



It is our pleasure to welcome you to the Toddler environment. Your child is entering one of the most exciting times of life. Our goals are to provide an interesting, safe, enriching environment where your child can explore, develop, change, and create, and to provide support for parents of toddler-aged children.

To help answer some questions you may have, please read through the information below. Please keep this handbook available for reference throughout the year.

WELCOME!

Jennifer A. Yost and Carla Turpin

Before Arrival

Sunscreen will need to be applied before arriving at school through May - September. Sunscreen will only be applied to students in the aftercare program during this time.

Attendance

The Toddler program is open from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Half day toddlers will attend school from 9:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. To truly experience the benefits of Montessori, it is imperative that your child arrives on time and is able to participate in the full work cycle. Late arrivals are a distraction to students that are engaged in their work. As such, **we expect all children to arrive by 9:00 am.**

Please call the school office by 9:00 a.m. if your child will not be in school on a day he/she normally attends. Please be prompt for arrival and dismissal as charges may apply.

Days that the school will be closed are marked on the school calendar. Please note these days in advance and make alternative plans for your child. School closings for weather are announced on Fox 8, Facebook and via parent broadcast. You may receive a call from the parent broadcast system regarding other important information

as well. Please refer to the CMS Parent Handbook for further information regarding school closings.

Birthdays

Most children enjoy sharing a snack with their friends at school to celebrate this special day. Parents are welcome to provide a special birthday snack and will celebrate your child's special day during circle as well. **Due to dietary concerns we do prohibit the use of tree nuts, peanuts or peanut products.**

Meals and Snacks

Since children at this age need to eat approximately every two - three hours, we will serve a morning and afternoon snack. Children staying until 5 or 6 will be offered an additional snack.

7:00 – 7:45 a.m. Breakfast

Children are encouraged to share a breakfast at home with family; however, they may bring a simple, nutritious breakfast to school. Finger foods like fresh fruit or a piece of toast work best. Please pack your child's breakfast in a bag or lunch box.

10 - 10:30 AM Snacks

Nutritious snacks will be served between 10 and 10:30 AM and students will eat together as a group. Once a month you will be asked to provide a snack for the classroom. Snack calendars will be posted outside your child's room and online every month. **Due to food allergies, please provide the snack as requested or consult with your directress regarding a substitute.** Disposable food trays and cups will be used. Students will wash before and after.

11:45 - 12:00PM Lunch

The school lunch program is available to children who are enrolled all day. As an alternative, your child may bring a packed lunch, **which should include a drink.** Please do not send items that may cause a choking hazard such as uncut dogs, popcorn with the hulls, or whole grapes. Uneaten food will be sent home only if requested. Daily notes are provided that let you know how your child ate at school.

3:00 – 3:15 p.m. Snack

Nutritious snacks will be served at this time. Disposable food trays and cups will be used and students will wash before and after.

Due to severe allergies, CMS is a TREE NUT, PEANUT AND PEANUT PRODUCT free environment

Clothing

Independent self-care is an extremely important aspect of your child's growth and development at this age. Toddler want to do everything possible, without help, or to at least try by themselves. Your child will be helped to change his/her diaper and learn to dress independently. Please dress your child in simple, sturdy, washable play clothes, which your child can manage on his/her own. We suggest elastic waist pants and pull over or simple shirts. Children will be required to change shoes when they – please see below for details. We will go outside regularly when the weather permits. When purchasing winter gear such as boots, snow pants, coats, and mittens, it is very helpful to take your child with you to see if these items can be easily managed independently. Please remove drawstrings from coats, raincoats, and jackets to prevent possible injury. **Please put your child's name on all clothing.**

Supply List

One package of diapers

Sensitive or unscented baby wipes

Diaper cream if needed (a form is required)

Small plastic cup (no sippy lids) – **new students only**

3 extra changes of clothing: shirts, pants, socks

One extra pair of shoes and pair of slippers for indoors

Plastic container for extra clothing

Backpack or bag to carry information and work to and from school

During winter months: hat, gloves or mittens, snow suit and snow boots

Crocs or Croc style shoes: Crocs are easily sanitized and therefore will be worn during the school day. They can also serve as water shoes. Staff will disinfect daily and as needed. Please look for a style that your child can easily put on by his/herself.

A blanket and optionally a pillow with a **removable** case. You may also send a pacifier if your child uses one. Stuffed animals will not be used. Blankets and, if used, pillowcases will be sent home weekly for washing

Large towel or small rug: Communal rugs will not be available at this time. Students will need to bring a rug/towel from home to use for work. Minimal pattern and a light color is strongly preferred. These will be stored in the child's cubby and be sent home weekly to be washed.

Sunscreen: a bottle of sunscreen, spray is strongly preferred, for your child if he/she will be staying for aftercare. Staff will wear gloves when applying and change in between each student.

Illness

Your child will experience mild illnesses as he/she continues to build immunity. Most illnesses are mild and viral in nature. The staff is very conscientious about hygiene and environmental cleanliness. However, most illnesses spread before any real symptoms appear. These illnesses come from germs and viruses caught from other people, not from being too hot, too cold, or exposure to the elements from daily outside play.

Due to Covid-19, in the event that a child becomes ill while at school, they will be immediately isolated in the office wing. Office staff will pick up the child from his/her environment and escort them to the office wing. You will be called to come take your home. It is helpful to arrange in advance for an alternative adult who can be contacted to come for your ill child in the event that you are not available. Staff will be masked.

Masks

ODH recommended best practice is, “workers should wear a cloth face covering unless it is unsafe for them to do so”. CMS staff will wear a mask whenever possible in their room and always when outside the classroom including the playground.

