THE TODDLER PROGRAM CARES FOR CHILDREN AGES 18 MONTHS THROUGH 3 YEARS OLD in a safe, beautiful, and enriched environment with one teacher for every five students. Highly skilled, trained teachers will guide your child through the comprehensive Montessori curriculum which addresses all aspects of development by nurturing the whole child, intellectually, physically, socially and emotionally. By providing young children with meaningful learning experiences, we help them understand their very important place in the world and lay the foundation for years of growth and learning to come.

**Toddler Program Details**
- Toddlers should be stable on their feet before they join us
- Toilet learning is part of the curriculum
- Students may attend 3, 4 or 5 days a week
  - Your options are:  
    - 3 DAYS: Monday/Tuesday/ Wednesday or Wednesday/Thursday/Friday
    - 4 DAYS: Monday/Tuesday/Thursday/Friday
    - 5 DAYS: Monday–Friday

**Toddler I Schedule**
8:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
- 8:30 Parent or caregiver drop off at classroom
- 8:30-10:15 Open work period, individual lessons and snack
- 10:15 Circle time
- 10:30-11:00 Outdoor play
- 11:00 Parent or caregiver pick up

**Toddler II Schedule**
12:00 p.m – 2:30 p.m.
- 12:00 Parent or caregiver drop off at classroom
- 12:00-1:45 Lunch, open work period & individual lessons
- 1:45 Circle time
- 2:00-2:30 Outdoor play
- 2:30 Parent or caregiver pick up

**Cultivating a Sense of Wonder and Joy**
A lifelong love of learning is a priceless gift. A student may know how to solve an equation or read an article, but if he or she feels only apathy and boredom, then all the skills learned in school are worth very little. At Woodland Hill we cultivate a sense of wonder and joy at an early age, and our children carry this passion for learning with them for a lifetime. We invite you to visit us so you may see firsthand how our program can inspire the innate abilities of your child. Please contact Kris Gernert-Dott at kgernertdott@woodlandhill.org or 518-283-5400 to learn more about our programs and to schedule a personal tour.
BUILDING COMMUNITY

The toddler program is designed to create a gentle transition from the child’s home to their first school experience. At Woodland Hill, the toddler classrooms are where our youngest children explore the world together. They work in a carefully-designed and prepared environment; together they learn much more than any of them could alone.

The Montessori classroom is a place of respect. Respect for the child, the teacher, the materials, and for each other. Everything is child-sized, from the custom-made tables and chairs to the shelves, vases, plates, utensils, and even the toilets. It is an environment that offers developmentally appropriate challenges. Children are encouraged to take on greater responsibilities for taking care of themselves and others and they eagerly do so.

THE TODDLER CURRICULUM

Because of what Dr. Maria Montessori termed “The Absorbent Mind,” children develop many language and motor skills without direct instruction, as long as their environment is rich with learning opportunities. The entire environment is designed to allow the children to explore and to develop concentration and coordination. The primary goal of the program is to create a nurturing and secure environment where young children can do what they do best — explore everything!

Practical Life

This area is particularly emphasized as the activities in this area give children the chance to develop skills to care for themselves and their environment in the following areas: control of movement, grace and courtesy. Practical life activities are simple and can be accomplished by each child. The focus is on helping the child attain and enjoy independence.

Work Period

Children may choose activities from the various areas of the classroom that include art, sensorial, language, puzzles, math, science, practical life and manipulatives. The building of a child’s vocabulary is a part of every aspect of the classroom from snack time to manipulating a toy to group activities. Within the classroom there is also the availability of blocks, water play and sand play. Gross motor equipment is also available to help develop the large muscles.

Music and Movement

Through song and dance and freedom of choice, the children have access to a variety of large muscle activities that offer them opportunities to jump, climb, balance, crawl, and skip. Along with the mind, both fine and gross motor skills develop rapidly from three months to three years. Attention to these needs supports balanced development.

Toileting

Since self-care and toilet learning are an integral part of our curriculum at this level, each child is offered the opportunity to use the toilet as needed. The children are encouraged to be active participants in diapering and toileting. Diapering in the toddler class (if needed) is done standing up so that they can fully take part in their own care.

Outdoor Play

The toddlers have their own play area specifically designed for toddlers. They transition to using the larger primary playground. Additionally, our 11 acre campus allows for frequent nature walks, visits to our peace garden and the vegetable garden.

Social and Emotional

A well-rounded and happy child, whose social and emotional development has been supported by responsive individual attention, reacts positively in the classroom environment, copes with frustration, and learns easily.

INDEPENDENCE

Young children have a drive towards independence — “Help me to do it by myself” is often said by children at Woodland Hill, and in the toddler classrooms this growth toward independence is remarkable to behold. Most children walk into the classroom for the first time and immediately want to take things from the shelves and use them. Curiosity is the first step toward becoming an active learner instead of a passive watcher. Young children gravitate toward activities that develop motor skills: running, carrying, climbing, swinging, grasping knobs, handling paintbrushes and petting animals. Gaining control of their own bodies ushers in new opportunities for control of self as well as the ability to dress, eat, and toilet independently.

Social skills are another area of challenge and growth for this age group. Children celebrate classmates’ birthdays and other special occasions, learn each other’s names and the names of people in their families, care for classroom pets and plants, and develop important skills of empathy and being part of a group.

The toddler program at Woodland Hill offer environments rich in opportunities for physical, sensorial, intellectual, and social learning. The classroom environment, the materials, and the culture of the toddler program is all carefully coordinated to offer children multiple opportunities to grow and mature at a time when both bodies and minds are developing at the swiftest pace in all of life.

“CHILDREN CAN DO MUCH MORE THAN WE EXPECT THEM TO.”

A young child’s brain is growing at a tremendous pace; just look at language development. Within six years, children develop from infancy to fluency in their native language. Both Dr. Montessori’s observations and modern brain imaging show that the young child’s brain is a source of enormous potential and promise, where neuronal pathways in regular use are reinforced. Each of those brain connections is a platform for future learning; we make sure children have as varied and stimulating an environment as possible in order to realize their full potential.