

Montessori First Steps Playgroup (12 - 24 Months)

*The very young child has an amazing capacity to absorb language, and an innate need to move and explore to be able to **do**. As your baby starts to walk and talk, IMS Montessori First Steps supports you and your child on a journey of discovery and accomplishment, guided by Montessori experts who provide an immersive English and Putonghua language environment designed to ensure the optimal growth and development for your growing toddler.*



The Programme

Montessori First Steps offers a joyful start for the emerging walker (12-24 months), learning side-by-side with a parent or caregiver, in a signature IMS bilingual environment.

Two experienced Montessori teachers guide a maximum of 8 child & parent/caregiver pairs in the Montessori First Steps environment.

Montessori First Steps is an accompanied playgroup with 2-day or 3-day per week options, 1.5 hours per session.



Fostering Independence and Determination

The Montessori First Steps environment is designed to assist the emerging walker and talker as they actively explore and begin to build skills that allow them to assert their own budding independence.

“Help me do it myself!”

Montessori First Steps teachers guide your child through carefully planned activities in both English and Putonghua that build sensory-motor skills, bilingual language skills, socialisation skills, high self-esteem, inner security, and the abiding habits of concentration which are crucial to future success.

Grow and learn alongside your child!

IMS teachers model Montessori child guidance approaches which nurture growing independence, concentration, and motivation as your child begins to explore, walk and talk. Teachers guide you in supporting Montessori at home to set your child up for a lifetime of success. At the same time, you'll meet other like-minded parents - and make friends for life!

“Between the age of a year and a half and two, the child can really walk quite a mile, and he can negotiate difficult places, steep rises, or stairs. But he walks with quite a different aim from our own. The small child walks to develop his powers; he is building up his being. He goes slowly. He has neither rhythmic step nor goal. But things around him allure him and urge him forward.”

– Maria Montessori



The Montessori First Steps Environment

The Montessori First Steps Environment is designed to meet the physical and developmental needs of the 12-24 month old child, and demonstrates how your family can replicate these in your own home.

“Help me move by myself!”

The Movement Area includes materials to encourage specific gross motor skills, such as pushing a cart or carrying a tray. The furniture is minimal and appropriately sized for the very small child, and carefully chosen art is placed at the child’s eye height low on the walls.

Spaces are deliberately laid out to challenge the child’s coordination by requiring the child to navigate through the environment to gain a desired object or to join a desired activity.



Toddlers in the Montessori environment are free to choose activities and move about the room. Through natural physical activity, children expend energy and develop large and small muscle coordination. The children also enjoy free time in the Play Area.



“Help me talk by myself!”

At IMS, each environment is led by both an English-speaking and a Putonghua-speaking teacher, who immerse your child in a natural Montessori environment that gives the gift of early bilingualism.

In the Language Area, your child is given vital exposure to English and Putonghua through spoken vocabulary enrichment exercises, miniature objects and other activities, including art, music and movement activities. Written language begins to be introduced through books using traditional Chinese characters or in English.

Guidance is offered to help support your child’s language enrichment at home.

“Help me do it by myself!”

Your toddler just wants to be able to do all the wonderful activities that surround them in their daily lives. **The Practical Life Area** enables them to interact with their environment in the way that they crave – through activities such as setting and clearing the table, sweeping, watering plants, and more, your child will develop the fine motor skills and concentration necessary to begin to do things independently.

The Montessori teachers suggest approaches for parents to help include your toddler in the important work of your home and family.

Montessori at Home: Practical Parenting Workshops

Sessions are filled with practical tips for supporting your child at home, enabling you to guide your child to learn new skills and gain confidence to try new things! Parents and caregivers are invited to attend a special workshop around a topic of particular interest to support what you will be learning about in the First Steps session with your child.

Join in practical presentations and discussions around setting up a snack cart at home, cooking with your little one, making mealtimes engaging, morning routines, reading to your very young child, bedtimes and much more.