



TOTH
MONTESSORI

NAVY YARD, WASHINGTON, DC



H STREET NE, WASHINGTON, DC

Toddler Toileting

This is the time of year to commit to toileting if you'd like to see your child make progress before school ends. The first step is clothing. Please send your toddler in sweat pants or leggings and tops that don't hang lower than the waste. Without proper clothing the sensitive period for toileting can easily be missed.

Toddler Shoes

Shoes that are difficult to get on and off disrupt the natural desire in toddlers to do for oneself. After repeatedly attempting something and failing, a child gives up. Let's give our toddlers the proper shoes for independence and let them practice every day.

Toddler Autonomy

When we hover and remind, help and explain, remind again, and then step in unnecessarily, we are overriding the development of desire and will. If redirection is happening more than a couple times in an hour, your child may feel helpless to control anything in life. Children who feel helpless act helpless. Become comfortable with waiting, pausing, and observing your child before stepping in. Most redirection is unnecessary.



Happy February

It has been long observed by Montessori teachers world wide that January and February are the months when children do their "best work". They return from the holiday rested from a break, new materials are calling, and friends they haven't seen are ready to talk, collaborate, and play. In the toddler room, we have noticed an increase in toileting curiosity, ability with coats and shoes, manners and patience at snack, and agility getting to the park and using play equipment. Everyone is just a little bigger, a little steadier, a tad more verbal, and circle time is more coherent. Stories illicit response. Clean up time is efficient. Relationships are strong. This is "progress" in the toddler environment.





Home and School

Did you know that children have an automatic "shut off" switch that tells them that they are done thinking and working?

Children have a natural, internal voice when it comes to their needs and balance. They know when they need to move, when they need to eat, when they need to rest, and when they need to play.

It's important that when children are not at school, they are not "working" on their sounds, numbers, and other academic endeavors. It's easy for us to forget children need time to integrate new knowledge and get away from the "work".

If your child is working at home and flash cards, sound games, reading, counting, and other school readiness preparations are the norm, be prepared for your child to use school time to rest and play.

For more information about how Montessori offers children a chance to work so efficiently there is no need for homework, see Tim Seldin's book, *The Montessori Way*.

Primary

This month is going to be a very special time in Primary as Ms. Gwen and her "room moms" are planning the Valentine Party. Aside from that, Black History Month is an incredible opportunity at the Primary level to learn about the brilliant contributions of Americans present and past. Gwen will be sharing lessons that tell the story of invention, contribution, community, and peace making. This is also the month parents will hear about the Montessori cultural curriculum at parent ed., which includes geography, botany, zoology, earth science, the humanities, art, music, and culture.

Academically, children are being challenged more and more in reading and math, and soon we will be introducing new sound books, BoB Books, an alphabet role, the teens board, and the glass beads..

Spanish continues, and each afternoon Nathaly introduces new vocabulary and new knowledge with songs, stories, books, and games. The children love these lessons and we hear Spanish flowing from the children effortlessly.



Upcoming Events

(5 things to put in your calendar)

1. Toddler Parent Ed **Wednesday, February 7th @ 6:30pm** (In Toddler Classroom, Adult Only) Topic: Primary Preview - The transition from Toddler to Primary, Plane of Development, Unconscious Absorbent Mind to Conscious Absorbent Mind. What does that look like?
2. Primary Parent Ed **Friday February 9th @ 6pm** (In Primary Classroom, Adult Only)
Topic: *Cultural Curriculum, Geography, Science*
3. Monthly Call with Head of School, Friday, February 16th @ 12:15
The call line is 712-775-7031 access code is 741-760-866, please call at any point during this time and ask any questions you might have, and listen in for as much or as little as you'd enjoy
4. February Break Primary and Toddler - **February 19th - 23rd NO TOTH**
5. Primary **Open House** for Toddler Parents: **February 15th @ 9am** at 1000 5th Street S.E., Washington D.C. 20003 in the Capper Community Center, upstairs

Reading List

What We Say Matters

The Joyful Child

The Montessori Way

Nurture Shock

Unconditional Parenting

There's No Such Thing as Bad Weather

Quiet

Website/Podcast Resources for Montessori Parents

Montessorium (Primary)

The Family Alliance (International Montessori Council)

RadicleBeginnings (Toddler)

The Parenting Junkie

The Kavanaugh Report

How We Montessori

Sam Chaltain's Blog

Baan Dek Podcast

Articles of Interest to Parents

<https://primary.community/parent-teacher-partnerships>

<https://aleteia.org/2017/09/20/the-montessori-teachers-rule-that-changed-the-way-i-parent/>

<https://www.parent.co/the-french-method-that-completely-shifted-my-parenting/>

<http://pickanytwo.net/the-train-analogy-that-will-change-how-you-see-your-crying-child/>

<http://www.dailymontessori.com/montessori-at-home/montessori-home-parenting-tips-under-3/>

<http://www.janetlansbury.com/2018/01/children-can-learn-sibling-conflicts/>