

A WELCOME LETTER TO PARENTS

# WE ARE THE TEDDY BEAR TEAM

*Montessori School of Champaign-Urbana*



I LOOK  
FORWARD TO  
MEETING YOU  
SOON!

*Love, Thalia  
Rodriguez*

[Find more  
about me  
here](#)

Hello, my name is Thalia Rodriguez, and I am the lead teacher of our Teddy Bear classroom. I obtained my Montessori credential through the American Montessori Society (AMS) and have been leading the toddler program at MSCU since 2020.

Life has taken me on different paths; I was a children's book illustrator and graphic designer before I became a Montessori teacher.

My interest in Montessori education started during pregnancy, and motherhood became a full-blown passion for children's development. I wanted to create materials for my son and other children and learn how to see the world from their point of view. So, I searched for a job that allowed me to observe my son and other children living the first three most important years of their lives.



# PARENT COMMUNICATION

## • DAILY CORRESPONDENCE

I am available via email at [trodriguez@montessorischoolofcu.org](mailto:trodriguez@montessorischoolofcu.org) during school hours and will respond to your questions as quickly as possible. Please feel free to email me at any time!

We will keep you updated about your child's day, including meals, naps, and toileting, through [Transparent Classroom](#). Please download the app before the first day of school. You will receive access on that day.

[ANDROID DOWNLOAD](#)

[APPLE DOWNLOAD](#)

## • PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES AND PROGRESS REPORTS

I will send you an update about your child's adjustment into the program at the end of the first week of school, during which I will share photos (if allowed) and observations.

Through a monthly newsletter, I will also keep you updated about classroom activities and share photos of our monthly activities.

Parent-teacher conferences are the best opportunity to discuss your child's progress and share observations. During the school year, you will receive three detailed progress reports about your child's milestones and areas of work.

Please reserve a date on your calendar for our conferences:

- October 26th - 30th - Fall conf. - Exact date to be confirmed.
- January 25th - 29th - Winter conf. - Exact date to be confirmed.
- April 19th - 23rd - Spring conf. - Exact date to be confirmed.

I will send you more details as time goes on!

## OUR STAFF

Our staff is full of love and passion to support the toddler community at MSCU. They guide the children throughout the program to become confident, independent, creative, and self-motivated individuals.



*Yukimi Oishi*

Regular care assistant



*Jessica Earley*

Regular care assistant  
(Directress in Training)



*Thalia Rodriguez*

Directress



*Jane Priest*

After care assistant

## TODDLER PROGRAM CURRICULUM

The toddler classroom is structured into four main areas, each designed to support the children's development: fine and large motor, language, sensorial, and practical life. These areas form the backbone of our Montessori curriculum, ensuring a comprehensive approach to a successful transition to early childhood education.

With sensory materials, we provide children with opportunities to develop their visual discrimination skills in preparation for mathematics. Through language materials and engaging conversations, children refine their auditory skills in preparation for reading and writing. With large movements and activities that require maximum effort, we help children develop their balance, coordination, and strength. With fine motor materials, the children refine their pincer grasp.

Practical life connects all of these areas. The children build confidence and problem-solving skills through purposeful activities, absorbing knowledge through real-life experiences. In this area, the children can contribute to their community, use grace and courtesy, express themselves politely, wait their turn, and greet others.

As children grow, they become more aware of themselves and their world. They learn by observing our movements intently and mirroring our manners and communication.



PLEASE REVIEW

## SCHOOL SUPPLIES

**Please take a moment to review some important details about school gear and supplies that your child will need on the first day of school.**



## WHAT SHOULD I BRING?

- **FAVORITE LABELS**

- Labeling your supplies will help us keep track of your belongings. We recommend those labels; they are washer-safe.

- **ONE SLEEPING BAG**

- This will be sent home weekly to be washed. Toddlers may also bring a comfort item for nap time.

- **ONE WATERPROOF BAG**

- This bag will be used to put their wet/dirty clothes. Please check it daily and return it empty.

- **DAILY SUPPLIES BACKPACK - 11 inches**

- Your children will come back home with a backpack full of used and soiled clothes. It should be returned clean and empty the following day.

- **ONE FAMILY PHOTO (4\*6 FRAME)**

- This photo will decorate our shelves for the entire school year. You are part of our community!

**Each child must bring a backpack with the following daily supplies:**

- **SPARE CLOTHES**

- Two sets of pants, t-shirts, and socks.

- **DIAPERS WITH STRAPS**

- Four diapers (preferably with straps)

- **UNDERWEAR (IF BEING POTTY TRAINED)**

- Five pieces

DON'T FORGET

## BASIC HEALTHY HABITS



### REMIND CHILDREN TO WASH THEIR HANDS

*For example, after using the restroom, before meals, after playing outside, or playing with the family pet.*



### GOOD HAIR-CARE HABITS

*Healthy hair care begins with learning how to wash their hair. It is also important to keep the hair out of their eyes.*



### START THE DAY WITH CLEAN DIAPER

*Although we start toilet time early in the morning, make sure to bring your children with a clean diaper on every morning.*



### KEEP NAILS TRIMMED

*Short nails stay cleaner and we prevent accidental scratching,*



KEEP IT SIMPLE

## NOTES ABOUT CLOTHES AND DIAPERS

Help your child to be successful in dressing and undressing:

- Choose loose-fitting cotton clothing that facilitates independence and movement (easy to get on and off with an elastic waist).
- Avoid dresses or onesies.
- Avoid tight leggings or buttons on pants.

### TOILET TRAINING AND DIAPERS

During the school year, we will observe when your child shows signs of toilet awareness and is ready to transition to underwear. In the meantime, please send diapers with straps to facilitate the toilet process.

WE WILL SEE YOU SOON

# THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF OUR COMMUNITY

*Montessori School of Champaign-Urbana*

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### **TEDDY CLASSROOM OPEN HOUSE**

**Friday -August 7th - 4:30 pm**

Come visit the Teddy Classroom,  
meet the teachers, and take a  
look at our Montessori materials.

### **SENSORY WALK AT CLEARVIEW FARM**

**Saturday -August 8th - 11 am**

Bring your family and cameras!  
Our family photos will decorate  
our classroom.



Please email me to RSVP

[trodriguez@montessorischoolofcu.org](mailto:trodriguez@montessorischoolofcu.org)