

Montessori School celebrates opening of new toddler room, infant-parent room

By KOREY WILSON

Hour Staff Writer | Posted: Monday, November 23, 2015 8:30 pm

WILTON — It's never too early to develop self-sufficiency skills in children that will serve them for the rest of their lives. In the Montessori education model, the best time to develop independent thinking ability is during a child's infant and toddler stages.

The Montessori School celebrated the unveiling of its new Infant-Parent Room and Toddler Room and with a ribbon cutting ceremony Monday.

Structured to foster independent growth and support infants in realizing their enormous potential, the Infant-Parent Room is used to teach parents and children about the importance of movement, language, care of one's self, and independence with sleeping and eating under the tutelage of a Montessori educator.

The new Toddler Room, the second at the school, features a knee-high kitchen with a working sink and oven, dinnerware, kitchen equipment, lifestyle workstations, and furnishings that are designed with a toddler's size in mind.

Aimed at introducing cognitive and physical challenges, Toddler Room amenities nurture independence and maximize learning, to develop confidence, autonomy and a stronger sense of self, that children can carry with them through all of life's endeavors.

"Born with 100 billion neurons, with what Montessori termed 'human tendencies' to help them adapt and thrive in the world ... our babies begin life as powerhouses of potential," said Lisa Fay, an early childhood and parent educator, who is certified at the birth-to-three level with the Association Montessori Internationale (AMI). "Here, we've created a place where babies and toddlers' process is deeply respected. They learn to exercise that muscle of decision-making, to practice being independent, even to develop their

executive function."

The birth-to-three period is the fastest rate of brain development across the entire human life span, according to Montessori School officials.

"I would argue that we don't have a moment to lose in our efforts to educate parents about their significant role in the unfolding of their children's physical abilities, their intelligence, their life as social and spiritual beings," said Fay. "We need urgently to give even the youngest members of our community the tools to be kind, self-governing adults-in-the-making."

With locations in Norwalk and Wilton, the Montessori School serves children from 14 months through 8th grade. The school is accredited by both the Association Montessori Internationale and the Connecticut Association of Independent Schools.

For more information, visit website at www.themontessorischool.com.