







**Mandala Children's House**  
 2022-2023 Class Descriptions

## Preschool Classes

Class Name	 Ladybugs	Ladybugs 'n Lunch 	 Dragonflies
<i>Definition</i>	Morning or Afternoon Preschool	Morning Preschool + Lunch	Expanded-Day Pre-Kindergarten
<i>Age (as of Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>)</i>	3-5 years	4-5 years	4-5 years
<i>Toilet Trained</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Teacher-Child Ratio</i>	8 : 1 (morning) 6 : 1 (afternoon)	8 : 1	8 : 1
<i>Class Description</i>	<p>A traditional Montessori preschool class for the child who is ready to handle more choice, additional classmates, and more transitions in a larger learning environment. Our Ladybug class provides opportunities for younger students to learn from older children, and for the older students to model for younger children in a true mixed-age classroom. Ladybugs are learning academics through self-organizing Montessori materials that teach math, language, and reading/writing through whole-body experiences. They are also learning the social-regulation skills necessary for school success: how to take initiative with peers, engage in cooperative play, manage emotions, follow directions, share thoughts/ feelings, &amp; negotiate conflict. Character-building is a key feature.</p>	<p>An ideal option for the pre-K child who is ready to slightly extend their day and spend more time interacting with peers, but who may not be quite ready for the expanded day Dragonfly class. Ladybugs in this class participate in the morning preschool program, bring their lunch, and stay at school for an additional 45 minutes where they benefit from important social skills practice with friends. Ladybugs who lunch end their day with patio activities and some extra playground time! This class has a limited number of openings set aside for children who are preparing to move onto Kindergarten the following year.</p>	<p>A perfect class for the pre-Kindertener who is ready for a longer school day. It is best suited for mature preschool children who are eager to explore the classroom more fully and who are able to handle an extended day. Dragonflies attend the morning portion of their day in a mixed-age classroom with Ladybugs. The Dragonfly day includes lunch, a time where students have the opportunity to practice important social skills. Dragonflies spend their afternoons building on the social, emotional, and academic skills that children are acquiring in the morning. The small afternoon class provides an opportunity for expanded activities, teacher-led presentations, and additional time for working with the advanced Montessori materials.</p>
<i>Times</i>	T/TH, MWF & M-F 9:00-12:00 M/T/TH 1:00-4:00 3 hours	T/TH, MWF & M-F 9:00-12:45 3 ¾ hours	T/TH, MWF & M-F 9:00-2:45 5 ¾ hours

*We offer class options to meet the unique developmental needs of EACH child. Class placements are made by the Administrative staff in close collaboration with parents.*

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	<h2>Early Preschool</h2>	<h2>Special Enrichment Class</h2>
<i>Class Name</i>	 Cocoons & Caterpillars	 Social Butterflies
<i>Definition</i>	Introductory/Transitional Preschool	Social Skills Friendship Class
<i>Recommended Age (as of Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>)</i>	2-3 years	Ladybugs & Dragonflies
<i>Toilet Trained</i>	No	Yes
<i>Teacher-Child Ratio</i>	4 : 1	2 Teachers w/ 4-6 Children
<i>Class Description</i>	<p>A small, highly-nurturing class for toddlers who are first beginning school or for the young preschooler who may benefit from a smaller environment with closer teacher attention. The focus is on mastering separation, early socialization, and language development. Children learn turn-taking, listening, cooperation, self-control, and comfort with adults and peers. The teachers follow the lead of individual children, encouraging developmental play. Music, movement, and floor time play are strongly emphasized. The classroom is enriched with many hands-on learning materials, including age-appropriate Montessori activities that inspire curiosity and creativity and offer multiple opportunities for interactive socialization. Toilet-teaching is offered as a natural part of the day. Transitions are limited. Class size is limited to 12 children.</p> <p><i>NOTE: This is a blended age-group class, where young toddlers are enriched by the modeling of older ones. Young two year olds and those without any school experience must start with either a 2 or 3 day option. Older children with some classroom experience may grow into a 5 day schedule (by recommendation only).</i></p>	<p>A special enrichment class for children who can benefit from extra support in making connections with peers and establishing friendship skills. Teachers coach children to play collaboratively and cooperatively. Children relate to one another through interactive play activities. They learn about their thoughts and feelings and how to work together as part of a group. Teachers promote mental flexibility, conversational turn-taking, problem-solving, "body-reading" awareness, and emotional regulation. This is a great class for building play skills and confidence in the social realm.</p>
<i>Times</i>	T/TH & MWF and M-F by recommendation only 9:00-12:00 3 hours	Offered During School Year 12:30-1:30 6 Week sessions - 1 hour

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