



Monte Tavor Newsletter

Transitions for Toddlers at Monte Tavor

It is very inspiring to see new children and their families settling into our program. Transitions are an exciting and very significant period for every child and their families who start our program. In our busiest transition month, August, many toddlers along with a few older infants join our program. During this time they build connections with their teachers and classmates, but primarily with Liz or Yeira who are the first people they meet during tours and playdates. The experience and atmosphere they create for the children as well as the children's temperament traits will determine the connection they perceive as the essential meaning of "feeling welcome" and "right at home."

Children start with a slow warm up transition schedule of two hours and over a two week span increases one hour each additional day. During this period there is a bonding time that takes place between the children and either one of our 12 staff members or one of our three main providers. In most cases children bond with Liz or Yeira. Several children approach them for a hug or to hold their hand. Few children may even cry when they spot them as Liz or Yeira may remind them of the connection with their parents. Children remember them as being the first face encounters when meeting with them and their parents. In the first week holding and hugging for comfort begins, then attachment follows. They choose one key person, a child from their group, or find a special area outdoors that installs the psychological "I am alright" feeling, whether it is at the swings, slides or one of the small houses.

It takes a lot of planning and effort from our staff and providers to immerse families and make their children feel at home. It takes a lot of one-on-one interpersonal connection with each child, to achieve the feeling of having been forever in our settings. During this process, teachers try to get to know who the child is, what he or she likes, discover and determine their different temperament traits, and finally how to accumulate all they have learned and apply it to each individual child in a way that makes them feel happy, secure, and confident.

In order to start developing this bond, as each teacher and child begin to get know one another, providers must be around to interact with both teacher and child to support and display a connection between provider and teacher in helping the child to feel protected and comfortable. Children then find that they have an ally at school whether it continues to be the provider or the newly developed bond with the teacher (s) for the next few weeks.

Once they begin to get comfortable at drop off during the second week, after continuously seeing the key person and beginning to get accustomed to our morning greeting teacher, Yaneth; a consistency forms in the child's well-being and they soon begin to feel that there is a rhythm of life happening each day. Routines and structures become important for them to feel and understand what is happening each day. The connection with their immediate teacher is now more present daily as they are greeted by their teacher and each child continues to perceive that they are being more and more welcome and at ease.

There are other transitions within the transition that unfolds during these two first weeks. These are eating, sleeping, playing, participating in activities, getting along with others, as well as others receiving the child in their group. Routines are more flexible during this period and later they begin to feel usual as the child progresses well into the third or fourth week. Children begin to explore outdoor areas, try out new play equipment in different areas of interest, and soon realize they have a close group of friends whom with to complete interesting activities. Children who already have prior care setting experience involve themselves quickly for story and circle time in the afternoons. Those with less group experience will begin to slowly recognize this and may observe at first, but will sit down to look at books, listen to stories, and begin to listen to Spanish songs after a few days. Children integrate by following others. Two to three months later they speak and understand Spanish just like the rest in the group; although some may take a little longer to get up to speed. Transitions are an essential starting point for building connections with children and their families.

-Yeira Howell

Fall / Winter 2015

EVENTS / PARENT PARTICIPATION

Celebration of the Day of the Dead

Parents are welcome to plan an activity in remembrance of ancestors and loved ones. (E-mail to sign up for this event).

Monte Tavor Book Fair

November 9-20

Barefoot Books will join us with a display of books, puzzles, and holiday gifts. Donate a book to help expand Monte Tavor's library. Order from the Wish List. 20% of all proceeds will go to help expand Monte Tavor's Library. Support your children's bilingualism at home.

Volunteers for Story Time OR Join us!

Wednesday November 18, 2015 at 4:30 pm. Volunteer to read a book or join Maceo Cabrera from Barefoot Books during story time.

Monte Tavor Online Holiday Gift Shopping at Barefoot Books through December 25, 2015. Share the link with family and friends.

[Click here for the Monte Tavor Online Book Fair](#)

\$10 off any purchase of \$60 or more

Use code TENOFF to redeem.

Qualifying product only. One-time use. Valid through November 30, 2015.

Buy 5 Get 6th FREE on all books and gifts

Use code GIFTSIX to redeem.

Qualifying product only. One-time use. Free item will be the lowest price item.

All six items must be added to cart before using code to redeem. Valid through November 30, 2015.

DAYS CLOSED and Events

CELEBRATION OF THE DAY OF THE DEAD NOVEMBER 2

(Parent Planned Activity at 9:00 am)

MONTE TAVOR BOOK FAIR

- **NOVEMBER 9-20**
(STORY TIME 11/18 at 4:30 pm) JOIN US!
**ONLINE HOLIDAY GIFT SHOPPING THRU
DECEMBER 25** (share the link with family
and friends) Help expand our library!!!
- **NOVEMBER 26-27 CLOSED FOR
THANKSGIVING**
- **December 1-16 Celebration of Winter
Holidays. Hanukkah, Kwanza, Christmas.**
Parents are welcome to volunteer, plan
and prepare an activity for their child
class 9:00-9:30 am
- **WINTER BREAK DECEMBER 21-JANUARY 1**
- **RE-OPENS JANUARY 4, 2016**
- **WELCOME BACK NEW YEAR'S TEA PARTY
JANUARY 8, 2016 AT 4:30 PM**

Monte Tavor's Contact information

You can always reach us 24 / 7 days a week at

hmontetavor@aol.com

During business hours 7:00-6:00 pm
(510) 967-2876 Cell Line

During non-business hours or leave messages
(510) 531-3328 General Line

Website www.montetavor.com

Thank You Families!

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