

Agaves Environment

Toddler Community 2020 – 2021

"Children are human beings to whom respect is due, superior to us by reason of their 'innocence' and of the greater possibilities of their future... Let us treat them... with all the kindness which we would wish to help to develop in them."

Dr. Montessori's Own Handbook (1965) p.133

Welcome to the Agaves Classroom! The Keystone Montessori Community and I appreciate the new families, and we are looking forward to a very successful school year. This is a community where not only the children, but the parents learn and grow. We are a team and working together will lead us to have a great time. The toddler community is a beautiful journey full of joy, love, laughter, growth, freedom, independence, and so on. Your child will have the opportunity to develop their skills and discover themselves by their experiences around the prepared environment.

Drop Off & Pick Up

To respond to that strong inner call that your child has to independence, please have your child walk and carry his/her lunch box. Short and sweet goodbyes are always the best.

Covid-19 Drop off procedure

Before care 7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m./Half Day or Full Day 8:15 – 8:30 a.m.

- Please, arrive with time.
- Walk with your child along to the southwest gate and sign her/him in at the sign-in station. Please, bring your own pen.
- Please, wait on the marked spots along the fence when checking in to maintain social distancing guidelines.
- Please, wait for a staff member to help your child walk to the classroom. If a staff member is helping another child when you arrive, please wait at the gate.
- A staff member will greet you, and your child's temperature will be taken. Check off the health questions on the sign-in sheet.
- A staff member will help your child to walk to the classroom. Please, do not handle lunchboxes and water bottles to staff members. They will help your child carry extra stuff such as clothes' bags, diapers, nap boxes, snacks/groceries, binders, etc. Your child needs to carry his/her lunch box and water bottle.
- Please, do not hang out at the gate. We kindly ask you to walk back to your car once a staff member is helping your child.
- Children will wash their hands once they enter the classroom.

Tardy (after 8:30 a.m.)

- Call the front desk and let Ms. Sandra know you are here. Once you announce, you are here, walk to the southwest gate. We will find a staff member to come and help you with Drop off procedure. This make take a few minutes, please be patient.

Pick up Time

- Call the front desk and let Ms. Sandra know you are here. Walk to the southwest gate and wait for a staff member to bring your child out.
- Please, bring your pen and sign out your child on the sign-out sheet.

Communication

You can email me at lidia@keystonemontessori.com. I regularly check my email at the end of the school day Monday – Friday. Please. If it is an emergency, the best will be to call the school directly at (480) 460-7312.

Daily Reports:

During Covid-19 times, we will communicate via written reports. It will be a basic report that consists of two sections:

- **Parents section:** Please, check in the boxes for Yes or No answer. We would like to know if your child has a good night, had breakfast, and if you have applied sunscreen, bug spray on, and a reminder about bringing in the water bottle.
- **School section:** We will let you know if your child had a nap and a short sentence about how your child did during the day. For children wearing diapers, we will let you know if your child had a BM.

We will leave space for notes. If you need to let us know something, please use this space to write down a little note. If your child is in underwear and you would like to know if he/she has evacuated due to constipation concerns, etc. Please, let us know in the report.

Please, handle the binder to a staff member at Drop off time.

If your child needs more diapers, wipes, spare clothes, etc. we will write it on the report. We will send the artwork and snack list in the binder as well.

Gold Notes: You will find gold notes (yellow paper) at the front desk. If you need to communicate schedule changing (will be picked up earlier, has a dentist appointment, grandparents are picking up), please write a gold note as I do not check my email during the morning. This information needs to be shared with the administration. Please do not write it in the report. You can attach the gold notes in the binder.

Nap Time

Your child will need a fitted crib sheet and a light blanket to use for a nap. No pillows or stuffed animals are needed. Pacifiers are not allowed in our environment. Please make sure their belongings are labeled with their first and last name. This box will be brought every Monday; it will remain in the classroom and will be sent home to be washed on Fridays. Each child has his/her nap mat, and we sanitize them after each use.

Nap box:

The dimensions of this item are 10 ½" x 7 7/8" x 7"



Extra Clothes

As your child explores, learns, and grows in the environment, his/her clothes will get wet or dirty. Please ensure that your child has two extra outfits in the classroom (2 shirts, two bottoms, two socks, underwear as needed). Please, bring in two wet bags labeled. One bag contains clean clothes, the other bag comes empty, and we will put soiled clothes in this bag. Please mark their initials in each item you bring to school in case it gets misplaced. If your child has a very special and meaningful outfit or shoes, please do not wear them on school days. In our environment, your child will get wet and dirty sometimes, and we cannot stop them from experimenting because of a cute outfit. Thank you for your understanding!

Shoes

Please, make sure your child wears comfortable shoes. Keep in mind that toddlers run, jump, and move a lot, so they need shoes that support all these needs. Also, to respond to that inner call of independence, have them wear shoes that they can easily put on and take off by themselves. Velcro shoes are the best option. Please avoid shoelaces, tie-up shoes, crocs, flip flops, flats, and slip-on shoes. We recommend keeping an extra pair of shoes at school if shoes get wet (pee accident, water, etc.)

Lunch Time

We encourage healthy eating habits and a well-balanced meal. Make sure that the food you pack for lunch is food that they like to eat. We avoid processed or packaged foods (no cookies or candy). Include an iced pack in your child lunch box since we don't store lunch boxes or containers in our refrigerator. Please keep in mind that we want to promote independence; we suggest you bring glass containers (snap ware/lock lid containers); they are heavier (so spills are not easy to happen) and are easier to open for children by themselves. Please avoid using bento boxes unless the food you are packing is a dry food that does not need to be microwaved. No squeezable fruit/veggie pouches, any applesauce or yogurt should be inside a container, so your child can eat it using a spoon. Drinking water is available in the classroom. Children will also be preparing fresh juices or smoothies, so please do not pack drinks. We also have plates, cups, and silverware available in the classroom.

Snack

The children eat snacks twice a day, once in the morning and the next in the late afternoon. The children have an open snack concept and prepare it as needed. A snack list will be given to your family to contribute to the classroom at a designated time.

Snack duty also includes:

- Flowers (minimum of 12 flowers in the bunch, small size flowers preferred).

Covid-19 Snack Procedure

- Your family is still assigned to bring in the snack at the designated date.
- Teachers will wash fruit with fruit/veggie soap and will handle it for each child.
- Children will set up their tables and prepare their snacks individually.
- We will keep snacks simple: fruits & cheese.
- No baking/cooking during Covid-19.

Sunscreen, Bug Spray and Diaper Rash Ointment

Please fill out the authorization form and attach it to the binder. We kindly ask you to send in spray or bar sunscreen instead of cream. Make sure you have correctly labeled the container with your child's name and last name, and please make sure that the expiration date is valid for one year.

Be kindly reminded that your child must come with sunscreen, bug spray on in the morning. We do not apply sunscreen/bug spray in the morning. We will apply it in the afternoon before going outside, and bug spray will be applied before nap and before going out during mosquito season or if we see mosquitoes around.

Please, write this in your authorization form:

Time & Frequency:

Sunscreen: apply in the afternoon if going outside.

Bug Spray: as needed when mosquitoes around.

We kindly ask you to write it in this way as these are legal forms. If you write, i.e., "every day in the afternoon," We must apply sunscreen even if it is raining outside, and we are staying indoors!

Incident/Accident Reports

Accidents

Young children tend to fall and get hurt when exploring their environment. An accident report will be written if your child has marks on his/her body due to an accident. If a child hits the head while playing/working, we are required by the administration to notify parents via phone call besides the written report.

Incidents

Children are learning how to socialize and behave around people; while they learn that some incidents may happen. Biting, scratching, pushing, etc. is normal toddler behavior in a Toddler Community. We work on this daily, we provide vocabulary and remind them about using their words instead of their body when communicating.

If your child is involved in an incident, you will get a written report. We protect our children's privacy, so the names of the other children involved in the incident will not be released.

Please, let us know in the daily report if your child got hurt the day before and has marks on the body. If we are not notified about these events, we are required to write a report if we find any marks/bumps on the children's body in the morning.

Illness

Fever: If a child presents a temperature above 100.4 degrees, the child will be taken to administration and isolated until parents pick up. Children can come back to school after 24 hrs. Without a fever without medication.

Diarrhea: If a child has two diarrhea episodes, parents will be notified, and the child will be isolated until parents pick up.

Coughing: If a child coughs uncontrollably during nap time and does not have any other symptoms, parents will be notified and asked to pick up the child. If your child has a condition that makes him/her cough when sleeping (asthma, croup, etc.), please provide a letter from your pediatrician certifying the diagnosis and provide treatment or written specifications of how to treat this diagnosis when your child is on campus.

Covid-19

Please, review the protocol sent by the administration.

Environment

Our Agaves environment is prepared to respond to each child's individual needs. We work on language development daily through songs, books, group language lessons, etc. Lessons will be presented throughout the school year to each child individually based on their interest and readiness.

Please bring in a Family Picture for our classroom decoration. Thank you so much!

Thank you for your support!

Ms. Lidia Carrillo
Ms. Silvia Castellanos
Ms. Rosario Davila