



Nido I & II Environments

The *Nido* environment is rooted in the educational philosophy of Maria Montessori. In fact, the word *Nido* comes from the Italian word “nest” and is meant to convey the warmth and security of a home.

At Lewinsville Montessori, we strive to create classrooms that are home-like with lovely, natural wooden and cloth materials, child-sized furniture, clean surfaces, and soft soothing music, in order for children to feel safe, cared for, loved and challenged in their ideal home away from home, their Nido. Through the environment’s simplicity and order the room is safe, secure, stimulating, and most importantly full of love. The preparedness of the teachers allow students to learn at their own pace, using their senses to explore and discover the world. The classroom focuses on two basic needs of the infant—a safe bonded relationship between adult and child and the development of the child’s growing sense of self and independence. The simplicity and order of our Nido environment support safe discovery of the world as the child sensorially explores the environment. These spaces are then thoroughly enhanced by the tender care and developmental support offered by our staff.

Each classroom is spacious to encourage freedom of movement. Beautiful Montessori materials developed to entice the sense of wonder innate in children while meeting their developmental needs in the areas of movement, language, motor skills, and independence fill each classroom. Each teacher carefully observes the children and matches the classroom materials to encourage their developmental progress based on Montessori training and on best practices from child development research. As did Maria Montessori, Lewinsville teachers “follow the child”. And because we “follow the child,” we provide a variety of environments where infants and toddlers can explore based upon her curiosity and mobility, not just her age.

Infant Nido I & II:

An infant’s brain is wired for language acquisition and our environments offer rich opportunities for babies to learn through plenty of reading, singing, sign language and a running dialogue as your child’s caregivers explain the events of your child’s day. Our respect for each child shows by how we engage him in each care-giving activity with warm eye-contact and verbal explanations of each step, rather than merely just doing the tasks to the child.

In our Infant Nido environment there are special mobiles and images to stimulate brain development, as well as a variety of tactile objects for children to explore. Because this is the period when infants learn to roll over, sit, scoot, crawl and potentially walk, the room has many opportunities for movement. In our Infant Nido rooms you will see...

- Many soft floor mats and bolsters on which babies can move freely and develop gross motor skills.
- Mirrors positioned close to the floor to stimulate tummy time and self-discovery.

- Low bars mounted to the wall and soft furniture for children to pull themselves up.
- An abundance of pillows for infants to climb over and prop themselves onto.

For the older infants, where crawling and newly walking babies have their hands free for exploration, you will see...

- Low shelving with materials for fine-motor development and cause/effect, such as puzzles, rings on a post, and containers to open and close.
- Opportunities for purposeful water play.
- A stair with low steps and a railing to practice climbing up and down.
- Pull and push toys to promote gross motor movement.

When an infant is enrolled, parents need to bring:

- _____ 5 crib sheets (Nido I)
- _____ one blanket
- _____ diapers
- _____ wipes
- _____ anti-rash lotion
- _____ extra clothes
- _____ bibs
- _____ pre-mixed formula/breastmilk (**bottles, cups, spoon**)
- _____ jarred food (if appropriate)

Everything needs to be labeled. Teachers will give you a daily report that shows the diapering, sleeping and feeding schedule of a baby during the day. There is a sign in/out form where parents **need to sign when the infant is dropped-off and picked-up.**