



**MSK MONTESSORI TODDLER PROGRAM Comparison to  
TRADITIONAL DAYCARE TODDLER PROGRAMS**

MSK Montessori Toddler Program	Daycare Toddler Programs
Spontaneous learning based on students' interests	Theme-based programing
Child centred	Teacher directed
Specifically designed, learning materials, each teaches a specific skill	Commercially sold toys, play
Real objects (glass, wood, porcelain, metals, materials found in nature)	Non-real objects (plastic, man-made)
Learn through purposeful work	Learn through play
Multi-age class grouping	Same age class grouping
Working and learning is matched to social & emotional development of the child	Minimal emphasis on social & emotional development of the child
Child's individual development provides it's own rewards and inner-motivation	Motivation is achieved through a system of rewards & consequences
<u>Curriculum Areas-</u> Practical Life, Language/Numbers/Cognitive, Sensorial, Physical (Fine & Gross Motor Skills) Development, Creative Development & Circle Time (songs, fingerplays, games, stories)	<u>Play Areas-</u> dramatic play, blocks/constructive toys, craft area, puzzles & cognitive games, sensory play (sand/water table), & Circle Time (songs, fingerplays, games, stories)- on tables or the rug, preselected & set-up by an adult
Purposeful movement in the Montessori environment is encouraged	Movement from one play area to another without purpose
Freedom within Limits	Freedom to use any toys from any play area without limits or purpose, no lesson required before use
All Montessori materials in each area of the	Cultural elements are introduced through



classroom are culturally relevant. This is in addition to our full Culture curriculum area materials.	books, cooking activities, etc.- no formal Culture curriculum
A focus on child-led exploration, vs.	Adult-set group activities
Calm, orderly environment	Messy, noisy environment
Trained, experienced Accredited Montessori teachers & RECEs	Revolving door daycare providers
Program is overseen by dual-trained Department Head (Montessori & RECE), Principal & Administrator	Administrative Management
A deliberate, educational program	Play, all day
Grace & courtesy lessons	Group conformity
A focus on developing inner-discipline	Obedience training
Sprawling outdoor environment, overlooking a beautiful natural setting, play structure, grassy areas, exploration of nature- while safe, fully fenced, security, away from noise & traffic	Often a small, designated play area

Many parents thinking about child care for their Toddler aged child need to consider the advantages of sending their child to **Montessori school** instead.

Montessori is a popular choice among parents for their child's early years, and it's important to know the advantages of Montessori over daycare programs. Many day care settings offer a program that may claim to be - in some ways, - focused on early childhood education. These are structured learning environments for children before they begin kindergarten.

However, Montessori is an entirely distinct alternative complete with its own learning style, methods, and philosophy.

Both types of programs offer options for our young learners. Examine both to determine the best fit for your Toddler-aged child. Full-day or half-day learning for young children is offered by



most Early Childhood Education settings but there are distinct advantages to enrolling in a Montessori program:

- Programs focus on learning
- Offer children a head-start on their education
- Gives children taste of what school will be like
- Versus public day care programs, Montessori offers a child-centred learning environment (whereas the teacher is the center of the classroom in any other environment).
- Teachers don't lecture, but guide in Montessori. They assist children with discovering their true potential through challenging experiences to be completed uninterrupted in a learning environment
- Student-directed learning is emphasized, as well as your child's health, well-being and social/emotional development
- Montessori promotes a hands-on approach to learning
- Montessori aims to develop all aspects of child's psyche – emotional, spiritual and intellectual – to develop well-rounded individuals

### **Montessori Casa versus Preschool**

Many parents choose to send their children to Montessori for the Toddler & preschool years, as an introduction to the private school system or even versus traditional (and equally costly) daycare.

Montessori programs are synonymous with the Montessori Casa program, where all aspects of the environment were created specifically for preschool age children to facilitate the education of young, curious minds. **This is also the case in a Montessori Toddler environment.** The materials used and manipulated by the Toddler students are specifically designed for this age-group to teach skills and satisfy the Toddler child's **SENSITIVE PERIODS of DEVELOPMENT**. As opposed to the way public school classrooms or daycare programs are centered around teachers, Montessori classrooms are centered around children.

### **In Montessori Toddler:**

- Each child learns at his or her own pace.
- Children learn social skills, daily living skills, self-help skills, fine & gross motor development, sensorial exploration, numbers, language enrichment, phys-ed, cultural exploration (french language instruction) and creative skills.
- In the MSK Toddler program, children interact with others of different ages, creating an environment where younger students can learn from the older children, and older children have the opportunity to take the lead.
- Students are guided by Montessori instructors who are trained in the Montessori philosophy, alongside Registered Early Childhood Educators.



- The child learns in a prepared environment. The classroom is a beautiful and natural setting. All furnishings are to the child's height and size. The environment is set up in a way that it allows the child to succeed.