



Alcuin Montessori School

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Alcuin Montessori School Toddler Curriculum

Gross Motor

The toddler experiences a biological necessity to move. The rapidly developing bones, muscles and nerves demand exercise. Gross motor control and large muscle movement are an integral part of the Toddler Program at Alcuin Montessori. We have activities designed to aid your child in developing their gross motor skills, such as the painting easel and many of the water works. Other activities we do to aid in the development of gross motor skills are outside play with balls, parachute play, scarf dancing, sliding, climbing the igloo tower on the playground and tunnel crawling.

Fine Motor

Fine motor skills are important to develop because they aid in developing the muscles that are later used for writing. We explore fine motor through pouring activities within the classroom environment. The chips in slots and the rings on the post work and many of the self-help activities help develop fine motor skills. Some things are done from left to right to indirectly prepare the eyes for reading later.

Practical Life

Practical life skills are particularly emphasized; as the activities in this area can give the children the chance to develop the skills in order for them to take care of themselves and their environment. These skills are developed in two ways: control of movement and grace and courtesy. Practical life offers a repetitive cycle, which helps the child establish patterns of order and sequencing. Practical life exercises use familiar objects drawn from experiences in the home. Toddlers learn to care for themselves through self-care activities such as: managing a coat, washing hands, toilet learning, dressing and undressing, nose blowing, etc. Toddlers also learn care of the environment which includes activities such as: sweeping and cleaning tables, dusting shelves and watering plants. Food preparations skills include proper use of knives for slicing fruits or vegetables, pouring and spooning, using tongs, serving oneself and clearing one's place setting after a meal.

Sensorial

The five senses have been called a child's "key to the universe," because everything the child takes in from their environment comes through their senses. Concrete exposure to experiences through the five senses is a fundamental step toward learning. The more developed and refined one's senses become, the smoother the progression from the concrete to the abstract of learning

will become, for the child. The child constantly uses their senses to learn, and within the Montessori Method, we work to refine the senses and to give order to what the child experiences. Some of the materials we use are: nesting squares and nesting circle, which introduces the child to graduation by size; biggest to smallest. We use cylinder blocks that highlight big and small, thick and thin. We also use geometric solids and explore different textures in art. The food preparation and snack time provide rich sensorial experiences for the child to learn sweet, sour, warm and cold.

Language

Language activities in the toddler room are the foundation established in the first two years of life. We have lots of singing, finger plays, stories and “conversation time”; these make language learning fun. Since the toddler years are a sensitive period for language, we emphasize its importance in the classroom by verbalizing to the toddlers the names of objects around them. We have language materials that include replicas to learn nomenclature, matching cards and replicas and just language cards. The toddler environment includes plenty of sorting and ordering. The toddler also builds language skills by learning different shapes, colors, animals, fruits and vegetables, parts of the body, etc.

Social Development

Social development is encouraged through planned group activities such as line/circle time, community snack, and collaboration

Art

Art is open-ended and focused on the process rather than the end product.

Math

We learn numbers 1-10 through counting songs as well as one on one correspondence during table setting during snack time. Also, by using the sensorial materials, the toddlers internalize the concepts such as big and small, thick and thin. We have very simple materials that have an inherent control of error with numerals and objects to count.

Science

Science activities vary within the seasons and include identifying different plants, shells, animals, etc., and by matching pictures and looking at related books. We also learn about magnetic and non-magnetic. The language works overlap as children learn the different names for various types of birds, dogs, whales, etc.

Free Play

For free play, the children are given open-ended materials during the work cycle such as Legos, bristle blocks, play telephones, animal models, vehicles, kitchen gadgets and dollhouse furnishings, which allow for some dramatic play.