

Montessori Center of Downriver - March Newsletter

The Transition to Preschool: When Is Your Toddler Ready?

Toddlers are famous for their struggles with transitions: That's why they melt down when it's time to stop playing and start the bedtime routine, and it's why tools such as timers and 5-minute warnings are so useful. It's also why you may be concerned about your child moving from a toddler program into a preschool program. But don't fear! We are experts at helping children move smoothly into our preschool program, and we can also help you know when it's time to make the change.

Signs of Readiness

Before we move a child from our toddler program into our preschool program, there are a few things our teachers monitor for:

First, the child must be completely toilet trained. This means that the child must be able to urinate and have a bowel movement in the toilet and attempt to wipe their own bottom. The child must be able to ask to use the bathroom (or be able to go on their own), and they should be able to pull their pants up and down on their own. The preschool classrooms have stalls, so children will have more autonomy over their bodies. Teachers will only enter the stall if a child requests assistance.

Second, our teachers will look to see if a child shows social and emotional maturity. These can include working well with others, communicating effectively, staying on task, developing grace and courtesy toward others, and connecting with peers. They also involve developing self-awareness and emotional control. We don't expect children to have mastered all these skills, but our teachers do look to see how they are developing.

Finally, children must be at least 33 months of age before they can transition to preschool.

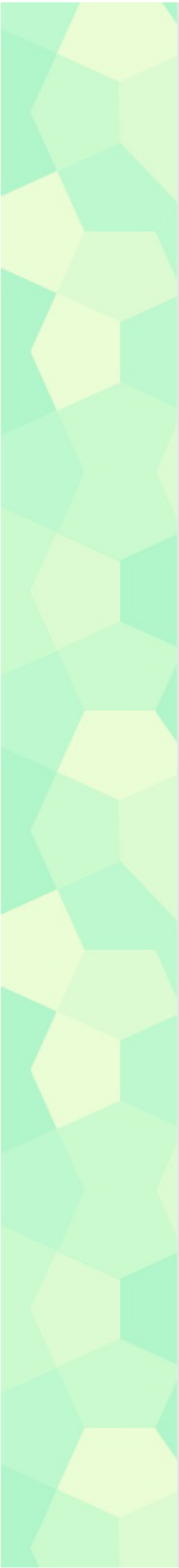
What You Can Expect In Our Preschool Program

Many things will stay the same when your child transitions to preschool: They will still be with highly trained and loving teachers, and they'll still be receiving an authentic and high quality Montessori education. That said, there are some differences in the preschool program, aside from it being more challenging.

The ratio of caregivers to children is 1:4 in the toddler rooms and is closer to 1:10 in the preschool rooms. This means that children will not get quite as much individualized attention, and so children will work on becoming more independent. They will need to learn to communicate their needs effectively as teachers have more children they need to care for.

Children will also need to work on being self-directed and able to make choices as free-choice work-time is for a full two hours. Our preschool rooms are also larger and contain many more materials available on the shelves.

Ways to Ease the Transition



Our caring teachers will work hard to make the transition to preschool as smooth and painless as they can. We are incredibly responsive and sensitive to children's emotional needs and will, of course, meet children where they are. Prior to the end of their last toddler year, our toddler and preschool teachers will work together to acclimate them to their new room. This will involve the preschool teacher visiting the child in the toddler room, and the child visiting the preschool teacher in their room.

You can help ease the transition too. Be sure to talk with your child about how they will be joining a new class and what that means for them. You can read books about starting preschool or about having a new teacher. If your child likes, try some role playing—you be the new student who is nervous and have them be the new teacher, and then you can switch roles. Let them direct you in what to do or say if they want. This will help them work through any worries or concerns they have.

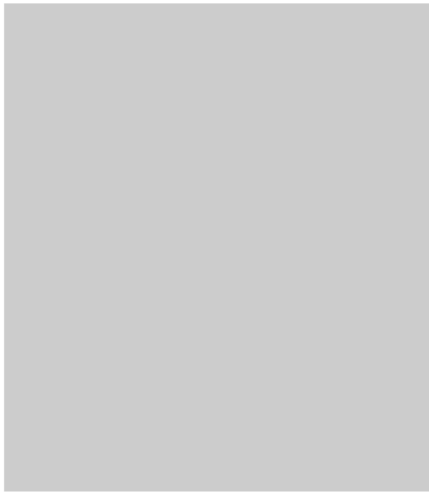
Another thing you can do to help with the transition is have children attend even just one month in the summer if possible. This will give them a chance to get to know their new teachers and classmates in a slightly more relaxed environment with lots of outdoor play and summer fun. When the fall program begins, they will be ready for and comfortable with the change!

Still Have Questions?

The transition to preschool is a big change for both your child and you! If you'd like to talk with us more about it, we're happy to help. Send us a message or give us a call anytime.

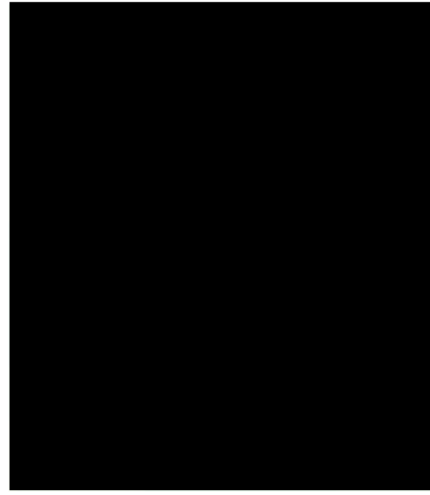
In the Classroom





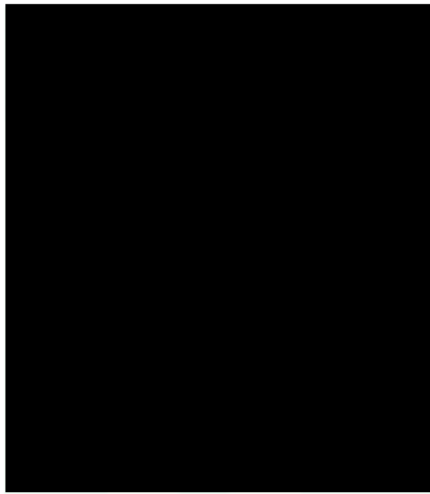
Mrs. Ashley's Class

"No guide, no teacher can divine the intimate needs of each pupil and the time of maturation necessary to each; but only leave the child free and all this will be revealed to us under the guidance of nature" (Maria Montessori). We as teachers will never deviate from a child's natural path. We are here to be supportive and place obstacles in their way purposely so they are able to reach their highest potential. When it comes to dressing/undressing, we give the child ample opportunity to practice independently. Only when our help is asked do we step in. We may loosen up a shoe or undo a button, but we always allow the child to do it for himself first, raising the most self-sufficient children!



Mrs. Stephanie and Mrs. Dona's Class

In March, Mrs. Dona and Mrs. Stephanie's class will be studying Michigan, including Michigan plants and animals, popular places in Michigan, and state symbols. They'll also be learning about water safety (such as using a life jacket), kinds of fish, types of fishing, and using a fishing pole. And they'll be exploring St. Patrick's Day.



Ms Mandi and Ms Donnette's Class

Ms Donnette and Ms Mandi's class will be continuing their study of self care and care of the environment. They'll also be learning about springtime, including baby animals and animals coming out of hibernation.

Mrs. Melissa's Class

In March, Mrs. Melissa's class will be learning about land animals and habitats.

Dates to Remember

March 24-28: Spring Break

March 31: School reopens

Local Events and Resources

St. Patrick's Day – Candy Bar Bingo

March 15th

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Brownstown Event Center

This is an all-ages event! Children need to be supervised by an adult 18 or older.

Entry Fee is 1 candy bar per player. Needs to be at least regular size. (Not snack size)

No need to sign up ahead of time! Bingo prizes will be Candy Bars! Don't forget to wear your green in honor of St Patrick's Day!

Detroit St. Patrick's Parade

March 16th

1-4pm

Downtown Detroit

This year's theme is: Detroit Irish: A charitable legacy of friendship, loyalty, and love.

We have the honor of having Joan O'Halloran as our 2025 Grand Marshal!

The parade typically attracts 80,000-100,000 people, making it one of the largest St. Patrick's parades in the country and it features floats, marching bands, color guard units and more.

The Detroit St. Patrick's Parade has brought together people of all cultures and nationalities in metro Detroit to celebrate Irish culture and make lasting memories. The parade is a great time to celebrate Corktown, Detroit and the positive momentum in the Corktown area.

Wyandotte Library

Make Time For Play

March 25, 10-11:30am

The storytime room will be changed into a playgroup space featuring multiple play and learn stations for children to circulate through. The stations will include dramatic play, large and small motor play, sand table, and a rotating monthly themed station. Families are welcome to come and go throughout the morning.

National Craft Month

Tuesdays

Head to the Makerspace this month for a delightful mix of Shenanigans, shamrocks, and crafts!

Every Tuesday, Ms. Joann will introduce a brand new craft for you to enjoy.

Dearborn Library

LEGO® Club at Esper Branch Library (Ages 4+)

Saturdays, 11:30am - 3:30pm

Get building with our bricks. Young children will need adult supervision for safety. No registration needed.

Spring Dance Party

Bryant Branch Library

March 26, 2025, 2:00pm - 3:00pm

Bryant Branch Get Crafty

March 27, 2025, 11:00am - 5:00pm

Drop in for a new craft each Thursday. Available while supplies last. Younger children may need adult assistance. No registration.

Puppet Show

Henry Ford Centennial Library

March 29, 2025, 2:00pm - 3:00pm

Laugh along with Oliver, Alex Thomas & Friends. No registration but space may be limited in the Auditorium. No food or drink, please.

Detroit Institute of Arts

Drop-in art workshop is free with general admission. General museum admission is FREE for residents of Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb counties.

Drop-in Workshop: Accordion Books

Friday, Mar 7, 2025

6 – 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, Mar 8, 2025

12 – 4 p.m.

Sunday, Mar 9, 2025

12 – 4 p.m.

The accordion book is one of the most versatile and easiest to make. Create your own and decorate it with markers, ribbon, and beads.

Drop-in Workshop: Mobiles

Attend:

Friday, Mar 14, 2025

6 – 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, Mar 15, 2025

12 – 4 p.m.

Sunday, Mar 16, 2025

12 – 4 p.m.

Create a simple mobile with yarn, lightweight colorful board, and markers. The parts will gently move with air currents, creating graceful motion. Explore the art of mobiles while designing your own unique piece!

Drop-in Workshop: Tongue Depressor Puppets

Friday, Mar 21, 2025

6 – 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, Mar 22, 2025

12 – 4 p.m.

Sunday, Mar 23, 2025

12 – 4 p.m.

Use fabric, yarn, and felt to transform a tongue depressor into a character that's ready for its own puppet show! Get creative as you design and bring your puppet to life, adding personality and charm with each material.

Gleaners

Gleaners offers boxes of food to anyone in need. No income or ID requirements, but boxes are first come, first serve.

City of Woodhaven (Drive-Up Only)

23101 Hall Rd

Woodhaven, MI 48183

03/04/2025 9:00am - 11:00am

03/18/2025 9:00am - 11:00am

04/01/2025 9:00am - 11:00am

City of Wyandotte - Yack Arena (Drive-Up Only)

3131 3rd Street

Wyandotte, MI 48192

03/07/2025 9:00am - 10:30am

03/21/2025 9:00am - 10:30am

Ford Community and Performing Arts Center (Drive-Up Only)

15801 Michigan Ave

Dearborn, MI 48126

03/11/2025 9:00am - 11:00am

03/25/2025 9:00am - 11:00am

Kennedy Building - Central Office - Ecorse Public Schools (Drive-Up Only)

27225 West Outer Drive

Ecorse, MI 48229

03/11/2025 2:00pm - 4:00pm

03/25/2025 2:00pm - 4:00pm