

## **Toddlers**

The children are challenged and reinforced in their creative thinking, positive self-image, interpersonal development, cooperation, environment and starting a foundation for basic academic skills of reading, writing, science and math in our hands-on learning environment.

We offer opportunities for children to explore in a safe and nurturing environment. In a center with caring adults the children can grow with confidence and increase their communication and social skills. Parents have peace of mind knowing they have chosen the highest quality of child care for their children in a program that they feel confident in their caregivers while enabling them to pursue their own work and opportunities.

Each day is filled with songs, books, art, dramatic play, bible stories, science, music and movement through hands on experiences.

The teachers make sure to talk with the child(ren) to develop trust and communication skills, as well as to encourage the children to interact and talk to each other. Consistency is key in a child's day making them feel safe and secure with ownership of their program.

The classroom environment and daily routines are predictable yet flexible to children's needs. Children are invited to make choices, and to choose their activities. The foundation of our approach is to treat all our children with complete respect for their individuality and for their capability. Respect is an important principle.

Many of the principles of our program are promoted through careful use of language. We avoid "baby talk", using normal tone of voice and sentences with even the youngest of our children, who can understand us long before they have mastered speech. We use active listening techniques to acknowledge emotions, "You're really mad right now!" and to acknowledge the importance and validity of their play, "You're working hard on that puzzle. "We enhance predictability by talking to the children about what is going to be done or is happening and giving them time to respond. We never use labeling, "You're bad!" but rather use "I messages" whenever possible, "I don't like it when you bite your friends," and talk about the specific action rather than criticizing their character. While caring for the children we talk to them just as if we are having conversations with them.

This program readies the toddlers to move to our 2-year-old program to continue with their growth and development.