







Preschool Classes

Class Name	 Morning Ladybugs	 Afternoon Ladybugs	 Expanded Day Ladybugs	 Dragonflies
Definition	Morning Preschool	Afternoon Preschool	Morning Preschool + Afternoon Extension	Expanded-Day Pre-Kindergarten
Age (as of Sept. 1 st)	3-5 years	3-5 years	3-5 years	4-5 years
Toilet Trained	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Teacher-Child Ratio	8 : 1	7 : 1	8 : 1	8 : 1
Class Description	<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, & negotiate conflict. Character-building is a key feature.</p>	<p>The Afternoon Ladybug class mirrors the curriculum and structure of the Morning Ladybug class but with a slightly smaller group. The unique timing of this class provides a slower pace and a quiet, peaceful campus, which is beneficial to many students. Teachers craft their daily routine around the needs of the children and intentionally work with each student to further develop their social and emotional skills. Like the Morning Ladybugs, the afternoon class is learning academics through self-organizing Montessori materials that teach math, language, and reading/writing through whole-body experiences. Afternoon Ladybugs are also learning how to take initiative with peers, engage in cooperative play, manage emotions, follow directions, share thoughts/feelings, & negotiate conflict.</p>	<p>This class is by recommendation only and is the ideal option for the Preschooler who is ready to extend their school day, but who is not yet of age to attend our Dragonfly (Pre-K) program. Ladybugs in this class participate in the morning preschool program, bring their lunch, and spend the afternoons engaged in a second work time, more outdoor play, and further social skills practice. The Expanded Day Ladybug class joins with the Dragonflies for pieces of the afternoon, but also spends time in their own group working on enriching and developmentally appropriate activities. This is a special opportunity for those children who are no longer in need of a nap and who are ready to engage in a longer school day.</p>	<p>A perfect class for the pre-Kindergartener 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>
Times	T/TH, MWF & M-F 9:00-12:00 3 hours	M, W, TH, F 1:15-4:15 3 hours	T/TH, MWF & M-F 9:00-3:00 6 hours	T/TH, MWF & M-F 9:00-3:00 6 hours

 Mandala Children's House

2024-2025 Class Descriptions

	Early Preschool	Special Enrichment Class
<i>Class Name</i>	 Cocoons & Caterpillars	 Social Butterflies
<i>Definition</i>	Introductory/Transitional Preschool	Social Skills Friendship Class
<i>Age (as of Sept. 1st)</i>	2 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, language development, and toilet learning. 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: Early Preschoolers all start with either a 2 or 3 day option. Children 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

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.