

Preparing for the Start of Learning

As of July 17, 2026

We look forward to welcoming your child to Aspen Hill Montessori. A little preparation before the first day can help your child arrive feeling comfortable, confident, and ready to participate in the classroom routine. Please review this guide and watch the **Campus Orientation Video** before your child's first day.

Strathcona Tour : <https://youtu.be/DPWgBXldxKs>

Nido (Infant) Tour : <https://youtu.be/EiSD05bDt7I>

Christie Tour : <https://youtu.be/7QWmoonPsto>

Christie 3230 Tour: <https://youtu.be/SRsS28SLbHo>

Before your start date:

Admissions: admissions@aspenhillmontessori.ca | 403-607-1880

Strathcona inquiries: strathcona@aspenhillmontessori.ca | 403-455-3133

Christie inquiries: christie@aspenhillmontessori.ca | 403-654-9292

Before your First Day

Please bring the following items to the front entrance during the designated pre-start drop-off period:

- Any required medications and completed medical/allergy forms
- Bambini napping supplies, if applicable

Please label **all belongings** with your child's name.

Preparing at Home

Establish a Routine

Begin adjusting your child's morning and bedtime routines before their start date. A consistent sleep and morning schedule will make the transition into the Centre's daily routine easier.

Encourage Independence

Give your child opportunities to practise everyday tasks independently, including:

- Putting on and removing shoes and outerwear
- Carrying their backpack
- Helping pack their lunch
- Opening their lunch kit and containers
- Cleaning up after themselves

Children may need extra time and assistance while developing these skills. The goal is to encourage participation and independence rather than perfection.



Practise Short Separations

If your child is new to care, practise short separations with trusted adults before their first day. Gradually increasing these experiences can help make the transition more familiar. Please refer to our **Confident Goodbye Policy** for additional guidance on supporting separation at drop-off.

Healthy Meals and Sleep

Please ensure your child arrives well rested and ready to participate in the day. Families should also review and follow the **Food and Healthy Eating Policy** in the Parent Handbook when preparing lunches and snacks.

What to Bring

Each day, please send:

- A labelled, spill-proof child-sized water bottle
- Morning and afternoon snacks
- A healthy lunch in a labelled, easy-to-open lunch kit
- Utensils, if required
- A clean bib for Bambini, if desired
- Weather-appropriate outdoor clothing
- A sun hat or warm hat as appropriate
- Sunscreen, if desired

Food should be ready to eat. The Centre does not heat, refrigerate, cut, or prepare food.

Toys from home are not permitted. If your child requires a sensory or comfort item, please arrange this with the Centre in advance.

Please label all belongings with your child's **first name and last initial**, including clothing, shoes, bags, lunch kits, and water bottles. Clear, easy-to-read labels are recommended.

Uniforms

Children should arrive in a clean Centre uniform with weather-appropriate layers. Children go outside every day, weather permitting. Please check the forecast and send appropriate layers. Please avoid jewellery and large or distracting accessories. Smart watches, decorative hats, novelty headwear, and items with small parts are not permitted. Uniforms must be purchased through Elegant Designs. Please refer to the Uniform Policy and Uniform Order Form for complete information. If you need these documents resent, please contact Admissions at admissions@aspenhillmontessori.ca.

Indoor Shoes

Children require clean black indoor runners that fit securely and are easy for them to put on and remove independently. Velcro closures are recommended. Please do not send Crocs, slippers, sandals, or decorative dress shoes. Soft-soled shoes are appropriate for Bambini children.



Backpack and Spare Clothing

Children aged two and older should bring a simple, appropriately sized backpack that they can carry independently. Please send a complete change of clothing in a large, labelled Ziploc bag. The spare clothing will remain at the Centre and should be replenished as needed.

Lunch Kit & Water

Please send a soft, zippered or Velcro-close lunch kit that your child can open and close independently. Small reusable containers or silicone bags may be used inside the lunch kit. Please avoid lunch containers that are difficult for young children to open independently. Lunch kits must be clearly labelled on the outside. Please provide a child-sized, spill-proof water bottle. Test the bottle at home before sending it to ensure your child can use it independently and that it does not leak.

Drop off and Pick Up

Drop-Off

Where to Enter

Please use the designated entrance for your child's program at both drop-off and pickup.

Strathcona Campus

- **Nido & Bambini (under 3 years):** Back door of the church
- **Casa:** Main front entrance of the church

Christie Campus

- **Bambini:** Left entrance, closest to the restaurants
- **Casa:** Main entrance under the awning, near the playground

Please use the correct entrance for your child's program and follow staff directions during arrival and dismissal.

Parents and caregivers are not permitted inside the Centre during morning drop-off. Please complete your child's goodbye at the entrance and depart promptly. If you anticipate that your child may have difficulty separating, please let your Campus Administrator know before arrival so our team can be prepared to support the transition. For more information, please review our **Confident Goodbye Policy**.

Pickup

Regular pickup is **3:15–4:00 PM**.

If you need an early pickup, please contact the office at least one hour in advance. Please use the same entrance as drop-off.



If your child is outdoors, allow a few minutes for them to finish getting ready and come to the pickup area. We encourage children to participate independently in dressing and gathering their belongings.

Late fees apply beginning at **4:01 PM** for children not registered in afternoon SICs and at **5:16 PM** for afternoon SIC participants.

Authorized Pickup

Anyone picking up your child must:

- Be at least 18 years old
- Be listed as an authorized pickup person
- Present identification if they are not known to staff

If someone different from the usual pickup person will be collecting your child, please notify the office.

We look forward to welcoming your family and helping your child begin their learning experience with confidence!