



Phase-In for Toddler and Primary Children

(Please note that for students new to Many Rivers at the Toddler and Primary levels that the school year begins with a part-time week.)

At Many Rivers Montessori, we believe that the best approach to introducing a new child into the Montessori environment—or for a continuing child to a new level within the school—is through a process called Phase-In. Phase-In is carefully designed and implemented to create a peaceful experience for your child over several sessions.

The specific format of phase-in can vary from year to year, but in general here is what a family should expect when their Toddler- or Primary-age child begins at Many Rivers or is transitioning to the Primary level:

Tuesday after Labor Day

- Primary students who were in an MRM Primary room last year attend.
- Toddlers who were in the MRM Toddler room last year attend.
- Primary children new to Many Rivers **or new to Primary** do not attend.
- Toddlers new to Many Rivers do not attend.

Wednesday after Labor Day

- Children new to Toddler attend 8:30-9:30 or 10:30-11:30 (a specific time for your family will arrive in the summer)
- Children new to Primary attend 8:30-9:30

Thursday after Labor Day

- Children new to Toddler attend 8:30-10:00 or 10:30-noon
- Children new to Primary attend 8:30-10:30

Friday after Labor Day

- Children new to Toddler attend 8:30-10:00 or 10:30-noon
- Children new to Primary attend 8:30-11:30

After this initial four day period children attend for their contracted periods. During phase-in, children may use the morning care program if they are registered for it and the parent feels they are ready.

The Phase-In period during the first week school year begins allows the child to become familiar with the environment and how it operates without becoming overwhelmed with the full length of the school day. Our goal is for your student to develop familiarity with the environment and a sense of ownership and pride for their classroom community, as well as their own personal space. Typically, any separation anxiety is minimal because of this gradual start to the school year. While during the regular school year parents will drop off

their child at the front entrance, for phase-in parents bring their children to the Primary and Toddler coat areas to make a brief connection with the Guide.

For toddlers, at least one parent (or other person close to your child) should plan to be available during the entire phase-in period. Your child will most likely need someone familiar to attend school with him/her for at least the first day. Parents need not necessarily remain in the classroom the entire time, but should plan to be on site in case they are needed.