

WHY CENTENNIAL?

As you enter a classroom at Centennial, you are likely to feel an inspired peace as children as young as 18 months quietly bustle about their work. While a four year old works on the decimal system materials, a three year old diligently polishes a glass mirror, and a five year old shares a glass of freshly squeezed orange juice with a friend. Over in the Elementary children plan excursions, debate the role of the UN or whether the Earth does, in fact go around the Sun. At Centennial, all of this work is important because it is through activity that the child becomes the individual he is striving to be. It is our job as educators to observe and assist the child in the creation of that unique self. To that end, the cornerstones of our program are:



Child Centered Approach: proven AMI Montessori philosophy which honors the natural curiosity and passion in every child.

Highly Trained Staff: Head classroom teachers hold a degree from the Association Montessori International and are assisted by teachers who are bilingual and speak their native language in the classroom.

World Exposure: A curriculum that celebrates the diverse human and natural world inspires wonder in children and has social, cognitive, and educational benefits which last a lifetime.

Community Participation Model: The multi-aged classroom provides a means for even the youngest child to contribute. Older children may extend this participation to the larger community through projects that they plan and implement.

OUR PROGRAMS

Young Children's Community (18 months to 3 years old)

- Monday through Thursday
- Morning: 8:30 am to 11:45 am
- Includes a community lunch

Children's House (2.5 - 6 years old)
Five Day Program

- Three Hour Morning Program: 8:20 am to 11:45 am
- Four Hour Morning Program: 8:20 am to 12:45 pm
- Full Day Program (required for 4.5 yr. olds and older) 8:20 am – 3:00 pm
- Extra care from 7:30 to 8:20 and 3:00 to 3:30

Elementary Community (6 - 12 years old)
Five Day Program 8:05 to 3:15 pm

Summer Camp is also available.



WHO WE ARE

Kristin McAlister is a former Montessori child and a current Montessori parent to five Montessori children. She believes passionately in every child's desire to explore, grow and develop and is honored to be able to support children and families in this great work. Qualifications: AMI Primary degree, Maria Montessori Institute in London; MA Education, Kings College, London; BA Developmental Psychology and Biomedical Ethics, Brown University; NYC Board of Education certified secondary school teacher.



A hundred year foundation for today's child and tomorrow's man

Recognized by the
Association Montessori
International in the US (AMI/USA)

To request an application or for more information, please see our website or contact us at (650) 340-1230 or admissions@centennialmontessori.org
www.centennialmontessori.org

EXPOSURE TO THE WORLD



At Centennial, we believe that by exposing children to the amazing diversity found in the world, they grow up naturally comfortable in the global community and innately respectful of the riches found in the natural environment.

- Through our cultural curriculum and language exposure, our children are better able to appreciate the diversity found in the human world and the responsibilities and achievements of mankind.
- Our natural playground was designed to entice the children into discoveries and to inspire wonder and true engagement with the natural world.
- The Montessori botany, zoology sensorial areas, and science curriculum is specifically designed to promote extension to the outdoor environment.
- Weather permitting, our classes have a seamless flow between the indoor and outdoor classrooms.
- The Montessori curriculum works with the young child to know himself and from this foundation reaches into the Cosmic Curriculum of the Elementary to understand the universe.

THE MONTESSORI PHILOSOPHY

The Montessori philosophy was developed by the first female Italian physician, Dr. Maria Montessori through scientific observation of children from many countries and every socioeconomic class. Her method has been supported by psychologists, educators, and cognitive research throughout the last 100 years. Further, Dr. Montessori's understanding of the developing child has formed a foundation for the work of many developmental scientists including: Jean Piaget, Erik Erickson, and T. Berry Brazelton.



We find that Montessori children are:

- Confident, adaptable, and empowered.
- Excited by challenges, inspired by discovery, and engaged in life.
- Lifelong learners motivated by natural curiosity and equipped to pursue an interest to completion.

Our teachers are:

- Passionate about all that a child can become.
- Motivated to create an environment where the child's inspiration finds expression in purposeful activity.
- Caring, respectful, and nurturing.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

We believe that peace begins in the individual and is founded in that first contact of the centered individual with his immediate community. We strive to create whole individuals who accept as part of the normal course of their life the responsibility for caring for others.



"One becomes a well-balanced adult only if one has fully been a child." – Dr. Maria Montessori

At Centennial, we promote this vision in the classroom through the mixed age group which fosters a true sense of community and many opportunities to help. We then extend that service to others into the local community. Through these helping experiences, the child develops confidence, compassion, and a strong connection to the world.