



4608 Granny White Pike ♦ Nashville, TN 37220  
phone 615.373.0897 ♦ fax 615.373.0892 ♦ [www.montessoricentre.org](http://www.montessoricentre.org)

Welcome to Montessori Centre, and thank you for your interest in our school.

Montessori Centre offers a **T**oddler program, with an emphasis on the development of language, fine and gross motor skills, and independence. Combined with early math manipulatives, opportunities for leadership and responsibility and social opportunities, our Toddler classroom is designed to be fully accessible to young children, with beautiful materials available throughout the day. Our **P**rimary program offers a comprehensive curriculum, with language, mathematics, sensorial, practical life and cultural materials. All of our classrooms are uniquely child-centered. Additionally, we offer a music program directed by an accomplished Nashville songwriter. Children also enjoy our library on campus, and may enroll in enrichment classes such as Spanish, tumbling, art, keyboarding, guitar, yoga, karate and/or an interactive science program.

More information about our program is enclosed. Montessori Centre offers a balanced curriculum that allows children to develop at their own pace within an environment rich with diverse learning opportunities. The best way to understand the Method is to see our classrooms in action. School tours are offered weekly at 9:00 am by appointment only. **We request that you register in advance for those tours by calling the school office at 615-373-0897 as tour spaces are limited.**

We are a family-centered community and pride ourselves in the mutual support among our faculty and families. Thank you for your interest in Montessori Centre. I hope to meet you and your family soon.

Deborah "Oma" Harris  
Head of School

Jen Cullison  
Director



# A Parent's Primer

## Each Child a Masterpiece

An introduction to the curriculum and artistry of  
Montessori Centre

### *Practical Life*

The Practical Life subject area is generally regarded as foundational to the whole of the Montessori environment. Through seemingly simple activities, children will develop skills that will allow them to thrive in other subject areas as well as in the classroom community.

The term “practical life” refers to activities one might typically perform in daily life, and are broken down into three basic categories: care of self, care for others, and care for the environment. Activities, or “works,” include: using utensils such as tongs and spoons; pouring; hand washing; scrubbing a table; folding napkins; buttoning and snapping; caring for plants and animals; and lessons in grace and courtesy.

As they develop and refine their practical life skills, children develop concentration, attention span, and an increased control in both fine and gross motor movements.

As the children gain independence in the Practical Life area, they also gain genuine confidence in themselves and their abilities, which will serve them in the classroom and beyond.

### *Sensorial*

The purpose of the Sensorial area is to help develop the five main senses: seeing, hearing, tasting, touching, and smelling. Each material is singular in nature, isolating one of the senses so that the child is able to focus without over-stimulation. They are also designed so that they children will be able to self-correct and perfect their own work, rather than with the help of a teacher.

Sensorial materials include activities such as the Color Tablets, which increase children's visual perception, and the Sound Cylinders, which enhance the child's ability to discriminate sounds. The Geometric Solids invite the child to learn new vocabulary, as well as identify and name various 3-dimensional shapes. One extension in several of the materials is to practice matching, sorting and size gradation while blindfolded, forcing the child to rely on his memory and sense of touch.

Many of the Sensorial materials are preparation for the Math subject area, as they help develop skills such as spatial awareness, the concept of one through ten, visual discrimination, and identifying geometric shapes.

## *Cultural*

Children are interested in the world around them, and the Cultural materials make available that entire world. These may include lessons in botany, geography, social studies, anatomy or zoology. Children may study pictures of children around the world, and then identify their homes on maps. They may learn the parts of various animals or classify animals into their continents of origin. They may taste foods from around the world, learn cultural dances, or begin to identify countries' flags.

The Cultural materials include activities such as the World Puzzle Maps, through which children identify continents and countries around the world. They may study the Solar System, through which children begin to understand the order and differences among the planets. Children may care for seedlings until they are able to be planted in our school garden.

The Cultural materials ground children in a sense of the interconnectedness of life, and emphasize the importance of caring for all of life on the Earth.

## *Language*

From early experiences with a verbally rich environment to the more advanced grammar lessons, the Montessori child benefits from an environment in which language is used to answer their questions, foster critical thinking skills, and to redirect the children in a positive way. Children will develop conversational skills as well as conflict resolution skills with their teachers and peers alike.

Children are presented with the foundations of reading first through early phonics activities, in which the emphasis is on hearing individual sounds in spoken words. When phonemic awareness is established, work such as the Sandpaper Letters is introduced, which teach the letter symbols that correspond with each sound. As they are ready, children will be able to build their own words with letters in the Moveable Alphabet. Grammar and parts of speech are introduced through physical games and hands-on activities, allowing the child to understand language structure in engaging and concrete ways.

Handwriting is practiced through the use of materials such as the Metal Insets and chalkboards. These develop the pincer grip needed to hold a pencil when they are ready.

Montessori environments are filled with language, as children share their discoveries with each other, learning and developing new skills in a comfortable community of peers.

## *Mathematics*

In the same way that all concepts are presented in the Montessori environment, lessons in Mathematics are given sequentially, increasing in difficulty and ranging from concrete to abstract. The children will be able to hold and manipulate the materials as they work, giving them a concrete understanding of the relationships between numbers, which will aid them throughout their lives.

Children begin by building a firm foundation by learning quantities one through ten, and then learn to match the numeral symbol with the corresponding quantity. With this skill mastered, children are introduced to place value through work with The Golden Beads, and begin doing operations using units, tens, hundreds and thousands in a very concrete way. In addition to The Golden Beads, children may use materials that teach about measurement, currency, time, geometry, skip-counting and algebra.

## Characteristics of Montessori Education

1. Active, individualized learning through stimulating, multi-sensory teaching materials.
2. Un-graded classroom is a natural, social environment that includes a wide range of ages and fosters self-motivation. Students enjoy working for their own sense of accomplishment.
3. Freedom of choice involves decision making. Students select work according to individual interest.
4. Working at one's own pace enables students to work for long periods without interruption. Each child works to fulfill his or her potential, independent of the class.
5. Integral education balances academic work with freedom of movement. There is an interrelationship between subjects.
6. Independence is fostered by a classroom that is specifically designed to encourage independence.
7. Self-evaluation occurs as students learn to evaluate their work objectively through the use of self-corrective teaching materials.
8. Reality-based education uses concrete, first-hand experience to build a solid base for comprehension of more abstract concepts in the future.
9. Close student-teacher interaction enables precise evaluation of student's progress, both academically and psychologically.

## Characteristics of Traditional Education

1. Passive learning through teacher-centered class lessons and paperwork.
2. Chronological grouping necessitates external rewards such as grades, competition and social conformity.
3. Class curriculum demands that students cover the same work at the same time with no regard to individual interests.
4. Group learning involves each academic subject being scheduled for a limited period. Each student is directly affected by the progress of the whole class.
5. Fragmented education provides academic subjects that are not interrelated. Periods of intense mental effort are alternated with periods of vigorous physical activity.
6. Dependence is promoted since the activities are initiated by the teacher.
7. Class comparison occurs as work is evaluated and graded by the teacher. Self-esteem is affected by comparison with classmates.
8. Abstract education has students learning through mechanical memorization.
9. Class-oriented teaching prevents close interaction between individual students and teacher. Standardized tests are necessary to determine student's progress.

Although the entrance age varies at individual schools, Montessori Centre begins at the toddler stage. They will begin with the simplest exercises based on activities that children enjoy.

The material that they use will help them to develop the concentration, coordination and work habits necessary for the more advanced exercises they will perform at five and six.

The entire program of learning is purposefully structured. Therefore, optimum results cannot be expected for a child who misses the early years of the cycle, or for one who is withdrawn before they finish the Montessori Program.

Parents should understand that Montessori preschool is neither a baby-sitting service nor a play school that prepares a child for traditional kindergarten. Rather, it is a unique cycle of learning designed to take advantage of the child's sensitive years between one and six, when they can absorb information from an enriched environment.

A child who acquires the basic skills of reading and arithmetic in this natural way has the advantage of beginning their education without drudgery, boredom or discouragement. This will install a life-long love of learning.

Montessori Centre believes that children who benefit from Montessori in early childhood carry with them a love of learning throughout their lives. We are committed to developing communities with diverse ethnic, national and religious backgrounds. We welcome diversity as a means of protecting children's natural respect and understanding. Our goal for each child is the development of his or her ability to solve problems effectively, to use freedom wisely, to respect life meaningfully, and to learn joyfully.

In the Primary classrooms, it is expected that children will complete the "three-year cycle" or three years of Primary. Primary classrooms are for children ages three to six, with each year building upon the next academically and socially. For this reason, we typically do not enroll children at the second or third year of Primary being that they would miss the important building blocks of the first year. However, please contact the school before deciding not to enroll your older child. During the third year in the Primary classroom, children will participate in Leadership Team activities such as Character Education, Science in the creek and garden, advanced movement and group games as well as Art and Spanish class once a week.

## *Admissions Policy and Procedures*

Each application is considered to determine the most appropriate match between the families we serve and our school. After reading through our literature, we encourage you to join us for one of our tours. Please contact the school office at (615) 373-0897 for tour availability.

Montessori Centre considers applications in order of submission. Classroom vacancies are filled with consideration to the complete balance of students served. To apply, complete and return the enclosed application to our school office at your earliest convenience. A \$75.00 application fee per family is required with your application. Upon receipt of your application, our Admissions Director will contact you to discuss the status of your application.

## *Tuition Policies*

Enrolling in Montessori Centre represents a significant financial investment for most families. In an effort to respect the commitment displayed by our families, who appreciate the value of such an investment, we maintain a basic tuition by assigning only those costs directly related to your child's education. Other programs and services offered are optional and are charged on an as-used basis. A separate educational-materials fee is assessed as detailed in our Summary of Tuition and Fees.

Enrollment is for the entire academic year. Montessori Centre's tuition is calculated as one student's share of the operating expenses of the school. Therefore, tuition must be paid in full and on time. Our complete tuition policy is described in the Enrollment Contract and is available upon request.

### *Tuition 2021-2022*

Toddler	\$13,710.00	Primary	\$ 12,360.00
Toddler 3-day	\$ 9,900.00	Primary Part-time	\$ 10,860.00
Toddler 2-day	\$ 6,890.00	Kindergarten	\$ 12,360.00

### *Fees 2021-2022*

Application Fee	\$ 75
Educational Materials Fee	\$375
Reservation Fee	\$500

(deducted from tuition and payable upon enrollment)

### *Extended-Day Tuition 2021-2022*

Mornings: 7:15 a.m. - 8:15 a.m.	\$ 90/month or \$ 7 a day
Afternoons: 3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.	\$290/month or \$25 a day

### *Tuition Payment Options 2021-2022*

The Centre offers four tuition-payment options:

- A. **Annual Payment:** Tuition payable in full no later than July 1<sup>st</sup>
- B. **Two Installments:** Tuition is payable in two installments – 50% by July 1<sup>st</sup> and 50% by December 1<sup>st</sup>
- C. **Ten Installments:** Families may choose to spread tuition payments into ten consecutive, equal installments, beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>. The remaining installments are due on the first of every month continuing through April 1<sup>st</sup>. A bookkeeping fee of \$150 per year, payable on July 1<sup>st</sup>, is added.
- D. **Extended-Day Fee Payment:** The Extended-Day Program may be paid using any of the above options. The ten-installment option. A bookkeeping fee of \$150, payable on July 1<sup>st</sup> will be assessed unless you have agreed to pay monthly on the enrollment contract.

### *The Extended-Day Program*

Regular school hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. each day. Before and after school extended hours are available from 7:15 a.m. - 8:15 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

### *Enrichment Classes*

Music is offered within each of our classrooms and to each child enrolled in our program. Montessori Centre makes available other enrichment programs at an additional fee. These programs include guitar, tumbling, keyboarding, yoga, art, Spanish and science. Information regarding enrichment programs is distributed prior to each student's enrollment.

### *Lunches*

Montessori Centre students bring their own lunches in the lunch box purchased from the school. Guardians provide milk, clear juice, or water.

### *Nap Time*

All children have available to them a cot and a period of time for rest daily. Children may bring a small pillow and blanket with which to nap that are regularly returned home for laundering.

## *Summer Program*

The 8-week summer program at the Centre is a time for relaxed activities. It's divided into two sessions of 4 weeks each. Special visitors, water play, biking and art projects offer the children an educational and enjoyable way to spend their summer months.

### *Summer Tuition 2021: Session A (4 weeks)*

Toddler	\$1,528.00	Primary	\$ 1,396.00
Toddler 3-day	\$1,148.00	Primary 4-day	\$ 1,320.00
Toddler 2-day	\$ 848.00	Primary 3-day	\$ 1,244.00
		Primary 2-day	\$ 980.00

### *Summer Tuition 2021: Session B (4 weeks)*

Toddler	\$1,528.00	Primary	\$ 1,396.00
Toddler 3-day	\$1,148.00	Primary 4-day	\$ 1,320.00
Toddler 2-day	\$ 848.00	Primary 3-day	\$ 1,244.00
		Primary 2-day	\$ 980.00

### *Summer Tuition 2021: Sessions A and B (8 weeks)*

Toddler	\$ 3,056.00	Primary	\$ 2,792.00
Toddler 3-day	\$ 2,296.00	Primary 4-day	\$ 2,640.00
Toddler 2-day	\$ 1,696.00	Primary 3-day	\$ 2,488.00
		Primary 2-day	\$ 1,960.00

### *Summer Extended-Day Tuition 2021: Session A or B*

Mornings: 7:15 a.m. - 8:15 a.m.	\$ 90.00 session A	\$ 90.00 session B	or	\$ 7.00/day
Afternoons: 3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.	\$ 290.00 session A	\$ 290.00 session B	or	\$ 25.00/day

### *Fees Summer 2021*

Application Fee	\$ 75 (for new students only)
Reservation Fee	\$100 (deducted from tuition and payable upon enrollment)
Materials Fee	\$115

### *Summer 2021 Tuition & Extended-Day Tuition Payment Options*

The Centre offers two tuition-payment options:

- A. **Full Payment:** Tuition payable in full no later than May 1<sup>st</sup>
- B. **Two Installments:** Tuition is payable in two installments – 50% by May 1<sup>st</sup> and 50% by June 1<sup>st</sup>

**Contact us any time for more information at:**

Montessori Centre  
4608 Granny White Pike  
Nashville, TN 37220  
615-373-0897

[www.montessoricentre.org](http://www.montessoricentre.org)

# Montessori Centre 2016 -2017 School Calendar

**(SAMPLE CALENDAR)**

Date	Day of Week	Event
Fall 2016		
August 8-12	Monday-Friday	Teacher In-Service: <b>No School</b>
August 15-16	Monday, Tuesday	<u>New Student</u> Phase-In: <b>12:00 Noon Dismissal, No Before Care, No After Care</b>
August 17	Wednesday	<i>First Day of School</i>
September 5	Monday	Labor Day: <b>No School</b>
October 6-7	Thursday, Friday	Fall Holiday: <b>No School</b>
October 10-11	Monday, Tuesday	Parent-Teacher Conferences: <b>No School</b>
November 11	Friday	Veterans Day: <b>No School</b>
November 22	Tuesday	Thanksgiving Holiday: <b>12:00 Noon Dismissal, No After Care</b>
November 23-25	Wednesday-Friday	Thanksgiving Holiday: <b>No School</b>
December 16	Friday	Winter Holiday: <b>Noon Dismissal, No After Care</b>
December 19-30	Monday-Friday	Winter Holiday: <b>No School</b>
Spring 2017		
January 2	Monday	Teacher In-Service: <b>No School</b>
January 16	Monday	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day: <b>No School</b>
March 20-24	Monday-Friday	Spring Holiday: <b>No School</b>
April 13-14	Thursday-Friday	Parent-Teacher Conferences: <b>No School</b>
May 25	Thursday	Primary Graduation: <b>3:30 Dismissal, No Aftercare</b>
May 26	Friday	<i>Last Day of School:</i> <b>12:00 Noon Dismissal, No After Care</b>
Summer 2017		
May 29-31	Monday-Wednesday	Memorial Holiday: <b>No School</b>
June 1-2	Thursday-Friday	Teacher In-Service: <b>No School</b>
July 3-7	Monday-Friday	Independence Day/Summer Holiday: <b>No School</b>





# Application for Admission

*Please attach a recent photograph of your son or daughter.*

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

For enrollment beginning: \_\_\_\_\_

Application for admission to:  Toddler  Primary

Full-time (5 days)

Half-day (5 days)

Part-week (circle preferred days: MTW RF MT WRF)

Student's full name \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_

Name student prefers to be called \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ D.O.B./Due Date \_\_\_\_\_ Age in September \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_

*Correspondence should be addressed to:*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relation to child: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Are both parents living?  Yes  No

If so, status of parents:  Married  Domestic Partners  Separated  Divorced  Other \_\_\_\_\_

If separated or divorced, who has custody of the child? \_\_\_\_\_

Child lives with:  Both parents  Parent 1  Parent 2  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent #1's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent #2's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent #1 prefers to be called: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent #2 prefers to be called: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone:(H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone:(H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_

(cell) \_\_\_\_\_ (pager) \_\_\_\_\_

(cell) \_\_\_\_\_ (pager) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Colleges attended and degrees: \_\_\_\_\_

Colleges attended and degrees: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Please note: Montessori Centre does not enroll students who are not up-to-date on their immunizations.**

Name of Applicant's Physician: \_\_\_\_\_

Physician's Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Physician's Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name and age of siblings: \_\_\_\_\_

Schools siblings attend: \_\_\_\_\_

**Grandparents:**

\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Grandparents:**

\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How did you learn about Montessori Centre? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of friends and/or relatives who have attended Montessori Centre:

\_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's present school: \_\_\_\_\_

Enrolled since: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

School phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher or Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list all previous schools the applicant has attended (include addresses, phone numbers, and years attended): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Have you been asked to withdraw your child from another school setting for any reason? If yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

Does the applicant currently take a bottle? \_\_\_\_\_ Does the applicant currently eat baby food? \_\_\_\_\_

Does the applicant suck his/her thumb? \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, during the day, while sleeping, or both? \_\_\_\_\_

Does the applicant use a pacifier? \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, during the day, while sleeping, or both? \_\_\_\_\_

Has the applicant had any form of achievement, intelligence, or psychological testing? \_\_\_\_\_

Name of test \_\_\_\_\_ Administered by: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the applicant's general health \_\_\_\_\_

Is the applicant walking? \_\_\_\_\_ Does s/he have any physical handicaps or allergies that would limit his/her participation in the full range of school activities? \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, describe \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Has the student ever suffered any serious injury or illness? \_\_\_\_\_

Is the applicant under the care of a physician, psychiatrist, or psychologist? If so, please describe briefly:

The admissions process at Montessori Centre is designed to determine the fit between your family and our program. Please answer the following questions thoughtfully, and as they apply to your family.

Please describe a typical weekday day, including with whom your child spends time and the types of activities in which he or she engages:

Please describe a typical weekend day, including with whom your child spends time and the types of activities in which he or she engages:

How would you describe your child's temperament? How is it similar or different from his or her parents?

What is child's preferred setting for socialization (large group, one-on-one, prefers adults, prefers children, prefers quiet, prefers noise)?

Why are you choosing to pursue a Montessori education for your child?

How would you describe your son or daughter's learning style?

What delights you most about your child?

What challenges you most about your child?

Will you be in need of extended care for your child?

- I do not need extended care for my child
- Before care beginning at 7:15 a.m.
- After care extending until 5:30 p.m.

- occasionally
- daily

**A nonrefundable application fee of \$75.00 per family must be submitted with this application.**

I have read and responded to the questions on this application to the best of my knowledge and ability. I understand that this application will be used in the consideration of admission to Montessori Centre and as a release for the Centre to obtain other relevant information.

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Signature of parent or guardian

Date

Please return completed application and \$75 application fee to:

**Montessori Centre  
4608 Granny White Pike  
Nashville, Tennessee 37220**

**615.373.0897 phone  
615.373.0892 fax  
[www.montessoricentre.org](http://www.montessoricentre.org)**