

Parent & Child Montessori for Infants

~ Spanish *Montessori for Young Explorers* ~

Program Philosophy and Guidelines

LePort Schools' Parent & Child Montessori offers your infant a carefully prepared Spanish Montessori environment to explore, one that is ideally suited for children 2 – 17 months. It is a unique opportunity for you to have more than a full hour of uninterrupted time together with an instructor who will lead the class in Spanish, offering her native language and culture.

Babies fascinate new parents, but they're often also confused by the signals they send and the many changes that happen in fast order during the first 18 months of a baby's life. Beyond your love, proper nutrition and sound sleep, what can you do to help your baby flourish? What activities are best at what ages? Are there any changes you can make at home to optimize your baby's environment?

In this parent-child program for babies, we will show you in practice what a Montessori infant environment looks like and what activities it offers to support each baby's development. We'll provide you with practical guidance on how to implement some of these ideas at home. And, of course, your instructor will be available for all kinds of other questions related to parenting an infant!

In our Parent & Child Montessori program, we give our babies the chance to explore a tranquil, beautiful environment, created just for them. Depending on your child's age, she may watch fascinating mobiles, explore multi-textured objects, observe herself in the mirror, or climb up a specially designed set of infant stairs. Encourage her to explore and let her be challenged by the new things she encounters in this one-of-a-kind environment!

One of Dr. Montessori's great discoveries is that a lot happens when caregivers take a step back and observe how a child interacts with the prepared environment around him. Use your Parent & Child time as an opportunity to quietly watch your baby: You may be amazed at what you discover! There's no need to constantly entertain him with your voice or activities; give him the opportunity to take the new environment in with all his senses.

It's perfectly natural if your child seems to reject some activities yet really enjoys some others. Young children are individuals, and they all learn at their own pace and in their own way: One 6-month-old may already be able to move about, while an 8-month-old may be content to watch and explore objects within her seated reach. Whenever you respect your baby's interests and keep encouraging her, you are doing the best for her growth.

A Montessori environment is especially designed with young children in mind. It is fully accessible to them in that everything is the right size and at the right height for a very young child. The room is primarily their space, not ours. You will notice that the adults in the room are not dominant: We speak with soft voices, use slow movements, and handle everything with care because we are constant role models to the children.

Please join our **closed** Facebook group! As part of your enrollment, we invite you to join this private group dedicated to families of LePort's Parent & Child programs. Your child's session teacher will post pictures, share interesting news on Montessori education, notify you of upcoming events - - and you'll get to connect with other parents in the area who have young children, as well!

To go to the page, click the link:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ParentAndChildMontessori2013/>
then click request to join.

~ To learn more about LePort Schools, please visit <http://www.LePortSchools.com> ~

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Please review the following guidelines to help our program and your experience run smoothly for everyone. If a caregiver other than yourself brings your child to class, please have him/her review the guidelines as well. Keep in mind that each child attending the Parent & Child class must be accompanied by a parent or caregiver (e.g. twins require two adults). No older siblings are permitted.

Arrival Time – If you arrive before class begins, please wait outside the LePort entry unless the door is propped open, than please wait in the lobby. We have a shoes-off classroom, so kindly remove outdoor footwear before entering the class. Prior to class start time, your session leader is busy preparing for class, so please try not to come into class before 8:30 am. She will be happy to greet you and your child right when the session starts. The first classes, your instructor may speak in English as she explains the class details, but she will always speak exclusively in Spanish with your infant.

Behavior – Our groups will include wide age ranges (2-months-olds to potentially 12-month-old children). As such, there will be many different behaviors on display, all normal for a child's developmental stage. Very young infants may get hungry or tired and cry. New walkers may bump into other little people or stumble into furniture. Please keep in mind that meltdowns, while unpleasant, are commonplace. **We view these behaviors as normal for children in this age range and will work with parent and baby to create an environment where we can guide the child to overcome them.**

If an incident between children does arise, LePort Schools employs positive redirection and conflict resolution techniques rather than isolation. We do not use "time-outs" or "naughty chairs," and we respectfully request that parents also not use these during their Parent & Child Montessori sessions. Your session leader will model positive discipline strategies to help resolve any conflicts. You might later talk to your teacher about ways to prevent future incidents. Please try to view these incidents as positive learning opportunities.

Toys from home – Please do not bring any toys into our classroom environments, with the exception of teething rings if your child is teething.

Cleaning Up – The activities in our infant rooms all have specific places on the shelves. After you and your child use an activity, please kindly return the activity to its proper spot. If you have an older child who has become a good walker, encourage him to participate in the cleanup process by gently guiding him as he carries an activity back to its location on the shelf.

Clothing – Please ensure your child can move freely in his clothing. Socks with tread, bare feet or indoor shoes best manage slippery floors. Long pants are best for the crawling child, especially for our outdoor environment. As always with babies, please come prepared with extra clothing.

Eating – We are unable to provide snack during Infant Parent & Child. If a child's mealtime falls during class, you are welcome to bring food from home to serve at one of the specially designed low tables and chairs (we do not use highchairs). We have a refrigerator, microwave and a bottle warmer in the classroom. We do not allow Montessori materials to be brought to the table with food, since we allow a child to focus on one task at a time.

Diapers – Please bring your own diapers and wipes. Soiled diapers may be disposed of in the diaper bin directly beside the low changing table. Children who stand up on their own will be encouraged to be diapered while standing. The classroom guide will assist in learning this technique if parents are not familiar with this type of diaper changing. We do not allow Montessori materials to be brought to the

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diaper table, since we allow a child to focus on one task at a time.

Cell Phones – Please show respect for your child's Montessori experience by silencing your cell phone and not texting or checking messages during your Parent & Child sessions. If you absolutely must make a call during class time, please step outside to do so. You may, however, use your phone to unobtrusively take pictures or videos of your child engaging with the Montessori activities. Please refrain from allowing your child to use your cell phone during class time, as this distracts your child from the variety of materials available to explore in the classroom and outdoors.

Illness - **Please do not bring your child to class if he is sick.** While a runny nose is fine if your child is otherwise healthy, excessive coughing and irritability are reasons to keep your child at home. Also, if your child has vomited, has had diarrhea or has had a fever less than 24 hours before class, please keep your child at home.

Arrival Time – **If you arrive before class begins, please come into the front doors and wait in the lobby in the front of the school.** Prior to that time, your session leader is busy preparing for class. She will come out to meet you as soon as class begins. Please plan to speak only Spanish with your instructor from the moment you meet her and throughout the class-time together. If you do not speak Spanish, the instructor will make sure to check in with you outdoors while the children are playing at the end of class, to make sure you understand and that your questions are answered.

Make-Up Classes – While **we do not guarantee make-up classes**, please contact Kirsten Carlin kcarlin@leportschools.com to see if we can accommodate you in another class. If you end up missing a number of classes or need to drop out, unfortunately, we cannot offer a refund or credit.

Administrative Questions – If you have administrative or enrollment questions, you may speak to Allison or Jennifer in the Spectrum South LePort front office (949) 525-9922 or you may e-mail them at alopez@leportschools.com or jmendoza@leportschools.com

Program Questions – If you have questions or concerns regarding program content or procedures, please feel free to e-mail your instructor, Ivette De Haro ideharo@leportschools.com or call Kirsten Carlin, Parent & Child Coordinator, at (949) 354-5428.

Your 8-week Parent & Child Spanish Montessori session runs

Saturday, April 18th-June 13th *

**skipping May 23rd for Memorial Day Weekend*

from 8:30 - 10:00 am

1 Technology Drive, Building H, Irvine, CA 92618

We very much look forward to meeting you and your infant!