



Toddler Community Guidelines & Supply List 2025-26

***Please see the Family Handbook located in the Facts Family Portal
for a comprehensive list of all Guidelines.***

Welcome

We are eagerly anticipating the start of a new school year in the Toddler Community, and are so happy that you and your toddler will be joining us.

The toddler age is an unprecedented time of development and growth, and it is exciting for us as educators to nurture their natural desire to learn.

We strive to set your child up for successful physical, mental, social, and emotional growth, and look forward to collaborating with you. We are quickly approaching the new school year and appreciate your assistance to our Toddler Community in the following:

Routines at Home

A peaceful morning routine starts the night before. Consider how you can organize a methodical bedtime and morning ritual which allows your child opportunities to establish a sense of internal order. Ensure your child has plenty of rest.

One huge help can be picking out two outfits the night before. In the morning, they have the opportunity to pick which outfit they want. It is a great win-win, as your child feels respected for having a choice, and either choice is an appropriate one. You can also incorporate this idea of limited choices into other aspects of your daily routine.

Get a big head start- the best gift you can give a toddler is time. Allow time for the toddler's morning routine, which may include eating a nutritious breakfast, toileting, bathing, and dressing. Collaborate with your child in this process by allowing them to independently do as

much as possible. Nutrition can often have a large impact on the child's day and brain development, so do strive to avoid sugar, and provide a balanced breakfast.

In the car ride, you can help mentally prepare your child for the day by talking briefly about what he will do in the Toddler Community: he or she will work, sing, eat snack, play outside, have lunch, take a rest, and when you will reunite.

Daily Schedule / Arrival and Dismissal:

| | |
|-------------|--|
| 8:15-8:45 | Car Line Arrival |
| 8:45-10:30 | Work Cycle |
| 10:30 | Snack |
| 11:00 | Nature Walk/Indoor Music and Movement/Outdoor Activities |
| 11:45 | Half-Day Dismissal |
| 12:00-12:45 | Lunch |
| 12:45-2:45 | Nap |
| 3:00 | Afternoon Dismissal |

What to Bring, and What to Leave at Home

*All clothing, underwear, shoes, and outerwear must be labeled with your child's name. Refer to the **Family Handbook** for labeling ideas.*

A list will be emailed as a reminder when your child is in need of certain items. A good rule of thumb is to replace the items that came home for the next day.

- Bring to School:
 - **Comfortable Clothing:** Outfits should fit well, allow for full freedom of movement, and breathe well. We will also be working on undressing and dressing skills, so ensure the clothing is easy for your child to take on and off. Stretchy knit two-piece outfits with wide elastic waistbands are best. Clothing with fasteners (buttons, zippers, snaps) can become obstacles for children who are practicing independently dressing and undressing, and working on toileting. Clothing should be weather appropriate and because your child will be playing outside, participating in artistic expression, practical life activities, and working on toileting, consider dressing your child in clothing you do not mind getting messy. All wet/soiled/stained clothing will be sent home each day to be laundered. Your child's clothing supply will be kept in a labeled bin and a limited selection will be accessible for changing opportunities throughout the day.

- Please send in:
 - **3-5 Shirts**
 - **3-5 Pairs of pants**
 - **3-5 Pairs of Socks**
- **Cloth Underwear:** Our program encourages toileting for every child, so please ensure your child has **four to five pairs of clean underwear** at school daily. See the section below for more information on the Toddler Community toileting process. If your child is currently using diapers, please send in a supply of diapers. Please also send in a supply of wipes.
- **Shoes:** We will be changing in and out of indoor and outdoor shoes daily to provide opportunities for practicing dressing and undressing, and to help keep our environment clean. Look for shoes that do not require laces, are easy for your child to manage putting on and taking off, and with good traction of the soles. Both pairs of indoor and outdoor shoes should be a good fit, and comfortable for the child to move around in easily. If the weather is inclement, please include rain boots and snow boots so your child can enjoy the outdoors with us as much as possible. Your child will need:
 - **One pair of Indoor Shoes** to be kept at school (Close-toed slip on shoes with rubber soles)
 - **One pair of Velcro Sneakers** for Outdoor Use (these can be the shoes your child wears to and from school daily)
 - **One pair of Rain Boots or Snow Boots** as needed. If you have an extra pair of rainboots that can be kept at school this is often helpful as the weather is unpredictable on any given day.
- **Warm Weather Clothing:** We will be venturing outside year round, so please dress your child appropriately. In warm weather conditions, please provide close toed shoes, lightweight pants, and consider a **sun hat**. We will be taking nature walks and a hat can also help protect from ticks and other insects. A waterproof raincoat, pants, and rainboots allow comfort and an opportunity to experience those misty and drizzling days. As we will be spending more time outdoors, please apply **sunscreen** and **insect repellent** to your child before school, and send in a **labeled supply** so that we may re-apply during the day.
- **Cold Weather Clothing:** In cold weather conditions, please consider layering with a thermal, a middle layer for insulation, and a weather-proof outer shell. Please send in a winter hat and mittens when it gets cold, and snow pants and boots as needed.
- **2 Small Wet Bags:** These will be used to send home any wet clothing. [\(Example\)](#)
- **A Backpack:** Or any bag that will fit their daily needed items.

- **A snack container (labeled with your child's name)** to be used for their daily snack that can fit inside their backpack.
- **A bento box for lunches (labeled with your child's name)** if your child is enrolled in the full-day program (a large container with inside compartments). Ex. [Bento Box](#), [Bento Box Container](#), [Compartmented Container](#), [Bento Box with Insulated Thermos](#)
- **Leave at Home:**
 - Toys, money, empty lunch boxes, jewelry, purses, pacifiers, sippy cups, and gum.
- **Toddler Supplies Checklist:**

| | |
|---|--|
| 3-5 Pairs: Shirts, Pants, Socks, Cloth Underwear | Water Bottle (labeled with your child's name) |
| 1 Pair Indoor Shoes | Bento Style Lunch Container |
| 1 Pair Outdoor Shoes (worn to and from school daily) | Blanket (if Napping at school) |
| Weather Appropriate Outerwear (including sunscreen and bug-spray in labeled bottles for warmer weather days) | Family Picture for Cubby |
| Rain Boots, Snow Boots as needed | A Supply of Diapers and Wipes |
| 1 Backpack | 2 Wet Bags |

Toilet Learning: What You Can Expect

We offer the opportunity to work on toileting to every child as a regular part of our classroom schedule, but we do not force anything.

We start inviting the child early on, to ease them into becoming comfortable with the idea of the toilet being a regular part of their day. We also observe your child for any signs of readiness.

We use cloth underwear to help reinforce sensory feedback. Cloth helps them make the connection to the way their body feels just before they need to relieve themselves, and the wetness of their skin after. Cloth underwear also allows the child to easily change themselves. If your child is in the beginning stages of toileting, [thicker, cloth underwear](#) that is more absorbent can be helpful. During this process, sometimes children in the classroom choose to not wear pants over their underwear so it is easier for them to experience success.

We maintain a neutral attitude while we support your child in their process of toilet learning. If they do not make it to the toilet, we simply use it as an opportunity to start an undressing and dressing activity. Wet or soiled clothing will be sent home with your child in their wet bag or in a plastic bag if soiled..

Meals in the Classroom

We include food as an occasion of education in our community. We utilize this time to promote good nutrition, learn food preparation skills, practice using utensils, eating in a social setting and cleaning after a small meal. Our snack time also provides an opportunity to practice table manners which are an element of our Community we refer to as “Grace and Courtesy.”

Toddler Community Food Preparation

One of the most enjoyable parts of our daily routine is our Food Preparation Activities, in which children will have the opportunity to prepare and sample a variety of baked items, fruits or vegetables each day in our classroom. Starting on **9/8**, we will begin our *Snack Schedule* and ask the assigned family to bring the ingredients for our food preparation activities. Families will receive a small grocery list the Friday before your scheduled date. A Schedule and Food Allergy List for each class will be sent out closer to the start of School.

If your child has or develops any **food allergies**, please let us know so that we may adjust our menu accordingly. **All diagnosed allergies need to be reported to the office and specific protocols/forms must be followed and filled out.** We will also inform our families of any food items that may not be brought into the environment.

Snack Time:

- Parents will be asked to send in a labeled water bottle (preferably leak-proof with an easy access straw) that will be available to children throughout the day. A full set of utensils (porcelain plate, stainless steel cup, fork and spoon) will be provided for each child to practice using daily at our group snack.
- Please send in a **separately packaged snack (labeled with your child's name)** for your child each day. Children will also have the opportunity to taste an item, such as fresh baked whole grain biscuits, quesadilla or fruit/vegetable that the children will be preparing to be shared with the group.
- Parents of the Toddler Community are asked to provide ingredients for our Food Preparation Activities on a rotating basis. The dates for your snack contributions will be printed on the *Snack Schedule*. If you have a conflict with your dates, please let us know so that other arrangements may be made. An itemized list of requested groceries will be provided to you the week before your scheduled date.

Lunch (Applicable only to Toddlers staying for afternoon):

- Lunch is enjoyed together in our classroom. Children who stay for lunch should bring a **nutritious meal in a bento box or larger container with individual compartments, as well as needed utensils.** All lunches will be stored in the refrigerator. Food for lunches should be proportioned to your child's appetite and prepared in the manner that your child is able to eat independently and safely.

Napping

After lunch, we prepare for a period of rest. Individual mats and sheets will be provided but please send **a small blanket or bedroll**. All bedding will be sent home to be laundered at the end of the week and will need to be returned the following Monday. All children rest between 12:30 and 2:45PM, and helping your child adjust to this schedule before the start of the school year can help ensure that they are able to get adequate rest at school.

If your child has a strong attachment to a particular stuffed animal or blanket, you may send it in initially to be used to provide comfort at naptime as they adjust to sleeping in an unfamiliar setting.

As the Montessori Philosophy **discourages use of pacifiers and bottles** for the toddler aged child, **these items must be left at home**. When deciding whether the half-day or full-day program is right for your child, please take into consideration their dependency on these objects to self-soothe, as any extra stress at this time of day can have a negative impact on their adjustment to school as a whole.

Your child is most likely ready for the full-day program when they have completed the weaning process and have learned other self-soothing strategies so that they are able to get adequate rest and meet their sleep needs. We are happy to answer any questions and provide information or helpful tips to support the weaning transition when you and your child are ready. It is in your child's best interest to allow them to complete this process before beginning school to avoid too many transitions occurring at the same time.

Birthdays

Birthday celebrations provide a chance to honor the growth of each child in our community. We keep it very simple by singing to the child at the beginning of snack and offering them a turn to snuff out our candle on their special day. A photograph of your child at birth and each half-year interval; 6 months, one year, 18 months, etc., would be lovely to display in the community.

Illness

Please see TMS Family Handbook for a comprehensive list of all Guidelines.

In the interest of each child's health, please keep your child home if he or she shows signs of illness, fever, vomiting, diarrhea, persistent cough, fatigue or infected mucus from the nose.

Children with a fever will need to stay home until fever free without medication and at a minimum of 24 hours from fever onset. Your child should remain at home until they are well enough to function normally in class and participate in outdoor recreation. Serious or prolonged illnesses should be reported to us as well as any absence from school. Please refer to the TMS **Family Handbook** for more details.

Communication

We welcome communication with parents and guardians, and will do our utmost to provide you with frequent communication about your child's adjustment to our program as well as his or her steady progress. Do not hesitate to discuss any concerns you may have about your child. You may reach us by email and we will respond within 24 hours if not sooner. If there is an absence, or change in transportation/regular arrival and dismissal routine, please communicate this to us **and** the office as soon as possible. We appreciate open communication in order to best serve your child.

The Toddler Community Staff

Cindy Robinson, Toddler Guide (crobinson@themontessorischool.us)

Julia Robinson, Toddler Guide (jrobinson@themontessorischool.us)

Maya Washington, Toddler Assistant

Gabby White-Howard, Toddler Assistant

Jenna Carp, Toddler Assistant