



# Toddler Co-Teacher/Parent-Infant Guide

## School in the Woods Montessori School

*Full-time, ten-month school year, beginning August 2026*

<b>Position</b>	Toddler Co-Teacher/ Parent-Infant Guide
<b>Organization</b>	School in the Woods Montessori School
<b>Employment Type</b>	Full-time, 1.0 FTE, ten-month school year
<b>Location</b>	Denver, Colorado
<b>Start Date</b>	August 2026
<b>Salary Range</b>	\$36,000 to \$60,000, with placement based on experience and credentials
<b>Reports To</b>	Head of School (interns report to the lead toddler mentor teacher)
<b>Search Managed By</b>	Montessori Makers Group

### ABOUT SCHOOL IN THE WOODS

School in the Woods Montessori School is a warm, established Montessori community in Denver, Colorado, serving children from fifteen months through six years across toddler, primary, and parent-infant programs. The school enrolls roughly one hundred children, with an additional thirty babies and parents participating in the parent-infant program each year. The work here is grounded in respect for the child, in close partnership with families, and in the belief that the youngest children deserve the same intellectual and developmental seriousness as any older student. The language here matters. Every adult in the building speaks of the toddler space as a school, a classroom, a prepared environment, and treats the work that way.

The community is steady, financially stable, and has no plans for rapid growth in the next several years. Leadership opportunities will emerge in the next five to eight years as the current Head of School plans

her transition. That leadership will grow naturally from someone who has done the daily work with integrity, built deep relationships with children, families, and colleagues, and earned the trust of a community over time. For an educator who is looking for a place to settle, deepen practice, and let leadership find them through the quality of their work, this is a particularly good moment to arrive.

## **THE OPPORTUNITY**

School in the Woods is hiring a full-time Toddler Co-Teacher/Parent-Infant Guide to join an existing, well-loved toddler classroom. The new co-teacher will join an experienced partner in a true co-teaching model, where both adults share full responsibility for everything that happens in the classroom and rotate through every domain of the work each week.

The position carries a second responsibility on Fridays: leading the school's Parent-Infant program. This is a half-day class for babies and their parents, focused on observation, language about early development, and the careful work of mentoring families through the first years of childhood. Most candidates do not arrive fluent in parent-infant work. The school expects to teach this part of the role on the job, alongside a qualified candidate who is genuinely curious about the very youngest children and the families who love them.

## **WHAT YOU WILL DO**

### **The Toddler Classroom**

You will share full responsibility for a Montessori toddler environment, including preparation of the space, observation, lesson planning, daily routines, and the care of every child in the class. Toileting in this program is treated as curriculum, not a task to be passed off to an assistant. It is held by a Montessori-trained adult because it is one of the earliest and most beautiful invitations toward independence. You and your co-teacher will alternate weekly through the major domains of classroom life: greeting families at arrival, preparing snack, leading group time, holding toileting and self-care, and managing pickup. The rotation is intentional. It builds shared fluency, prevents either adult from becoming the only person who can do a particular task, and protects the dignity of every part of the day.

### **The Parent-Infant Program**

On Monday evenings, the Head of School leads the Parent Education class for enrolled families, and all Toddler Co-Teachers share responsibility for facilitating conversation and presenting topics throughout the year. In your first year, you will have the opportunity to observe how these sessions are structured and led. By the end of that year, you will be invited to identify a topic you feel ready to present and make it your own going forward. Over time, as your relationships with families deepen, there is real opportunity to grow into a more central role in leading this program. On Fridays you will guide a half-day Parent-Infant class for babies and their parents, either morning or afternoon depending on the semester rotation. The work blends careful preparation of the environment with thoughtful, individualized support for parents who are learning to observe their children and trust their own developing skill. You will not be expected to come in already fluent in this program. The school will train you, alongside an experienced clinician who works regularly with the staff.

## Family Partnership

Family communication is a core part of this role. You and your co-teacher will share daily in-person touchpoints at drop-off and pickup, write progress and conference reports, and lead parent conferences together. Both adults contribute equally to the relationship with every family. Communication is taken seriously here, not as performance, but as the connective tissue between school and home.

## Authority and Autonomy

You will have meaningful autonomy in your classroom. Within the school's coaching philosophy and the Montessori curriculum, you and your co-teacher decide together how the day unfolds, how lessons are sequenced, and how each child's path is held. The Head of School operates as a careful preparer of the adult environment. She trusts trained guides to follow the child.

## The Shape of the Week

Standard hours are 7:30 in the morning to 4:00 in the afternoon, Monday through Thursday, with one Monday evening Parent Education class running ninety minutes. Fridays are a half day in the Parent-Infant program, either 7:30 to 12:00 or 12:00 to 3:30. Heavier weeks include Back-to-School Night in early October and the annual AMS conference, with the Monday evening class typically canceled in those weeks. Lighter weeks include the monthly teacher work day, a full child-free day for classroom care, planning, and curriculum work, which also replaces the corresponding Monday evening or Friday session.

## WHO YOU ARE

You are a Montessori educator who is genuinely called to the youngest children. Toddlers are not a stop along the way to working with older students. They are your people. You understand that this age sits inside a profound sensitive period for movement, language, order, and the formation of self, and you bring patience, presence, and a sense of seriousness about the work.

You are humble. You know that good practice is built across years, that no single adult holds all the answers, and that reflection is part of the job. You are eager to partner with parents, willing to be honest with them, and steady in conversations that ask for both warmth and clear boundaries. You are flexible enough to co-teach well, which means sharing every domain of the classroom rather than carving out a personal territory.

You see communication and collaboration as ongoing practices rather than fixed traits, and you welcome the school's investment in workshops with a clinician who supports staff in growing those skills together.

## QUALIFICATIONS

### Required

- MACTE-accredited Montessori credential at the Infant and Toddler (Birth to Three) level
- Demonstrated passion for working with toddlers and a commitment to Montessori practice

- Eagerness to build close, respectful relationships with parents and to communicate consistently in person and in writing
- Disposition for true co-teaching, including flexibility, vulnerability, and willingness to share every part of classroom life on a weekly rotation
- Humility and a reflective practice, including openness to feedback, mentorship, and growth over time

### Preferred

- Bachelor's degree in education or a related field, which carries a placement bump on the salary scale
- Colorado Director Qualification, which carries an additional placement bump
- Prior experience in a Montessori toddler classroom or with parent-infant work
- Experience with co-teaching models or shared classroom leadership

## COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS

School in the Woods uses a transparent salary structure that places candidates based on years of relevant experience, education, and credentials. The full range for this role is \$36,000 to \$60,000 for a ten-month school year. Holding a bachelor's degree and the Colorado Director Qualification each provides a placement bump on the scale, and longstanding faculty receive years-of-service bonuses at five and ten years. Annual raises are part of the school's regular practice.

### WHAT SCHOOL IN THE WOODS OFFERS

- A ten-month school year with paid school breaks, including one week at Thanksgiving, two weeks at winter break, and one week at spring break, plus paid summer off in June and July
- Two weeks of paid time off for personal or sick days during the school year
- Half-day Fridays through the Parent-Infant program
- All-inclusive sponsorship of annual AMS conference attendance, including registration, travel, lodging, and meals
- Health insurance through Kaiser Permanente, with dental and vision coverage included
- Optional retirement savings plan
- Access to Colorado's state paid family and medical leave program
- Tuition remission with first-child-free enrollment for faculty children, and a graduated discount for a second child and beyond that scales with years of service
- Years of service bonuses at five and ten years
- Monthly child-free teacher work days for classroom care, curriculum work, and family communications
- Ongoing professional development support, including regular workshops with a clinician who specializes in supporting adults who work with children

## HOW TO APPLY

To express interest or to request more information about this opportunity, please send your resume, a brief letter describing your Montessori path and why this particular role calls to you, and the names of two professional references to:

**[info@montessorimakers.org](mailto:info@montessorimakers.org)**

Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis. This search is managed by Montessori Makers Group on behalf of School in the Woods Montessori School. All inquiries are held in confidence.

*School in the Woods Montessori School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, creed, religion, sex or gender, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, or any other status protected by law in administration of its educational, hiring, or admission policies.*

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