

Toddler Program

Key Concepts for Parent Communication

Developmental Focus:

- Toddlers are in a critical stage of development where they strive for independence and work to acquire language skills. Educators support this growth by encouraging autonomy and fostering language development.

BEE Curious Curriculum:

- Our curriculum is driven by observation and a deep understanding of toddler development. It aligns with early learning guidelines to provide engaging, hands-on activities that excite toddlers about learning.
- Weekly activities are designed to foster curiosity, and educators document children's interests and skill development. These observations inform lesson plans for the following week, ensuring a cycle of continuous growth and engagement. Studies typically last four weeks.

Curriculum Focus Areas for Toddlers

Independence Building:

- A large portion of the toddler educator's role is dedicated to helping toddlers develop independence. Activities are focused on self-help skills such as self-feeding, dressing, potty training, and hygiene.

Language Development:

- Language is the primary focus in the toddler classroom. Through vocabulary-building activities, books, sign language gestures, and sensory exploration, toddlers develop early literacy skills. Activities include:
 - Language charts, verbal expressions, fine motor activities (e.g., puzzles, play dough, table games).
 - Sensory exploration that integrates language, helping toddlers build communication skills through tactile experiences.

Social-Emotional Growth:

- Social-emotional development is a key component of the toddler curriculum. Educators plan activities that foster team building, cooperation, sharing, turn-taking, and emotional expression. This supports toddlers as they learn to understand and manage their feelings.

Dramatic Play:

- Dramatic play areas reflect toddlers' interests and life experiences. These centers include furniture, toys, props, and materials that allow toddlers to engage in imaginative play and build social-emotional and language skills.

Repetition and Hands-On Learning:

- Toddlers learn best through repetition and active participation. Educators provide consistent opportunities for toddlers to explore, practice, and refine new skills.

Additional Focus Areas in Toddler Development

Pre-Math Skills:

- Pre-math activities encourage toddlers to engage with early math concepts such as counting, sorting, shape recognition, sizes, and the idea of same/different. These activities are introduced through manipulatives, songs, chants, and hands-on play.

Music and Movement:

- Music plays a vital role in cognitive, language, and literacy development. Toddlers are regularly exposed to songs, finger plays, dances, and other movement activities that encourage coordination and language growth.

Sensory Exploration:

- Sensory exploration is essential for toddler development and is incorporated into daily activities. Educators create experiences that engage toddlers' senses, such as cooking activities, sensory bottles, and exploration related to nature (e.g., plants, animals, habitats, nutrition).

Weekly Planning Process:

- Each week, educators create a vibrant, engaging curriculum based on the interests and developmental progress of the toddlers. Observations drive the planning process, ensuring that the activities support each child's unique growth. This cycle of planning, observing, and adapting continues, fostering a joyful and dynamic learning environment.

Summary:

In the toddler program, the focus is on fostering independence, language development, and social-emotional growth through hands-on, engaging activities. Educators observe each child's interests and developmental progress to create a curriculum that encourages exploration, repetition, and meaningful play, while supporting each toddler's individual learning journey.