



THE
PRESBYTERIAN
SCHOOL
Center for Learning and Creative Play

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Photo available [HERE](#).

The Presbyterian School Announces Montessori-certified Director and Teacher

(Wabash, Indiana) The Presbyterian School announced this week that Addie Neher has been hired as Director. Addie is an Association of Montessori Internationale (AMI) certified Primary Montessori Guide. She holds a Master's of Education from Loyola University Maryland and a bachelor's degree from Manchester University.

For five years, the Wabash Presbyterian Church has offered Godly Play, a Montessori-inspired Sunday School curriculum during services on Sundays and during chapel time at The Presbyterian School. In 2018, the Presbyterian School re-evaluated its entire curriculum to focus on play-based activities which included Montessori work. Carol Early, a long-time Southwood Elementary Kindergarten teacher, praised The Presbyterian School's curriculum for encouraging the natural brain development of young children. "The Presbyterian School prepares children for the classroom work of Kindergarten while also encouraging outdoor, sensory, and community play that preschoolers need."

Neher's appointment as Director will provide the background experience and education to hone in on the Montessori aspects of primary education at the Presbyterian School. The Presbyterian School will be the only school in Wabash County to offer this type of education. Neher indicated that she pursued Montessori education because of its emphasis on the natural emotional, physical, and brain development of children. She said that, "Children should have concrete, sensorial experiences with foundational concepts. They should be able to follow their natural tendencies and be treated with respect."

A difference that parents will notice in a Montessori Children's House is that the classroom includes children between ages 3-6. This allows students to learn from each other and to be teachers to each other. Parents will also notice that the entire classroom is centered around the student's independence and is student-led. Children will be encouraged to choose work that interests them and to spend as much time as they'd like working on a project or activity they start. An important goal of Montessori education is to prepare students to be critical thinkers, communicators, and problem solvers.

Beginning January 6th, The Presbyterian School will be offering a full-day program, including the Montessori work in the morning as well as afternoon hours where students will spend at least two hours per day outside. Parents can opt to pursue a part-day preschool program from 8:30am - 12:30pm Monday-Friday for \$325/month or a full-day program from 7:30am - 5:30pm Monday- Friday for \$480/month. To register, call the Wabash Presbyterian Church office at (260) 563-8881.