



Tour of a Montessori Toddler Environment

The Sun Room – Jennifer A. Yost

The Garden Room – Carla Turpin

- ❖ Toddler classrooms are designed for children ages 18-36 months old.
- ❖ Each classroom has easy access to the outside environment.
- ❖ Observation windows provide the opportunity where you can watch the activity of the classroom without disturbing the concentration of the children. Once you step into the room, the focus of the child changes (stranger anxiety may set in or the focus becomes the visitor, not the child's work).
- ❖ Toddlers learn to trust adults through a "homelike" environment that is nurturing, safe, vital, and full of beauty for order balance, harmony and respect which leads to peace.
- ❖ Each classroom has a bathroom with a low sink for hand washing, a low toilet, diaper cubbies, steps with a safety railing so the children are able to assist in the diapering and potty training process independently along with practicing self care skills.
- ❖ The focus of the toddler is to develop in the areas of *Movement*, *Language*, and *Order*. In order to meet these needs, the classrooms are designed with the following areas:
 - Movement – Both fine and large movement puts the child in contact with his environment through exploration and discovery, imitation, and independence. There is a Large Motor Area where children can run, jump, balance, throw and catch all in a safe place. Fine motor skills are honed in many areas of the classroom such as the **manipulatives, math, practical life** and **sensorial** areas. The activities are so "hands on" they let children get significant practice at refining their new found skills which prepares their hands for future writing.
 - Sensorial – Using the senses develops awareness of different qualities of objects appealing to needs of observing, touching, tasting, smelling and listening.
 - Practical Life – Practical life teaches children purposeful movement with visible results (sweeping, dusting, transferring, spooning, water activities, etc). We use real life items to encourage students to build skills in caring for themselves, caring for the environment, food preparation and serving, and grace and courtesy. Children delight in preparing and serving themselves snack at a table with their friends as they practice practical life skills.
 - Art – Art helps children develop self expression through creativity such as stickers, paint, glue, play dough, water colors.
 - Language – In an inviting area through books, puzzles, and conversations with others, children learn to communicate needs and feelings through verbal communication. They learn to speak clearly, use words that have proper meaning, speak distinctly, and label objects and people in their world.

Canton Montessori School
125 15th St NW
Canton OH 44703
Phone: 330-452-0148 Fax: 330-452-4721