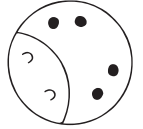


A Day in the 2's Classrooms

The children in the 2's classes are ready to start the day when they walk into our school, some start in the gym and some in their classroom. They learn how to say goodbye to Mommy, Daddy or care givers and trust their teachers. Through the process of separation, children learn about their world and developing social skills.



- **Productive play**

Children enter our classrooms and are given productive play choices; playing on the carpet with small cars, waffle building blocks, farm, or dollhouse; or sitting at tables to engage in fine motor activities like stacking color pegs, building with magnet shapes or blocks, or playing with play dough. Our Art tables are set so that little hands are ready to explore different textures, paints, yarn, and glue. Children are given color choices, different materials and mediums so they can, experiment, explore, and create whatever they want.

- **Gym**

Gym time is one of the many free-choice times in our very busy day. Children direct their learning by making choices from a variety of activities. They develop gross motor and motor planning skills when they ride trikes, climb on the climber and slide down, get in or out of the cars, and move their feet to make the car go. When playing simple games or with the parachute, they learn body parts, how to use their arms and legs, and to follow simple directions. Our children learn what their bodies can do and are so proud when they master new skills.

- **Socialization**

Learning to socialize is an important piece of our Toddlers' day, like learning how to take turns. They learn trust — that they will have a turn, and how to patiently wait for their turn. They learn how to clean up our toys and how to work together cooperatively for a common goal. They exercise their emerging independence by choosing which toys they would like to put away and whom they will work with. Snack is a social time — a time to learn independence. Children wash hands then sit at a table with their friends; using grabbers (tongs) to serve themselves crackers, apples, pears, cucumbers or cheese. They pour their own water and practice saying 'please' and 'thank you' while eating and conversing with their friends. After snack the children use self-help skills when they clean their own space and throw out their garbage. By allowing children to exercise choices they learn how to problem solve, becoming more responsible and are building their self-esteem.

- **Language**

All the Toddler Center teachers have familiar songs that they use to establish routines like the Clean-Up song which signals to the children to stop playing and clean up and acknowledges each child as they help put away toys. Circle time is a social time that encourages language skills and sharing. We sing our Hello Song and talk about our day, some friends might tell us about their pretty shoes, a striped shirt, what they did over the weekend with their family, or what they would like to do next. The children are so excited to use their emerging language skills to express themselves and participate in group discussions. Literacy is also encouraged during Circle Time when we read books, learn and recite flannel stories, or use props to interact with books and our classmates. Children love to sit and listen to a book with a teacher or sit in our libraries to read books.

- **Science & Sensory**

Our children engage in Science & Sensory learning through cooking activities and by using a variety of media in our sensory tables. Children learn how to count and recognize numbers. They learn lots of new words through science and sensory learning. We sing our Stirring song and move our hands while we wait for our turn.

At the end of the day, every class sings their "Good-bye" song and does "Flip-flop over the top" to put on their own coats!