



The Montessori Academy of Arlington
**INFANT
CLASSROOM ORIENTATION
AND GUIDELINES**





DROP OFF/ PICK UP PROCEDURE

Infants should be dropped off and picked up in the classroom. This can take place at any time within your family's contracted hours. Parents should allow 5-10 minutes to complete the Daily Sheet, label bottles and food containers, stock food and diapers, and speak with the teacher. Infants should be carried in your arms into the building and classroom until they are able to walk.

The Infant classroom is shoe-free to keep the floors as clean as possible. Parents must remove their shoes or use shoe covers when entering the classroom space. Shoe covers should be used sparingly to avoid waste.

WHAT TO WEAR

Clothing and Outdoor Shoes

Supporting independence should be kept in mind when it comes to clothing. Infants should wear clothes that allow them unrestricted movement in the classroom and outdoor environment. It is best to prioritize function over fashion. The skin of an infant is sensitive, so it is best to use natural fibers, such as pure cotton. Please avoid tight clothing, or any clothing that may be small or tight around the arms or legs. Infants will go outdoors each day, therefore, clothing should be weather-appropriate and easily washable. Older infants should wear separate tops and bottoms to encourage independence when dressing and undressing.

Once a child is walking, a pair of shoes will be needed for outdoor play. Shoes should enable your child to move with coordination and confidence. Outdoor shoes should be sturdy and closed-toe with Velcro (no laces). Your child should not wear jellies, flip-flops, cowboy boots, Crocs, or tight dress shoes, because these can be an impediment to early walking and dangerous on the playground. Please avoid flashing shoes, shoes that make noise, and those that have cartoon or fantasy characters. They are highly distracting for the wearer and other children.

Extra Clothes/Backpack

Your child should bring a small backpack to school with 3 sets of extra clothes which includes a top, bottom, and socks. Once an infant is walking, they will have an opportunity to learn how to walk with a backpack to help prepare for the transition to the Toddler program. You will also need to pack a small water-proof laundry bag to store any soiled clothing.



BACK TO SLEEP

As required by Texas Department of Health and Human Services, infants must be placed on their back to sleep. A child may then move to their preferred sleeping position. Infants under one year of age cannot sleep with a blanket or any other items in their bed. After one year of age, TMA will provide a soft blanket, if needed.

COMMUNICATION

Parent-Teacher Conferences are held three times a year. You will receive a report that summarizes your child's accomplishments and you will have an opportunity to help set goals for future learning. At any time, you can request to meet with your child's teachers. Please contact them by email, or you may leave a message for them to return your call after the school day ends.

Additionally, you will be invited via email to join the classroom information sharing site, Bloomz. Please accept this invitation so you can see pictures and descriptions of your child's work in the classroom, as well as information from teachers that is specific to your child's class.

Daily Sheets

The Infant Daily Sheet is a record of your child's feeding, sleeping, diapering, and skills practiced for the day. This will also be used to indicate whether more diapers, wipes, and/or clothes are needed. Upon arrival each day, you will complete the top-half of a Daily Sheet and place it on your child's clipboard to provide information about your child's night and morning. Completed forms will be sent home daily.

DAILY SCHEDULE

Each infant has their own schedule that will be followed. Between 12-15 months, infants will begin to transition to a group schedule. All infants under the age of 1 will need to have a completed feeding and sleeping schedule on file which should be updated every 30 days, or as changes to your child's schedule take place.

WHAT TO BRING



Bottles

Bottles need to be prepared daily and labeled with your child's designated color, first name, last name, and date. In addition, breast milk should also have a black piece of tape on it so that teachers know to handle it appropriately. Enough pre-made bottles should be provided for each feeding. Once a bottle is removed from the refrigerator and warmed, it must be used within the hour. Infants will be held by teachers when a bottle is used for feeding. By the age of 1, infants should be weaned from the bottle.



Milk

Once your child is weaned from the bottle, you may still bring milk in a thermos or reusable container to pour into a cup. Whole milk, soy milk, almond milk, formula, or appropriately labeled breast milk are allowed. Please do not place milk in a bottle or sippy cup.



Food

Learning to self-feed with both a spoon and fork is an outcome of the Infant program.

Therefore, the teacher may request different types of food be sent that will help your child practice the necessary skills to become successful. We will

provide bibs, placemats, plates, bowls, utensils, cups, and napkins for your child to use during meal times.

All food should be prepared and packed in reusable containers. Any food not consumed will be sent home at the end of the day. Teachers are not able to reheat food for students.

Foods that are choke hazards, such as grapes or cherry tomatoes, should be cut in half. Please do not send the following items: juice, carbonated drinks, popcorn, Lunchables, chips, or items high in sugar such as cookies, Jell-O, and fruit snacks.



Diapers and Wipes

Each child should bring a weekly supply of diapers and wipes. If cloth diapers are used, a daily supply should be brought with a dry bag that seals. We do not have the space to store more diapers or wipes than your child's cubby can hold.



Other Items

Each child has a cubby in the classroom to store diaper bags or backpacks. Bottles, milk containers, and food containers will be placed in this bag to be taken home at the end of the day.

We ask that infants not bring any other items from home, including pacifiers, stuffed animals, or blankets. Please speak with the teacher if there are concerns regarding the transition from home to school without these items.

CHECKLIST OF ITEMS TO BRING

Please label all items

- Lunchbox for bottles and food containers
- Enough pre-made bottles for the day
- Prepared food in reusable lunch containers that your child can manage independently
- Comfortable clothing that is easy to take on and off
- At least 3 extra sets of clothing
- Sturdy, closed-toe outdoor shoes that are easy to take on and off (no laces)
- Diaper bag or appropriately sized backpack
- Small waterproof laundry bag (this can be a gallon-size Ziploc)