

OUR PROGRAM FOR



# Toddlers

As every parent knows, toddlers are intensely curious, wildly imaginative, and stubbornly independent! They thrive on exploration, creative play, and the wonderful world of “let’s pretend”. There is the beginning sense of mastery: climbing stairs, scribbling on paper, helping dress oneself. A toddler’s vocabulary may explode in the short period between infant and preschool from just a few words to several hundred. Emotionally, toddlers become increasingly aware of the feelings of others as they learn to express their own feelings.

Through our *Toddler Curriculum* we provide many individualized opportunities for your child to learn through personal experience, trial and error, repetition, imitation, and identification. We encourage language development by talking with children and by naming objects; describing events, reflecting feelings, and helping children find the words to express themselves. By helping children learn to feed themselves, solve problems, make choices, and develop toileting skills, we encourage our toddlers’ growing independence and mastery.

On any given day, you may find one of our teachers sitting on the floor enjoying a “tea party,” conducting a rousing chorus of “Itsy-Bitsy Spider,” taking toddlers on an adventure walk on our playground, providing a soft lap for a read-aloud story or quietly supporting a child’s solitary play activity.

As you walk through our classroom, you will see our toddler curriculum come alive on our various interest centers, where children play with blocks, delight in the joys of finger painting, dress up as a fairy princess or swashbuckling pirate, or prepare a feast using imagination, determination and our toy appliances. You can watch your child make new friends and learn about sharing and respect for others.

By gently redirecting an angry toddler’s attention to another activity, we help the child learn how to deal with frustration. Through active praise and support, we nurture our toddlers’ budding self-esteem. And, by being patient, gentle, respectful, and generous with the children and each other, we strive always to model the behaviors we desire in our toddlers.