

## Milestones for Primary Readiness

Whether transitioning from home, a Montessori toddler environment, or another childcare environment into the Montessori Primary classroom which consists of a mixed age group of children ages three to six years old, a child embarks on an exciting new stage of growth and awareness. With the interest of the child in mind, and to help ensure the smoothest transition possible for the child and a positive start in the Primary classroom, candidates for the Primary classroom should begin working towards and show signs of readiness in the following developmental and behavioral areas prior to their start in Primary:

### Self-Care

- Dresses/undresses self.
- Puts on socks and shoes independently.
- Uses restroom with little or no assistance (occasional accidents to be expected). **(Must be wearing underwear consistently for three months prior to their first day in Primary) \*\***
- Washes hands without help.
- Uses eating utensils efficiently.
- Cleans up after self.

### Social/Emotional

- Identifies and recognizes feelings in self and others.
- Responsive to guidance.
- Respects others' space and bodies.
- Displays feelings of empathy, comforts others.
- Increasingly independent and is capable of self-regulation.
- Able to sit for longer periods of time for group instruction (i.e, during Circle time).
- Able to follow group instructions for line up and transitions.
- Able to facilitate and participate in community – move from parallel play to interactive play with peers.

### Language/Communication

- Articulates feelings and uses words to ask for needs ("I'm hungry" or "I need to use the potty") and sets boundaries with peers ("I don't like that" or "I'm playing with that").
- Broad vocabulary (Increases from 300 to approx. 1,200 understandable words between ages two and three, although communication may still be largely receptive, rather than expressive.)
- Beginning to form and understand more complex sentences (3-5 words long).
- Initiates and responds to simple conversations with peers.
- Able to follow multiple sequential directions independently with minimal teacher reminders (Example: 1. After snack, walk plate to trashcan, dump leftovers in garbage; 2. Wash plate; 3. Place plate on drying rack; 4. Push in chair; 5. Wipe table; 6. Wash hands and/or face.)
- Independent problem-solving in new situations (Example: drop plate, spill food = go get broom, sweep into dustpan, throw in trash).

**\*\* IMPORTANT: Children who are not completely potty-trained will not be able to start the program in August (even if already enrolled in the program).** We are happy to provide guidance and support in this area prior to your child's start, and will be assessing children for readiness closer to the start of the school year. If we determine that your child is not demonstrating readiness, their enrollment will be deferred. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's readiness for Primary in this or any other area at anytime during the admissions process, please call the office right away to speak with our Admissions Director.