



Monte Tavor Newsletter

Infants and Toddlers

Our groups of Infants and Toddlers are getting their most and crucial work done at Monte Tavor. Read below on this article by babycenter.com and continue reading on next columns.

“Play is crucial for your child's social, emotional, physical, and cognitive growth. It's your child's way of learning about his body and the world, and he'll use all five senses to do it, especially in the first year.

What does this feel like when I touch it? What does this sound like when I squeeze it?

What will happen if I push this or pull that? Crawl over there? Pull myself up on this?

Exploration is the heart of play, and in your child's minds any experiment counts, even hurling a bowl of cereal off the highchair tray. Development experts are fond of saying that play is the work of children (and cleaning up after play seems to be the work of parents).

As your child moves into the toddler years, his play will become more imaginative and complex. Through play, he'll exercise key skills and qualities, such as independence, creativity, curiosity, and problem-solving.

It can also be an important place to explore feelings and values and develop social skills. Long before your child feels comfortable sharing his favorite toy with his sister, he may offer it to a doll.

His first spontaneous "please" and "thank you" may slip out at an imaginary tea party. And what parent can resist wasting a perfectly good bandage the first time her child says his teddy got hurt?"From babycenter.com

Enjoy reading more on the next column about materials being used with the different age groups of infants at Monte Tavor.

Infants and Toddlers Continued

Play happens every day across all ages and more so in our infant groups from 6 months to 24 months. Play include: social play, object play, functional and representational play, early symbolic play and role play among some of the developmental play.

Children 6-8 months are using activity centers with toys hanging for pulling, pushing or mouthing. Rattle toys with different sounds, colors and shapes. Squeaky rubber toys to squeeze and hear specific sounds such as farm and pond animals. Children are using board and cloth books with colorful pages for pulling, feeling, opening and closing items. They use many teething rings of an array of colors. The activity quilts and play mats with many items for mouthing and doing their tummy times exercises. Children listen to teachers sing songs and read books twice a day.

Children 9-12 months are getting soft dolls and stuffed animals, balls to roll, colorful board books to read, plastic bowls, measuring cups, soft blocks, and moving toys and pop up activity centers with songs and musical sounds. Push toys with wheels or toys they can roll or play music. Sensorial toys that include sounds, touch and feel of different textures-rough, soft, sticky etc. They are already playing with soft blocks, shape sorters, where they can get their hands in the boxes or tubs to get sorters themselves. This age group has started playing with outdoor small slides, rocking equipment and swings.

Children 13-18 months are using large foam building blocks, push and pull toys, sorting and nesting toys; 3-piece magnetic animal or people puzzles, magnetic cars and trains. They are climbing small outdoor structures, balls to bounce and throw, Crayons and paper, ride on vehicles, rocking equipment, pictures books, and mini-backpack reading series. Started on sensory activities using sealed pouches to feel seeds, corn meal, corn starch or flour (16-18 mo) use cups, sifters, funnels to pour and measure. The use of our tumble and play large foam blocks equipment where they have tunnels to go under, slides, waterfalls to climb up to and the pool of soft plastic balls to jump into in our 4th area. They also have dolls to dress up, care for and put to bed- using mini-cribs and blankets.

Older Infants and Toddlers

Children 19-24 months are using toys to play House, large and small blocks, 3-piece board puzzles of community workers with dress up figures; toy instruments, drums, jingle bells, whistles, and tambourines, CD's of music from around the world. Puzzles, train sets, large stringing beads, books and mini-backpack reading series. Use blank journals to draw and document or tell a story. Crayons and paper, washable tempura paints using art tools- brushes, sponges, wood and foam stamping tools, strings, balls, cars, etc. Linking manipulatives toys, and dress up boxes. The use of our tumble and play large foam block equipment where they have tunnels to go under, slides, waterfalls to climb up to and the pool of soft plastic balls to jump into in our 4th area. They use the large outdoor 3rd area.

Children 25-30 months are starting to use blank journals where teachers are asking them to draw how certain items may look like for example a ball, sun, sky, rain, grass, moon, a spider, and even if they draw a line it may have a significant meaning and teachers will write down the children's thought. Dancing, clapping, spinning, hopping, and singing are happening along movements and rhythms of music. They use flutes, tambourines, drums, rhythm sticks, bean bag games and dancing along activities. They have child toy dishes, pots, pans, plastic food and kitchen furniture used in the fourth area along with small brooms, vacuum cleaners and mops. They are using giant building blocks, number and alphabet train sets, wooden blocks of the 3rd area, linking toys to be linked and snapped together for creating airplanes, cars, buildings, buses, trains etc., puzzles and manipulatives boxes are among some.

Children 31-36 months have the same activities as the 25-30 months and recently have been introduced to beginning board games, memory, I Spy, counting, matching and sequence games. Mega blocks, Lego Duplos, structured games where one listens carefully and follows instructions, for problem solving and eye hand coordination. Outdoor play: plastic balls, bats, mini basketballs and soccer balls. Dramatic play: doctor, hospital, vet, hair salon, fire station, cooking and dress up. Art: colored tissue paper to make collages, clay, play dough, paint, and watercolors. Children continue to enjoy Music and Movements using instruments, learning dance steps and listening to the different rhythms of music.

Winter 2014 Calendar

February 2014

- 2/1 Teachers Training on Safety
- 2/6 Pinata Party 2-5 yrs
- 2/11-2/14 Friendship Week
- 2/12 Sharing Day and Valentine card exchange
- 2/17 Presidents Day CLOSED

Preschooler Reminders of Events

Public Speaking and Sharing Activity: is every Wednesday. Refer to last month's Newsletter for parents and children participation.

We can say that January was a month of fun activities for children. We celebrated Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday and each preschool group had the opportunity to discuss about getting along, and working with others cooperatively, no matter who they were, how they looked like or where they lived. Younger children talked about the importance of sharing, caring, respecting and understanding each other, so everyone is happy in the end. Older children activities and discussions included asking themselves what a friend was. Also, learning about being sensitive toward each other, respecting others feelings and understanding separation of space by maintaining their hands to themselves and NOT on someone's head for example or when hitting and hurting others by saying things that are not proper.

Children learned about the Chinese Culture: Chinese New Year, the year of the horse and children's animal year. Older children loved it. Children read books such as Sky Full of Dragons, Moon Cakes, Lon Po Po, Chinese Eyes, Sam & the Lucky Money (SP) etc. Older children had Chinese bread and a fortune cookie!

Toddlers and Preschoolers had a wonderful Tea Party!

Thank You Families!

Thank You for allowing us to be part of your child's life and discovery years and thank you for the continued support of our programs.