



# The Pre-primary Program at Midlothian Montessori

*"The child gives us a beautiful lesson - that in order to form and maintain our intelligence, we must use our hands."*

-Dr. Maria Montessori

## At-a-Glance

**Enrollment:** Ages 2 - 3 years old; capacity at 8 children.

8:15 a.m - 12:00 p.m, three or five days per week

**Teacher Ratio:** 1 dedicated lead teacher plus support assistants according to classroom and ratio needs

**Credential:** Our program leaders hold credentials from nationally recognized programs; MMS is an associate member of IMC (International Montessori Council)

**School Identity:** Authentic Montessori program with a full host of materials and classic lessons; enriched program with access to outdoors, gardening, and farm experiences; emphasis on arts; Music Together program; ongoing staff training and extensive teacher development provided.

The Pre-primary classroom at Midlothian Montessori is a small, close-knit community designed to provide two to three-year-olds with chances to grow and succeed. The classroom's intimate layout and the close relationships the children foster with their teachers make it a simple, gentle transition from home to school.

We work closely with each family to give each child the easiest and most rewarding transition we can.

This is a safe space for your child to learn how to be part of a peer group, how to navigate apart from his parents, and what he can contribute to a busy and dynamic community.

Our Pre-primary friends learn using their keen senses, and our classroom is rich in opportunities for exploration. Using simple and concrete materials, we assist the child in experiencing new concepts in ways that encourage cementing those impressions into his mind. In Pre-primary, our hands are always busy, and we truly get into our work.

Children here are shown the basic skills of grace and courtesy that will be used in the primary classroom, as well as taught and modeled clear communication skills. This program prepares the child beautifully for a seamless transition into the primary class at the lead teachers' discretion, and moreover inspires the child to allow himself to be driven by curiosity and a love of learning ...for life.



*There are many goals in the pre-primary classroom, but our main focus is on developing concentration, order, coordination, and independence.*



### Areas of Focus in the Pre-primary Classroom

#### **Practical Life**

Fine and gross motor skills, caring for the self and the environment, art and music

#### **Sensorial /Pre-Math**

Discerning using the senses, matching and grading, sequencing, ordering, comparing and contrasting similarities and differences

#### **Language**

Auditory discrimination, oral language, pre-writing, early phonics

Grace and Courtesy

Manners and social behaviors

Social/Emotional Skills

Conflict resolution, self-care, conveying feelings

## A Day in the Life of a Pre-primary Student

**8:15** - Your child arrives and is escorted from your car by a smiling teacher, who encourages her to independently walk to class (holding hands) and to carry her own bag.

**8:20**- Your child is greeted by her lead teacher at the door to the class. She is smiling and has come down to the child's level to offer a handshake or a hug. Your child knows that she will first place her bag in her own cubby, hang her coat on her hook, and then move on to removing her outside shoes. She will sit on the bench and once they are off, she will get her inside slippers from the cubby and carefully place her shoes where they were.

**8:30** - She is ready to start her day! She may greet friends, or maybe hang back and warm up slowly with our book basket. She may be pulled in by the activity the teacher has placed on a table....sand play, clay, and loose parts are favorites.

Your child chooses what he wants to work with from any of the curriculum areas. If he has not previously used, he can receive a lesson from a teacher and then is encouraged to choose freely. Your child knows to unroll a work rug before putting work down on the floor; this helps to define his space and aids in developing the sense of order. She busily chooses work at her own pace, restores it to the shelf, and chooses something differently - this open choice time is our 'work cycle'.

**10:10** Your child changes into her outside shoes and coat. Outside time is a favorite!

**10:45** We come inside, potty and wash hands, and prep for our snack. We eat family style after setting our own table and prepping the snack area.

**11:00** After snack, we have group time, and we sing songs and read books together.

**11:15** Outside again, along with our primary friends.

**12:00** What a day! Your child returns to the car happy to see you after a fun day!



*....inspire a lifelong love of learning!*

