



BERGAMO

Everything You Need to Know About the Infant Community

Welcome to the Infant Community! We are a community of infants who have come together to learn, grow, love, and explore the world.

There is so much depth behind each aspect of our room. If you think about all of the work that the child does before they reach 18 months, you see the need for a very prepared environment that is suitable and ready to meet the developmental needs of the child, as well as prepared adults who know how to serve each child and their individual needs.

The Materials

At this stage in the development, the child is absorbing all aspects of the world around them. He is learning the ways in which his culture interacts with one another through movement, language, and social interactions. We have prepared the environment and the materials to assist the child as he develops his abilities and preferences and becomes independent in each.

Movement

We offer lots of space for movement, from safe areas for tummy time, to areas that provide opportunity to challenge crawling, cruising, and walking. We also offer materials that call to the child, enticing her to move. The child observes the care provided to them and in turn wants to explore these skills, therefore infant sized utensils and tools are offered. These give them the opportunity to succeed in their early attempts to feed and care for themselves. Through practice, the child leaves the Infant Community with the confidence to move about their environment independently and explore the world, ready for the Toddler Environment, which will work to refine and offer challenges for their movements and skills.

Language

Children come into this environment with varying levels of communication. She leaves with a vast knowledge of vocabulary and experiences that reinforce the meaning and understanding of these words. To serve the child in her development of language, we offer experiences that will enrich and develop the child's language skills. You will see many different real objects and language cards that we use for enriching the child's vocabulary. We give the child as much experience with the objects as possible. This deepens the child's knowledge and gives the child a better understanding of the word.

The adults in the environment are constantly giving proper names for everything in the environment and inviting each child to explore the objects with all of their senses. We consider the adult to be the main language material and therefore, we prepare each adult for this very important task. Adults converse with the children, providing rich language and listening patiently to attempts at language and other forms of communication.

Eating

The child is intensely drawn to food and its preparation. We have a formal sit down lunch with tablemats, flowers, real plates, silverware, and cups for those ready to use them. The child feels honored by such a lovely presentation and develops great table manners as a result. There is a great deal of language and movement that goes along with eating as well. Due to the specific foods each child is being introduced to at this new and explorative time, each parent provides a meal that fits their child's needs. This brings comfort to the child when they have a meal that is so familiar. For those within close proximity to the school and with a regular schedule that allows visits, you are welcome to come in to nurse or feed.

How to Offer Choices

The child will soon be developing their sense of will, and to help them prepare we offer them choices so they can practice making decisions.

1. Offer limited choices. Only give two choices in the beginning. "You can sit down and eat or dinner is over".
2. Only offer choices that are available and true. You should avoid saying things like, "come with me or I am leaving".
3. Offer appropriate choices. We wouldn't offer the child a long sleeve shirt as a choice if we knew it was going to be 100 degrees outside! In this way you will not have to manipulate the choice.

4. Avoid manipulating the child's choice. An example of manipulating the choice would be saying, "You can wear the blue or the red shirt, but the red shirt would look better with the pants you chose."

Diapering and Toileting

Cloth diapers are used in the class to help the child develop a sense of their body and how it functions. The child can more easily feel the wetness of the cloth diaper after they have gone, and they soon associate the two feelings of urinating and being wet together. We change the child right away when he has eliminated to give him the understanding that he is supposed to be dry and clean. We give him the proper names of the changing and toileting tools so that he has the knowledge and language to go along with the experience.

Toileting is done from the minute the child is walking. We know that the child can control the sphincters because he can control his legs for walking! We see the child holding his urine longer and going all at once instead of the urine trickling out all day. We offer the child cloth underwear so that he feels the consequence of urination and the movement of the bowels. We offer the child much experience in the restroom with child sized toilets and sinks, so that he can access them easily. With all of this work, you can imagine how much time we spend in the bathroom! In the beginning we change clothes all day! We have fun flushing the toilet over and over (even when there is nothing in it) and then washing hands over and over again!

We supply cloth diapers that will be used during class time for children who are not yet walking. We have a regular diaper service that provides us with sanitized diapers each week. For walking children, cloth underwear will be used. Please bring in 12 thick cloth underwear for your child's use at school. We will launder all underpants and keep them at school. Every week please also bring 5 diapers your child will go home with.

I am looking forward to working with you all and serving you child! You have chosen a holistic approach for education and I hope your experience with Bergamo Montessori at Serrano is as fulfilling as mine as been! You can always contact me with any questions by email Gabi@BergamoSchools.com.

Warm regards,
Gabi Bustamante

What to Bring on the First Day:

- 5 changes of clothes
- 1 extra pair of shoes
- 2 passport sized photos
- 1 3x5 family photo
- 1 fitted crib sheet
- 1 small blanket
- 1 small hairbrush
- Diapers for the trips home that week
- 200 wipes

Useful links for Nido/Bambino:

All of the links below are available on the sidebar of your classroom blog:

Nido & Bambino Blog – <http://www.bergamoschools.com/parents-categories/serrano/nido-serrano/>, <http://www.bergamoschools.com/parents-categories/serrano/bambino/>

Returning student emergency card: Coming soon!

New student emergency card: SerranoEmergencyContact.Bergamoschools.com

Medicine permission: BMSMedicalPermission.Bergamoschools.com

Stroller Permission: InfantStrollerPermission.BergamoSchools.com

Parent handbook: www.bergamoschools.com/new-site/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/BMS-parent-handbook.pdf