



## Monte Tavor Newsletter

### Infants (Class of 2020)

Infants usually come in smaller groups two to three times a year. By age two they make up almost half our population of students. They grow so fast that you start to see a totally different child in less than a year; the baby he or she used to be becomes a not so distant memory.

The majority of the time infants begin our program as young as 3-4 months in groups of two or four. They have activity gyms, swings, bounce seats, and all kinds of sensory toys for mouthing. When they turn 8-12 months they move into the second facility in order to get challenged with more stimulating activities such as musical instruments, and toys that have lights and sounds. They begin to explore with balls, cars, and pull along toys, there are boxes they can empty, rideable vehicles and of course the practicing to crawl and ultimately to walk.

Most infants are already running by age 13-18 months and although some may be still wobbly, they are still on the go and ready for the outdoors! At this point in time they are ready for our fifth area. They fall and rise up as they learn how to climb up smaller slides, use rocking equipment, outdoor swings, and learn to step up and down steps. They love sitting at the work tables to try out new activities. During this stage they are introduced to fruit painting activities using beets, cherries and blue berries for their first paints and they move on to the more sensorial exploratory activities using flour and water, corn starch with added food coloring. This age group can hold a good sitting attention span of 15-20 minutes for story time and circle singing time.

Children 19-24 months are considered older infants or young toddlers for they may already be well coordinated outdoors and able to move with much control, becoming more independent in choosing activities on their own. This group gets to spend time with children who are between 6 months to a year older during outdoor play and at some structured activities such as painting, reading, music and movements. Children at this age are exploding with language at an unbelievable rate and can be found speaking to others during play and group activities.

### Infants (Class of 2020)

Infants allow us to recognize the growth and development of all ages across the 0-5 years. The young groups takes us on a journey of learning through mastering the different areas of child development.

In order to understand their social, emotional, cognitive, language, and physical development we have to keep these lenses open for certain situations, dynamics, and rhythms of life. We have to be ready to record these observations in order to better understand the overall process of growth and to have a better judgment of what seems to work and what needs to improve in our teaching practices.

It is absolutely fascinating to see children start our program as young as 3-4 months and progress to the different areas built purposely for the variety of age groups. Once they reach their 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> year at Monte Tavor you are able to observe and track the different learning skills, language acquisition, challenges in behavior, and the multi-intelligences.

In the infant, toddler and preschool years you get to see the wide range of little minds and little temperament traits that are inborn, acquired as they grow up and continue to expand further as they move on to the elementary school years. The greater picture allows us to understand that a lot has to do with the tone in the environment and the atmosphere presented to them during this critical time in their life. The love, challenges, limits, structures, guidance and inspirations play a significant and fundamental role.

It is imperative to be attentive as our children grow, for many will begin to imitate others during the middle school years in order to feel welcomed, liked, and even accepted. However, if a strong foundation is established during the first five years, children will grow to be who they are, who their families are, and they will portray that image to the world around them; with no need to imitate others or anyone they are not. Infants grow too fast!

By Yeira Howell

## Fall 2015

### EVENTS / PARENT PARTICIPATION

#### Fall Decoration

Children are welcome to bring fall items to continue to decorate front entrances in celebration of fall harvest: Pumpkins, Indian corn, posters and stickers.

#### Cultural Event

Join us for our cultural event on Friday October 9, 2015 at 4:30 pm

#### Culture Sharing Moments

Parents are welcome to share, plan and/or prepare an activity resembling their culture and heritage. October 7, 2015 at 9:00 am i.e.: Books to read, presentations and crafts activities. (E-mail to sign up for this event).

#### Dress up week

October 26-30. Children are welcome to bring their dress up costumes daily during this week.

#### 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

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

### DAYS CLOSED and Events

#### PARENT CONFERENCES

- OCTOBER 5-16 (SIGN UP NOW on line)

#### CULTURAL EVENT

- OCTOBER 9 AT 4:30 PM

#### HAPPY FALL/ DRESS UP WEEK

- OCTOBER 26-30  
(CHILDREN CAN WEAR AND DRESS UP IN THEIR FAVORITE COSTUMES) This week will encourage children to pretend play their favorite characters they have seen on films, books or community professions.

#### MINI PARADE

- OCTOBER 30 AT 10:00 AM JOIN US!

#### 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!

### Monte Tavor's Contact information

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

[hmontetavor@aol.com](mailto: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](http://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.