



Kid Steps Curriculum



The Toddler Explorer program is offered to one-year olds when they are mobile and ready for a classroom experience. In small primary care groups our responsive Explorer teachers nurture and guide toddlers as they develop a sense of self. Continuity of care is an essential ingredient in creating a safe and secure learning environment for each child during their Toddler Explorer year.

Highlights of Toddler Explorers

Communication

Family involvement is encouraged through daily communication. We welcome suggestions and participation in our program. Written reports are provided to parents every evening. Explorer family events are planned frequently to highlight class projects and activities that are based upon the emerging interests of the toddlers. Learning is also documented in each child's portfolio and shared with parents during scheduled conferences.

Experienced Teachers

Toddlers have a natural desire to explore and discover. As our Explorers become familiar with their daily routine they thrive in their specially designed environment. Our experienced and well-trained teachers observe the children in their care as they investigate materials in the classroom exploration centers.

Engaging Classrooms

When you look into a busy Explorers classroom you may see toddlers painting, singing and dancing to music, pouring water at the sensory table, stacking blocks, placing objects on a peg board, playing in the pretend kitchen and turning pages of a board book in their library. On our specially designed outdoor space you will see active toddlers that are running, climbing, scooting, and tossing balls.

Individualized Learning Experiences

A weekly individualized lesson plan is created for each toddler that promotes social and emotional growth, communication, and motor skill development. These planned activities assist toddlers in constructing knowledge to help them learn about the world around them.



A Typical Day at Toddler Explorers

Arrival Time

Toddlers and their families are warmly welcomed by a primary caregiver who will help the child transition from their parent to school.

Breakfast

Family-style dining helps toddlers to build fine motor skills, hand to eye coordination, and language development. Children are encouraged to serve themselves.

Circle Time

Toddlers create music, sing, and dance during circle time. Through music and movement, they learn how to develop language skills, make decisions, be creative, and practice thinking skills. Above all, they learn to have FUN while following directions.

Interest Areas

Toddlers are engaged in hands-on experiences from their individual lesson plans with their primary caregiver or exploring on their own.

Story Time

Interested children gather to hear a story and participate in a related follow-up activity.

Lunch

Family-style dining is offered where children are encouraged to serve themselves. They also assist in the table preparation and clean up.

Nap

Toddlers nap after lunch

Outdoor Play

After nap, outdoor play is offered at least twice during the day, weather permitting. Outdoor time allows toddlers to use their bodies to develop gross motor skills while running, tossing a ball, climbing, etc.

Snack Time

A healthy snack is provided in the afternoon. Children are encouraged to serve themselves.

Interactive Play/Departure

Children are engaged in quiet interactive play as they are preparing to go home.



What Toddler Explorer parents are saying:

I am the parent of a child who has been in the older infant and toddler classrooms and am comforted with the knowledge that I am leaving my son in highly skilled and capable hands every day when I drop him off at school. Everyone that I have met on the staff is friendly, knowledgeable, and nurturing.

Milestones

Developing Body

- Self-feeding
- Jumps, hops, rolls and climbs well

Developing Mind

- Enjoys stories, songs, and rhymes
- Identifies parts of own body
- Begins to understand and follow simple directions

Developing Communication

- Says Hi or Bye if encouraged
- Returns a kiss or a hug
- Repeats words others say

Developing Self

- Plays alongside others
- Plays with toys alone
- Learns to make choices

