



Toddler Programme Curriculum at Montessori School of Cayman

The Toddler Programme at the Montessori School of Cayman provides a warm, inviting, and purposeful environment designed to nurture children's developmental milestones. At this stage, children are at a critical point in their growth, and our curriculum aims to support their emerging independence, creativity, and social development. While we adhere to the Montessori philosophy, our programme is also closely linked with the Cayman Islands Early Childhood Curriculum Framework (CIEYCF), ensuring that it aligns with local educational standards and provides a well-rounded, developmentally appropriate learning experience. This integration of Montessori principles and the CIEYCF ensures that our children thrive in a curriculum that supports the whole child, fostering their cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development.

Areas of Development and Activities

Practical Life

Goal: Practical Life activities help toddlers develop independence, concentration, coordination, and a sense of responsibility as they learn everyday tasks.

Activities:

- **Preliminary Activities:** Simple tasks like pouring, spooning, and transferring objects develop fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination. These activities encourage children to focus and work at their own pace.
- **Care of the Self and Environment:** Toddlers practice self-care activities such as washing their hands, brushing their teeth, and dressing. Caring for their environment through dusting, sweeping, and watering plants helps them understand their role in the community.
- **Grace and Courtesy:** Social lessons such as saying "please" and "thank you," taking turns, and using kind words teach respect and courtesy towards others.
- **Control of Movement:** Activities like pouring water from one container to another or using tongs to pick up objects help toddlers refine their hand movements and improve coordination.

These activities foster self-discipline, independence, and concentration, encouraging toddlers to take responsibility for themselves and their surroundings, thus contributing to their overall development.

Sensorial

Goal: Sensorial activities help toddlers refine their senses, develop cognitive skills, and gain a deeper understanding of the world around them.

Activities:

- **Sound Boxes:** Toddlers explore a variety of sounds by shaking boxes containing different materials. This enhances auditory discrimination and focus.
- **Texture Matching:** Children engage in activities where they match objects of similar texture, such as rough and smooth. This helps to develop tactile sensitivity and understanding of different materials.
- **Color Tablets and Shape Sorting:** By matching and sorting shapes and colors, toddlers develop visual discrimination and learn to classify objects based on their properties.
- **Grading Activities:** Toddlers grade objects from light to dark or large to small, promoting an understanding of size, weight, and temperature.
- **Pink Tower:** The Pink Tower is a key Montessori material that helps toddlers develop visual discrimination of size and build hand-eye coordination. The tower consists of ten pink cubes, ranging from large to small, which children arrange in a stack. This activity encourages children to refine their understanding of size relationships, spatial awareness, and order. As they work with the Pink Tower, children practice fine motor control and develop concentration.

The sensorial materials encourage children to explore their environment and categorise the world around them in a more meaningful way. These experiences help fine-tune their senses and support their intellectual growth, while the Pink Tower offers a tactile way for toddlers to engage with mathematical concepts in a concrete manner.

Language

Goal: The Language area promotes early communication skills, expanding vocabulary and fostering an understanding of spoken and written language.

Activities:

- **Storytelling and Picture Books:** Story time and looking at picture books help expand vocabulary and listening skills while sparking imagination and understanding.
- **Object Naming:** Toddlers are encouraged to name objects around them, which supports language acquisition and object recognition.
- **Songs, Rhymes, and Poems:** Daily singing, rhyming, and engaging with poetry help toddlers develop phonemic awareness and memory.

- **Sandpaper Letters:** Introducing tactile materials like sandpaper letters helps children connect sounds to symbols, laying the foundation for reading and writing.

Through everyday interactions, storytelling, and interactive lessons, children in our Toddler Programme develop strong language skills and a love for communication.

Numeracy

Goal: Numeracy skills are introduced in a concrete and playful way, allowing toddlers to explore and understand basic mathematical concepts.

Activities:

- **Counting and Number Recognition:** Children practice counting objects and identifying numbers, which helps build a foundation for mathematical thinking.
- **Quantity and Size Sorting:** Toddlers explore concepts of more and less by sorting objects of varying size or quantity, reinforcing their understanding of numbers in a tangible way.
- **Shape Sorting:** Sorting by shapes helps children to classify objects and begin to understand geometric concepts.
- **Songs and Rhymes:** Counting songs and rhythmic games are part of the daily routine, promoting number recognition and sequence understanding.

By allowing toddlers to manipulate objects and explore basic concepts of quantity and number, we lay the groundwork for more complex mathematical thinking later on.

Arts and Crafts

Goal: The Arts and Crafts area fosters creativity, fine motor skills, and emotional expression through open-ended artistic activities.

Activities:

- **Drawing, Painting, and Collage:** Toddlers engage with various mediums, such as crayons, paints, and collage materials, to express themselves creatively. The focus is on the process, not the final product, allowing children to explore their imaginations.
- **Playdough and Clay:** Working with playdough or clay helps children refine hand muscles and encourages tactile exploration.
- **Cutting and Gluing:** Simple activities like cutting paper and gluing pieces together promote coordination and fine motor control.

These activities help children explore their emotions, develop creativity, and refine their motor skills, giving them a sense of accomplishment and joy in the creative process.

Music and Dance

Goal: The Music and Dance programme enhances auditory discrimination, rhythm, and coordination while fostering a love for music and movement.

Activities:

- **Singing Songs and Rhymes:** Weekly music classes involve singing familiar songs, rhymes, and engaging with simple instruments to develop rhythm and listening skills.
- **Movement and Dance:** Toddlers explore movement through dance, following rhythms, and using body coordination in creative ways.
- **Instrument Exploration:** Children explore different instruments, learning how to produce sounds and engage in musical play.

Music activities encourage children to listen attentively, move to rhythms, and experience music in a joyful and engaging way.

Alignment with the Cayman Islands Early Childhood Curriculum Framework (CIEYCF)

Our Toddler Programme is thoughtfully designed to integrate the principles of the Montessori method with the Cayman Islands Early Childhood Curriculum Framework (CIEYCF). The CIEYCF emphasizes the importance of responsive caregiving, quality interactions, and the development of four key areas: Exploration, Respect, Communication, and Well-Being. By aligning with these principles, we ensure that our curriculum supports the whole child—emotionally, socially, cognitively, and physically.

The Montessori approach provides a rich, structured environment where children can explore, learn, and grow at their own pace, while the CIEYCF ensures that these experiences are developmentally appropriate, culturally relevant, and rooted in the local context. This integration offers children a comprehensive early learning experience that sets the foundation for lifelong learning.

The outcomes of our Toddler Programme are reflected in the learning objectives for each Montessori activity. These objectives are detailed in our Transparent Classroom app, allowing parents to track their child's progress and understand the specific goals and milestones of their early education journey.

This curriculum is designed to support and challenge toddlers as they explore their world, fostering curiosity, independence, and a love of learning that will stay with them throughout their educational journey.

Various themes that will be explored by our Toddler students over this school year:

- All About Me
- Feelings & Emotions
- Halloween & Harvest
- Colours
- Shapes
- Transportation
- Christmas
- Celebrating where we are from
- Easter
- Animals
- Plants & Seeds
- Seasons
- Fruit and Vegetables
- Under the Sea
- Being Kind to our Earth (reduce, reuse, recycle)
- Sports