



## **When should I apply to the Young Child Community (YCC)?**

We recommend applying for a spot in our YCC when you first become pregnant or as soon as you have a desired interest. As our toddlers “age out” of the program, they move up to our Children’s House Community and this creates an opening in the community. We fill these spots directly from the wait pool. We do maintain an active wait pool for the YCC program. The wait pool is called a “pool” because placements are not offered exclusively in time dated order. While wait lists are thought of as a vertical, ranking system based on “first come, first served”, our wait pool is a horizontal “pool” in which we determine admission by the following policy:

### **Wait Pool Policy**

In the case that the program or classroom that you are applying to is full, you will be placed in our wait pool. Moving off the wait pool will be determined by open availability within the program based on the age of the child (the optimal time for a child to start in Hershey’s YCC program are ages 12-15 months, AND the following considerations:

- Is the mother or father of the child currently working at Hershey Montessori School?
- Does the child have any current siblings attending Hershey Montessori School?
- Does the child have any previous Montessori experience?
- Is your family a Hershey Montessori School alumni family?
- Was the child previously enrolled in the Parent-Infant Program?
- Date application was submitted.

Should your child age out of the YCC program wait pool, we will move them to the next program’s wait pool (Children’s House, 3 years-6 years) automatically and the Director of Admissions will reach out to you to clarify your family’s enrollment needs. The Children’s House program has a few additional steps in the admission process that include a classroom visit with a Children’s House guide. Children are eligible to start in Children’s House when they are between the ages of 2 1/2 and 3 years of age and can independently use the toilet.

Unfortunately, being on the wait pool does not guarantee children admission at Hershey Montessori School. We understand that families must plan accordingly for their children’s education and we strongly suggest securing a backup plan in the event that we are unable to offer admission.