



Evergreen TK/Kindergarten Program

Curriculum:

The curriculum in the Evergreen program builds and scaffolds on the work children engage in for the first 2 years. In this culminating year the activities in each area are extended and more complex. Most importantly the kindergarten year is a year of consolidation, rounding out skills the children have been learning over the last 6 years. This happens to all children but seen most dramatically in Montessori as children take responsibility, negotiate social interactions and enjoy being mentors to younger children. In a lot of children we see a dramatic increase in self confidence as they get opportunities to be peer leaders in their classroom environment.

In the **Practical Life Area** children engage in longer activities that combine multiple skills. For example children may be sewing, weaving, making tea and baking bread. In addition to indoor activities, the children will be spending time in our outdoor classroom gardening, doing Montessori washing activities and art.

In the **Sensorial Area** they build upon their previous knowledge by combining different dimensional activities or sensorially exploring the square of Pythagoras using colored strips. They are also learning 2 dimensional & 3 dimensional shapes through hands on materials.

The **Language Arts Area** encompasses a breadth and depth of materials that allow children to first learn phonetic sounds, followed by building 3 letter phonetic words and move on to blended sounds, complex phonograms and key sounds. Eventually most children are reading beginner books. Our goal is to create life-long readers who read for enjoyment. Our cozy library corner invites children to get comfortable and curl up with their favorite books.

In the **Math Area** the materials give children a concrete sense of value instead of just symbols on paper. The logical sequence of our materials helps provide a gradual transition to abstraction. Children first master 0-20 reading & writing, constructing teen & ten numbers, adding, subtraction and skip counting to 100 by 10. Through concrete materials the children move onto the decimal system where they get a sensorial impression of place value through addition, multiplication, subtraction and division. They also begin learning math facts which sets the foundation for higher level operations and telling time.

The rich and well rounded curriculum in the **Cultural Arts Area** ties the areas of the classroom together and really sets a Montessori classroom environment apart from other programs. Children receive lessons in botany, zoology, physical & cultural geography, classification, and biomes. They begin to see that all of the delicate systems of life on earth are interconnected as we introduce these concepts by sharing the timeline of life throughout the year.

FAQ's

When is my child considered a Kindergarten student?

In order to be in Kindergarten, children must turn 5 on or before September 1st.

What are the expectations of the program?

- Children must be at least 4 ½ years old, no longer needing to nap or rest and:
 - Able to work independently and without disturbing others
 - Able to choose a meaningful work according to their ability
 - Able to concentrate on work and complete work with focus
 - Able to follow ground rules and communicate appropriately

What happens if my child is under 4 ½ and no longer napping?

Children under 4 ½ will be provided time and space to rest quietly. After the rest period they may be offered a quiet activity while the other children are napping. Children will need to be able to remain quiet while the other children are napping.

Do you follow Common Core Standards?

In the Academic areas we know the common core standards and these have always been woven through our materials and works. In fact, our math and language meet and often exceed the common core requirements. Common core benchmarks were developed out of a need to help students learn to understand the concept behind their learning not to just find an answer. To focus on process rather than the product. That is the very essence of Montessori.

What is the teacher to child ratio in the classroom?

The ratio is 1 to 12. In a typical year we have 12-15 children in our Evergreen classroom with 2 teachers.

What are the hours of the program?

The Evergreen Program is 12:30-3:00 pm.

What is the schedule of the program?

12:30-12:50 outdoor playtime
12:50-1:00 transition indoors
1:00-2:50 afternoon work period
2:50 transition to 3 o'clock dismissal /extended care