clothes and dress and undress themselves. They need a space for movement and a quieter space for manipulative, language and more concentration work.

Everything in the environment is proportionate to the child's size and is designed to be safe and aesthetically pleasing for children. The toddler classroom is simpler and slower paced than the early childhood (three to six year old) classroom.

Your Toddler's Day

Our goal is for your toddler to feel as comfortable as he/she would at home. The class size is small and inviting to make it feel like home. It is a place where children will achieve independence, social awareness, respect and develop their motor skills and language. Students are free to choose and move at their own pace. Under the direction of a teacher the students will be presented with different activities. Once they have a sense of inner mastery in the activity they will be encouraged to move to the next level of difficulty and extend their knowledge. Each day will include a work period where the children are encouraged to explore their environment. The Montessori materials are designed specifically for their developmental stage. These activities help to promote and refine large and small motor skills, and care of self skills such as toiletting, eating, dressing, and washing. The day will also include outside play time, and a snack and group activity time.



The Toddler Curriculum

At Welsh Hills School we have five main areas of curriculum and activity at the toddler level: Practical Life and daily living skills, Sensorial, Language Development, Movement, Art and Music.

In **Practical Life** children experience real life situations and activities promoting dressing and undressing, grooming and toilet learning, carrying things, cleaning and grace and courtesy.

Sensorial awareness is learning about dimensions, shapes, colors, tactile, auditory, taste and smell.

Language Development is the acquisition of the language connected to their observations and sense training. There are also stories and singing and talks and dialogues as well as special materials for more abstract vocabulary.

Movement is essential in a program like this. One of the major differences in a Montessori toddler class is that the children are free to move around at will, carrying heavy objects, walking the line, climbing and taking long walks outside.

Art and Music are approached from a skills based perspective and the children can freely choose cutting, gluing, painting, magic makers, or clay. We listen to music of all varieties to help children develop an ear for music as well as more formal instruction on rhymes, moving to music and practicing duplicating rhythms.

Tuition

Welsh Hills School provides small classroom environments. Admissions candidates and their families are encouraged to begin the admissions process early. If accepted, the signed enrollment contract along with the non-refundable deposit must be returned to the school by the date stated on the contract in order to ensure a space for the student.

When spaces are filled, additional names are placed in a waiting pool.

Application Fee (non refundable) \$35

The application fee is required before a candidate can be considered for admissions and is not applied toward tuition.

Tuition and Fees

Sessions	School Year Tuition
3 Morning limited openings 8:30 - 11:30 am (M,T,W) or (W,TH,F)	\$5,800
3 Full Days (up to 3:15)	\$6,300
5 Morning Class (M-F)	\$6,900
5 Full Days (up to 3:15)	\$8,000
Non-refundable deposit due with contract:	
Half Day	\$ 500
Full Day	\$1,000

Each child must supply their own diapering supplies. Contracts for enrollment are for the entire school year.

Payment Options

- Option I: Pay tuition in full by May 1
- Option II: Finance tuition through the school by:
 - 1) Paying the balance in three payments at a level of 40% on 6/1, 30% on 9/1 and 30% on 12/1. This has an 8% finance charge attached.
 - 2) Paying the balance over 10 equal payments via automatic deduction 6/1 through 3/1. This includes an 8% finance charge.

Extended Day

We also offer before (beginning at 7:30 am) and after care (up to 6:00 pm) programs at an additional charge. These programs can be contracted for or purchased in blocks. Please contact the Business Office at ext.10 for your particular needs.