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## WHY CENTENNIAL?

As you enter a classroom at Centennial, you are likely to feel an inspired peace as children as young as two quietly bustle about their work. While a four year old works on the decimal system materials, a three year old diligently polishes a glass mirror, and a five year old shares a glass of freshly squeezed orange juice with a friend. At Centennial, all of this work is important because it is through activity that the child becomes the individual he is striving to be. It is our job as educators to observe and assist the child in the creation of that unique self. To that end, the cornerstones of our program are:



**Child Centered Approach:** proven AMI Montessori philosophy which honors the natural curiosity and passion in every child.

**Highly Trained Staff:** Head classroom teachers hold a diploma from the Association Montessori International and are assisted by teachers who are bilingual and consistently speak their native language in the classroom.

**World Exposure:** A curriculum which celebrates the diversity of people, customs, language, flora, fauna of the world inspires wonder in children and has social, cognitive, and educational and benefits which last a lifetime.

**Community Participation:** The multi-aged classroom provides a means for even the youngest child to contribute. Older children may extend this participation to the larger community.

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## OUR PROGRAMS

Primary classroom (3 - 6 years old)

Five Day Program

- Three Hour Morning Program: 8:45 am to 12:00 pm
- Four Hour Morning Program: 8:45 am to 1:00 pm
- Full Day Program (required for 4.5 yr. olds and older) 8:45 am – 2:45 pm

Toddler Classroom (2 – 3 years old)

- Monday through Thursday
- Morning: 9:00 am to 11:30 am
- Plus Lunch: 9:00 am to 12:30 am (if there is sufficient demand)



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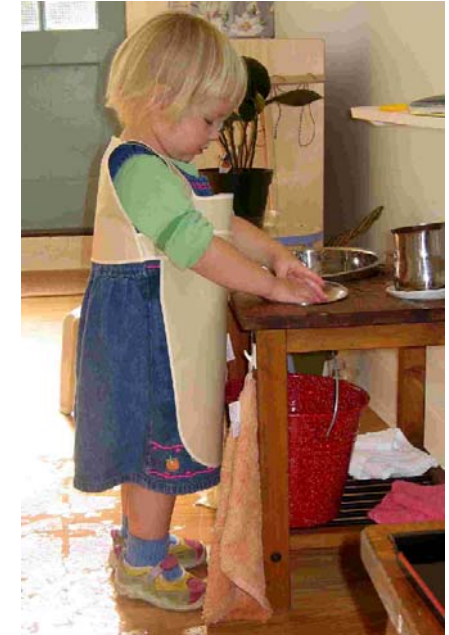
## OUR DIRECTOR

Kristin McAlister-Young was a Montessori child herself through sixth grade and believes passionately that the ages between 0 and 6 form the foundation of the human personality and the way the child interacts with the world. Her qualifications include: AMI Primary diploma, Maria Montessori Institute, London, MA Education, Kings College, London, BA Developmental Psychology and Biomedical Ethics, Brown University, NYC Board of Education certified secondary school teacher.

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# CENTENNIAL MONTESSORI SCHOOL

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Pioneering the next century of Montessori education...

Recognized for full accreditation  
by Association Montessori  
International (AMI)

To request an application or for more information,  
please contact us at (650) 340-1230 or  
[info@centennialmontessori.org](mailto:info@centennialmontessori.org)  
[www.centennialmontessori.org](http://www.centennialmontessori.org)

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## EXPOSURE TO THE WORLD



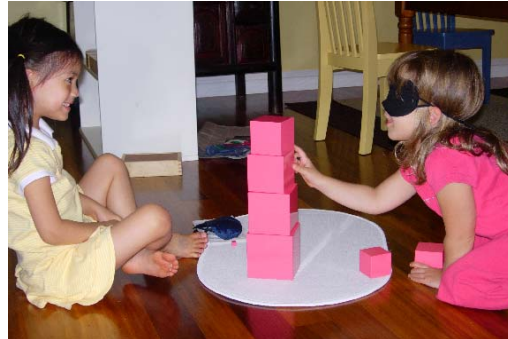
At Centennial, we believe that by exposing children to the wealth of diversity found in the world they grow up naturally comfortable in the global community and respectful of the riches found in the natural environment.

- Our children grow up exposed to many cultures and are better able to respect the diversity of man and the responsibilities and achievements of mankind.
- Early language exposure and exposure to different natural environments helps children form an emotional and cognitive attachment to different parts of their world.
- Children under six are in a sensitive period for language acquisition and exposure thus forms a basis for later fluency.

We incorporate Mandarin and Spanish into the classroom by using two teacher assistants who only speak the target language. Our toddler classroom is primarily English.

## THE MONTESSORI PHILOSOPHY

The Montessori philosophy was developed by the first female Italian physician, Dr. Maria Montessori through scientific observation of children from many countries and every socioeconomic class. Her method has been supported by psychologists, educators, and cognitive research throughout the last 100 years. Further, Dr. Montessori's understanding of the developing child has formed a foundation for the work of many developmental scientists including: Jean Piaget, Erik Erickson, and T. Berry Brazelton.



*"One becomes a well-balanced adult only if one has fully been a child." – Dr. Maria Montessori*

We find that Montessori children are:

- Confident, adaptable, and empowered.
- Excited by challenges and inspired by discovery.
- Lifelong learners motivated by natural curiosity and equipped to pursue an interest to completion.

Our teachers are:

- Passionate about all that a child can become.
- Motivated to create an environment where the child's inspiration finds expression in purposeful activity.
- Caring, respectful, and nurturing.

## COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

We believe that peace begins in the individual and is founded in that first contact of the centered individual with his immediate community. We strive to create whole individuals who accept as part of the normal course of their life the responsibility for caring for others.



At Centennial, we promote this vision in the classroom through the mixed age group which fosters a true sense of community and many opportunities to help. We then extend that service to others. Through these helping experiences, the child develops confidence, compassion, and a connection to their world.