



HUDSON COUNTRY
MONTESSORI SCHOOL

TODDLER PHASE-IN PERIOD

Welcoming Your Toddler to School

Beginning school is an exciting milestone for both children and their families. It is also a time of change, and it is natural for children to experience a range of emotions as they become familiar with a new environment, new adults, and new routines.

At Hudson Country Montessori School, we recognize that every child adjusts at their own pace. Our phase-in period is designed to help your child feel safe, build trusting relationships with their teachers, and become comfortable in their new classroom. Together, we will support your child through this important transition.

Preparing for the First Day

To help your child feel ready for school, we recommend adjusting their routine at least **two weeks before school begins** so it more closely matches the school day.

Suggested Routine

- Snack: 10:00 a.m.
- Lunch: 12:00 p.m.
- Nap: 12:30 p.m.

You can also help your child by:

- Establishing a consistent bedtime and morning routine.
- Allowing plenty of time to get ready without feeling rushed.
- Sharing breakfast together whenever possible.
- Packing your child's backpack together and including familiar favorite foods if they bring lunch.
- Speaking positively about school by talking about their teachers, classroom, friends, and the exciting work they will discover.
- Bringing all requested classroom supplies on Visiting Day, as listed in your Welcome Packet.

Children often take their cues from the adults around them. Your calm confidence and encouragement help communicate that school is a safe and welcoming place.



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The First Days of School

Day One

Please plan to pick up your child at **10:30 a.m.**, unless your child's teacher recommends otherwise.

A shorter first day allows your child to become familiar with the classroom, begin building relationships with their teachers, and experience a successful first day. It also helps reinforce that when you say you will return, you do.

Arrival

Please wait at the wooden gate. A teacher will come outside to welcome you and your child.

A warm hug, a reassuring smile, and a confident goodbye are the best way to begin the day. Let your child know you will return after snack, then allow the teacher to guide them into the classroom. Although saying goodbye can be difficult, children often settle more quickly when goodbyes are calm, loving, and consistent.

Transitioning to Your Child's Regular Schedule

As your child becomes more comfortable, we will gradually extend their time at school until they reach their regular daily schedule. While many children are ready within the first few days, others may benefit from a longer phase-in period. We will communicate with you throughout the process and work together to support your child's individual needs.



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Partnering Together to Foster Independence

It is perfectly normal for some children to experience separation anxiety during the first days of school. As they become familiar with the classroom, develop trusting relationships with their teachers, and establish a consistent routine, these feelings typically lessen.

Our teachers are experienced in supporting young children through this transition. If your child is having difficulty separating, we will work with you to develop a plan that best supports your child's individual needs. In some cases, we may recommend temporarily shortening your child's school day until they become more comfortable with the routine.

Most children settle comfortably into their regular school routine within the first couple of weeks, though some may need a little more time. We are committed to meeting each child where they are and helping them feel safe, capable, and happy at school.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out. We look forward to partnering with your family and welcoming your child to Hudson Country Montessori School.

**With warm regards,
The Toddler Staff**