



“Play is the work of Childhood” ~ Maria Montessori

Welcome!

Thank you for your interest in Philly Montessori! We are so grateful for your desire to learn more about our school, and we look forward to connecting with you in the coming months. We hope that the information provided here, as well as on our website, www.phillymontessori.com, will answer many of the questions you may have about who we are, what makes our school unique, and how you can join our community.

Philly Montessori is an **accredited Montessori school**, designed for children aged 18 months to 6 years old. Inspired by the very first Montessori school, *Il Casa Dei Bambini (The Children's House)*, our **beautiful** and **inviting** schoolhouse provides a secure and inspiring **home-away-from-home** for the children and families that we serve. We are proud of being the **only Spanish-bilingual** authentic Montessori school in Center City Philadelphia.

Our school is intentionally designed as a **micro-school** in order to provide a **highly personalized** educational setting for each child that we serve. By scaling down the size of our school body, we are able to maximize our classroom space and apply our resources in a way that directly benefits the development of each child that we serve. As a result, a child in a Philly Montessori classroom will have complete access to our entire expansive, yet intimate, campus- which includes a **fully equipped Montessori classroom, an in-door gross motor gym, and an urban garden**. A day in our classroom will also be rounded out with daily group meetings, story time, enrichment classes, and gross motor play. What's more, as a micro-school, our school will be led and administered by your child's classroom teachers enabling **meaningful teacher-parent partnerships**, daily communication, and personalized attention to each family in our classroom community.

Enclosed in this informational packet you will find a description of our **mission statement, our daily schedule, our programs, our tuition schedule, and our school calendar**, as well as two informational articles on the Montessori approach to learning. We hope you will find these items to be interesting and informative. Should you have any remaining questions at all about our school or our programs, you can always email us directly at info@phillymontessori.com.

Thank you again for your interest and we look forward to connecting with you soon!

Kindly,

Sheila Sayfi, M.A

Founder and Lead Teacher



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Mission Statement

The mission of Philly Montessori is to support each child’s **natural curiosity, love of learning, and independence** by adhering to these 5 founding principles:

1- **Authentic Montessori Classroom** : Our **child-centered** Montessori classroom is accredited by the **American Montessori Society (AMS)**, includes an intentionally designed prepared environment, and is led by specially trained AMS certified teachers.



2- **Micro-school**: A micro-school setting allows Philly Montessori teachers to provide **highly personalized learning opportunities** for each child in our program. By scaling down the size of our student body, children have complete access to our expansive yet intimate campus- allowing for **seamless transitions** between an in-door Montessori classroom, an urban garden, and an in-door gross motor gym. As a teacher led and administered school, teachers are empowered to **build meaningful connections** with each of the families that we serve.

3- **Spanish Immersion**: Philly Montessori classrooms are Spanish immersion classrooms; wherein, we use the one care giver, one language approach. Following this approach, at least one teacher speaks Spanish exclusively with the children in the classroom, while the other teacher speaks English. The one caregiver one language approach allows children to assimilate into the classroom environment and with the new language at their own pace and when they are ready. This approach further allows Spanish dominant speaking children to ease into an English speaking environment without hindering any aspects of their learning. We also incorporate the Spanish language into many of our classroom activities, and explore various Latino and Hispanic cultures through explorations of food, music, and dance.



We believe that learning a second language at such a young age is not only more easily done, but it also adds to the child’s brain development and problem solving skills.



4- **Connection to Nature**: As a school, Philly Montessori aims to tread lightly on the planet, and models **care for the environment** whenever possible. The children are involved in our **organic garden**, compost, and efforts towards being a low or zero waste classroom.



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5- **Community Collaboration:** We believe that community-based businesses are essential to our city. Being a locally owned and operated program, we strive to build a natural bridge between our classroom and community. We see ourselves as a **natural gathering place**- a contributing member of the “*village*” that it takes to raise a child. In the primary classroom, once a month on “**parent helpers**” days we invite parents *into* our classroom to join us in our daily activities, or to share an interest or talent with us. We bring Philly into our school, introducing our children to local artists, musicians, chefs, and skilled professionals who can share their talents with us.

Our Collaborators:

Three Queens Yoga

Mister John's Music

Shot Tower Coffee

Old Pine Community Center



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Programs & Schedule

TODDLER

The toddler classroom is designed for children aged 18 months to 3 years old. Maria Montessori named the period from birth to the age of 6, “The absorbent mind”, drawing attention to the young child’s ability to learn large amounts of information at rapid rates. During this period, children are very similar to little scientists. They learn through experimenting with and manipulating the objects in their environment.

Philly Montessori’s Toddler classroom is thoughtfully designed with the Montessori principles of beauty, simplicity, and movement in mind. The furniture and shelves are designed to promote each child’s independence, and the classroom materials change throughout the year as the children’s interests, strengths, and areas for growth change as well. In this way, our classroom is not a static space, but rather a dynamic organism that meets the needs of each individual child within it. The classroom is broken up into 5 major curricular areas: sensory, cognitive, language, social, and cultural studies. As is the Philly Montessori way, art, sensory play, and music are integrated into all of these major learning areas. Following the Montessori spiral of learning, absorbing new information is never limited. Instead, children are encouraged to explore, and to learn through interacting with their teachers, peers, and the environment.

As part of the toddler curriculum, children are given the prepared environment, and time they need in order to build towards toileting independence. As such, small child sized toilets, regular visits to the bathroom, and lessons on how to care for oneself are all incorporated into the Toddler curriculum.



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TODDLER DAILY SCHEDULE

We know that children are happiest when they follow predictable routines everyday. This is a sample of the daily routine followed by our classroom community:

Morning	Full Day	Extended Day
8-10:00 am Morning Work Cycle	12:15- 2:30 quiet rest time	3:00- 4:00 Gross Motor Play or specialty classes
10am Gross Motor Play	2:30- 2:45 group and classroom care	4- 6:00 Group snack, story time, open work and play, excursions, field trips and enrichment activities
11:15-12:15 Lunch & Morning Program Dismissal	3:00 Full Day Dismissal	6:00 Class meeting and Extended day dismissal

* Please note minor adjustments to this schedule may be made as the teachers observe they may be needed by the children in the Toddler Community.

Snack is always available for free choice during the morning program.



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Toddler Programs:

Morning Program (8am-12:15)

During the Morning program your child will enjoy a two-hour uninterrupted work and play period, followed by one hour of gross motor play. At Philly Montessori, we implement a two hour uninterrupted work period, because we understand that young children simply do not enjoy multiple transitions, or being interrupted from their work and play.

During the work period your child might be engaged in a number of self-directed, or teacher led activities such as: *preparing a healthy snack to enjoy with a friend, receiving a lesson in a group or individually with a teacher, choosing from any number of hands on learning activities in the classroom, circle time, story time, gardening, helping another classmate with a difficult task, enjoying stories or songs during circle time, or simply engaging in some conversation with a friend in the cozy corner!*

At Philly Montessori we know children love to MOVE! Our gross motor play happens either in local parks, or in our beautiful indoor gym.

Full Day Program (8am-3:00)

During the Full Day program, Toddler children are invited to take a peaceful nap in their classroom. During nap time, teachers read children stories, rub backs, and play restful music. As children begin to wake, they are invited for toileting practice, and then begin to ready their classroom for the next day. Over time, the toddler children learn how to water the plants, wash the dishes, wipe tables, and clear the floor of debris. These practices help give children a sense of responsibility and fulfill their innate desire for beauty and order in their environment. Dismissal for the Full Day program is at 3:00pm.

Extended Day (8am-6pm)

Our Extended Day program is a fun and enriching program; wherein, children are offered the opportunity to join a variety of extra-curricular activities such as Creative Movement, Yoga, Spanish, and Art. Our extended day children often take field trips to places around our neighborhood such as the library, playground, and local restaurants. They also enjoy time to play in our indoor gym, garden in our garden, and spend time working and playing with their classmates and teachers in the classroom.

Philly Montessori offers the unique advantage of having a Montessori certified teacher with children throughout the extended day program, allowing for an All Day Montessori experience.



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TODDLER TUITION

Tuition is based on a ten-month academic calendar. Parents have the convenient option to make monthly, semi-annual, or annual payments:

	10 Monthly Payments	Two semi-annual payments*	One annual payment*
Morning (8am-12:15)	\$1450	\$7,250	14,500
Full Day (8am-3:00 pm)	\$1975	\$9,875	\$19,750
Extended Day (8am-6pm)	\$2300	\$11,500	\$23,000

*Semi-annual and Annual payments receive a 2, and 3% discount respectively.

Payments are due on the first of the month, and a \$1,000 tuition deposit secures your child’s space in our program. This deposit is applied to the last month’s tuition payment.

Other program Fees include: \$200 Supply fee, \$500 registration fee, and voluntary grocery contribution for our snack menu. On average, the grocery contribution is about \$200/family.

All payments can conveniently be made through a **secured online portal**.



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PRIMARY

The Primary classroom is designed for children ages 3 to 6 years old. This mixed age setting allows for fluid, personalized learning that meets the needs of each individual child in our classroom. Learning in a Philly Montessori Primary classroom is dynamic and hands on, allowing for children to make their own discoveries and follow their own interests.

The classroom and curriculum can be divided into 8 major curricular areas: Art, Practical Life, Sensorial, Language, Math, Cultural, and Peace. Within each curricular area, children learn through interacting with the carefully designed self-didactic materials. This allows for individualized and fluid learning. In order to learn more about each curricular area, and the Montessori approach, we encourage you to peruse our website: <http://www.phillymontessori.com/>.

A WELL-ROUNDED EXPERIENCE

The Philly Montessori curriculum is rounded out with daily group meetings, story times, and gross motor play. Art and music are embedded throughout the classroom, and are further reinforced through weekly classes with Music specialists. Our students have opportunities to participate in before or after school enrichment activities such as Spanish, Cooking, Dance, and Yoga.



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Primary DAILY SCHEDULE

We know that children are happiest when they follow predictable routines every day. This is a sample of the daily routine followed by our classroom community:

Morning	Full Day	Extended Day
8-11:00 am Morning Work Cycle	12:15- 1:00 Community Lunch	3:00- 4:00 Montessori Work Cycle
11:00 am Gross Motor Play	1:00-2:45pm Afternoon Work Time/ Kindergarten Group & Nap time	4- 6:00 Group snack, story time, open work and play, excursions, field trips and enrichment activities
12:15 pm Morning Program Dismissal	3:00 Full Day Dismissal	6:00 Class meeting and Extended day dismissal

* Please note minor adjustments to this schedule may be made as the teachers observe they may be needed by the children in the Primary Community.

Snack is always available for free choice during the morning program.



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PRIMARY PROGRAMS

Morning Program (8am-12:15pm)

The morning program is an integral part of our school as it is the time of day that all members of our class community are together at once. Arrival for the morning program begins at 8am, and all children should be at school by 8:30am. During the arrival period children will have time to ease into their day by greeting their friends and teachers, hanging up their belongings in their cubby, changing into their indoor shoes, and then beginning on the work cycle.

*The “work cycle” is a term we use in Montessori that refers to the time of the day where children freely engage with their environment and all that it has to provide.

At Philly Montessori, we implement a three-hour uninterrupted work cycle, because we understand that young children simply do not enjoy multiple transitions, or being interrupted from their work and play. As a one-classroom school, during this work cycle, children will have complete access to our beautiful campus including: a fully equipped Montessori classroom, an outdoor garden, and indoor play gym.

During the work period your child might be engaged in a number of self-directed, or teacher led activities such as: *preparing a healthy snack to enjoy with a friend, receiving a lesson in a group or individually with a teacher, choosing from any number of hands on learning activities in the classroom, circle time, story time, gardening, creating a painting in the class garden, or simply engaging in some conversation with a friend in the cozy corner.*

Following the work cycle, the children enjoy a full hour of gross motor play in either Weccacoe Playground or the gross motor gym.

The morning program is further enriched with weekly music classes lead by Miss Lilly from Mister John’s Music. Attending the morning program for five days a week is required for all Philly Montessori students.



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Full Day Program (8am-3pm)

Following the morning work cycle and gross motor play, our class will begin to set up our tables for a community lunch. This is a collaborative process that has many meaningful layers: wiping tables clean, setting place settings, reciting a poem of thanks, and finally engaging in conversations, stories, and laughs while eating a delicious and healthy lunch together. After lunch, each child is responsible for washing his or her own dishes, and cleaning up their lunch space.

After lunch, children enjoy a quiet period of yoga and mindfulness before those who rest go to the nap room for a quiet rest, while those who do not rest enjoy a second work cycle in the classroom.

The second work cycle is a quieter time of the day; wherein, children engage in individual activities or have more personalized time with their teachers.

The second work cycle also allows time for our Kindergarten aged children to extend their morning learning through in depth studies, advanced lessons, field trips, and group activities.

Extended Day (8am-6pm)

Our Extended Day program is a fun and enriching program; wherein, children are offered the opportunity to join a variety of extra-curricular activities such as Cooking, Yoga, Spanish, and Dance. Our extended day children often take field trips to places around our neighborhood such as the library, playground, and local restaurants. They also enjoy time to play in our indoor gym, garden in our garden, and spend time working and playing with their classmates and teachers in the classroom.

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*Semi-annual and Annual payments receive a 2, and 3% discount respectively.

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