

Seasons of Learning Early Childhood Center

Toddler Curriculum Overview



“Playing and Learning in All Seasons”

Seasons of Learning
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Class Hours

The Toddler Interactive class meets every morning from 8:00 to 11:00. Parents can choose two to five mornings per week.

An All Day program is available for those in need of all day care. The afternoon activities for the children include lunchtime (a lunch is sent from home), a quiet/nap time, free play, stories, organized games and gym time or outdoor play.

Introduction

Seasons of Learning acknowledges the unique development of each child and provides varied experiences to foster the spiritual, social, emotional, physical and cognitive growth of the child as she/he passes from one developmental stage to another. These experiences are presented in a play-based program.

Curriculum

The Toddler Interactive curriculum is taught thematically. Each week there is a certain topic or theme about which the children learn. Incorporated into each theme are lessons pertaining to each of the subject areas.

Children in Preschool Develop Best When They

- Are actively involved in hands-on activities
- Engage in both individual and small group activities with peers
- Have extended blocks of time for choosing play activities
- Have a balance of teacher-directed and child-directed activities

Types of Play That Enhances Children's Development:

Dramatic play, listening to books and stories, block play, sensory, music, art, writing, table toys, math and science.

Dramatic Play helps develop:

- Oral language and decision-making skills
- Cooperation and problem solving skills
- Social skills and self-expression
- Imaginative thinking skills and role-playing skills

Listening to books and stories helps develop:

- Vocabulary and comprehension
- Print and book awareness
- Association between written and spoken words
- Letter recognition and associations between letters and sounds
- Listening skills and a love for literature

Sensory Play helps develop:

- Concepts of volume and measurement
- An understanding of cause and effect
- Sensory awareness and eye-hand coordination
- Fine motor skills and problem solving skills
- Sharing and cooperation skills

Block Play develops:

- Math skills and planning skills
- Concepts of shape and size
- Spatial awareness and motor control
- Social interaction and imagination
- Sharing and cooperation skills

Physical Education

Toddlers will take part in daily activities that promote large and small motor development.

Large Motor Activities are encompassed in outdoor play and instructional gym time. Activities include running, jumping, walking, throwing and catching, balancing, galloping and marching.

Toddlers have the opportunity to manipulate a variety of equipment which includes parachutes, bean bags, scooters, hula hoops, etc. in organized games and other gym activities.

Fine Motor Activities include such things as lacing, stringing beads, drawing, finger painting, holding a crayon with thumb and finger, working with play dough and building with table top manipulatives. They will also practice tracing shapes and straight lines.

Field Trips

One way to enhance the learning that takes place in the Toddler Interactive Program is by providing on-site field trips.

On-site Field Trips with Guest Presenters are used to expand a given theme.

Guest Presenters often provide expertise on various topics: nurses or doctors, firefighters or police officers, postal officials and those who work in offices or shops.

Social Studies

The toddler classroom environment encourages each child to have a healthy sense of self and a positive self-esteem. Social skills of two year olds are fostered with daily activities. Through thematic units, the children will also learn about themselves and begin to self-regulate their emotions and their behaviors. They will become more aware of their family and friends, community helpers, our country and holidays.

Science

Toddlers use their senses to discover the world that God created. Through hands-on activities, the children make new realizations about the world in which they live. Through educational themes, observation and experiments they learn about weather, seasons, health, plants, animals, senses and magnets.

Art

Toddlers have the opportunity to work with a variety of media: jumbo pencils, crayons, markers, paint, tissue paper, construction paper, glue, textures, etc. The children are encouraged to create their own unique works of art. Through

art they will improve their fine motor skills. The focus of art is on the process rather than the product.

Music

For the toddlers, music is incorporated throughout the day. The children are given the opportunity to sing, play instruments, listen and move to music.

Music helps develop:

- Rhythm and listening skills
- Balance and coordination
- Gross motor and fine motor skills
- Creativity and self-expression

Art Activities help develop:

- Pre-writing skills and planning skills
- Color and shape recognition
- Concepts of symmetry and sensory awareness
- Creativity and self-expression
- A sense of accomplishment

Table Toys help develop:

- Problem solving skills and fine motor skills
- Oral language and logical reasoning
- Eye-hand coordination and spatial awareness
- Independence and self-help skills

Math Toys help develop:

- Number recognition and counting skills

- One-to-one correspondence and sequencing skills
- Associations between numbers and quantities
- Sorting and classifying skills
- Addition and subtractions skills
- An understanding of shapes and measurement concepts

Science Activities help children learn to:

- Ask questions and gather information
- Make predictions and draw conclusions
- Conduct simple experiments and communicate observations
- Solve problems and think critically
- Use a variety of tools

Bible Learning Activities help children to:

- See themselves as children of God
- Know that Jesus died on the cross for them
- Love Jesus
- Know that Jesus loves them
- Learn to love others

Religion

Toddlers will participate in a daily Jesus Time. They will listen to stories from the Bible, sing and remember songs, dramatize Bible stories and take part in group prayers and echo prayers. They come to know Jesus as their friend who died and rose to forgive their sins. They know God the Father as their Creator who always loves them. The children are taught to show God’s love to others throughout the day.

Language Arts

Toddlers are provided with experiences with oral and written languages. Throughout their day, the children will have the opportunity to participate in both whole group times and center times.

Group Time: Toddlers are given the opportunity to practice their listening skills and to effectively communicate with teachers and classmates. The children also enjoy stories, finger plays, and movement songs. They will be introduced to the letters in their names and, through the year, the alphabet.

Center Time: Toddlers have the opportunity to enjoy sensory experiences, follow simple directions, dictate experiences and stories to their teacher and express themselves through drawings. Learning opportunities are provided for the children to enhance their ability to gain knowledge of their world and grow.

Math

Math concepts are taught through daily routines (snack, lining up, calendar, etc.) and small group activities. In small group activities, the children use manipulatives as they participate hands-on with number concepts that involve numbers 0 to 10. These activities will include counting, sorting, shapes, puzzles, simple patterns, series recognition, one-to-one correspondence, simple graphs and spatial concepts.