



Welcome to the Toddler Room

Our toddler program provides learning activities that are developmentally appropriate by stimulating and challenging the children through a creative and educational environment. The children are able to learn freely at their own pace through play and accomplishments. Discovery is based on children's own experience and understandings. Toddlers are given opportunities to explore, experiment, and discover with hands-on experiences through creative, fine motor and gross motor activities. Curriculum is incorporated and introduced in familiar and innovative units every week which will spark natural curiosities, interests, and passion.

You will receive two developmental reports per year, as well as an ongoing progress reports that will be specific to your child's progression, strengths and goals. The developmental reports will be provided by the end of January and again at the end of June. During these times you will have the opportunity to request further clarification through a Parent/ Teacher interview.

Please remember to follow the event calendar and stay updated with the classroom newsletter that will be emailed to you monthly.

Group Time:

Group time is a daily gathering where all the children partake in songs, stories, games, and language and cognitive development activities. We also include many music and gross-motor experiences that incorporate fun in large and small group settings.

Art/Creative Activities:

We recognize and encourage the importance of the creative potential in each child. They are inventive, original, and self-motivated to be creative individuals. Creative moments encourage children to communicate their feelings towards themselves and their environment. Creativity integrates physical, mental, social and emotional growth. It is encouraged to be free, flexible and accepted. The process is what is important, not the finished product! Art is implemented by basing it off of the children's interest. The children use their knowledge and imagination to create their own masterpiece of the creative activity.

Diversity:

Each month our classroom celebrates Diversity day. The diversity activity gives each child an opportunity to express themselves and really be proud of who they are and their background. On Diversity day, the children are encouraged to bring an item from home related to their family background i.e. a shirt from Germany or a doll from England! Diversity exposes the children to different feelings, sights and sounds and it really makes every child feel special. In our classroom, we also have many different diversity pictures on the walls and dolls from around the world for the children to play with and learn from.

Science:

Science day gives each child the opportunity to experience and explore Science hands on. In our classroom, we have science day each month. On that day we make observations such as watching things grow or make things like slime. The children participate in experiments and explore with different scents, textures and so much more. The look on a child's face when they smile is priceless! Using all their senses during science day allows the child to ask questions and explore more. For example, "How does it make noise?", "How does it grow?" and it shows a child that science is all around us. Science day also helps the children expand their vocabulary – using words like "Light, dark, sticky, slimy" We also like to go outside for science and watch the leaves on the trees change colour, or wonder why mud is so gooey!

Baking:

Every month our classrooms participate in a cooking day! Together the children and teachers prepare a delicious snack or small meal for the children to sample. All products used are nut free and we also incorporate a variety of multi-cultural snacks and fun delicious treats within our cooking classes.

Field Trips:

Field trips are an exciting time for the children. They can discover, explore new places and people within our community. Each year we plan several outings that are age appropriate and exciting. As parents, you are given the opportunity to volunteer giving you a chance to be a part of our program and your child's day. We travel to and from our destinations by school bus, which is quite an exciting trip on its own! We also believe that the children should have many opportunities to explore their immediate community. We take them on many nature walks around the creek, forest and to the park up the road. We can explore the growing and changing leaves, the animals that we see, speak about street signs that we use on our way, the wind that blows on our cheeks and the sticky mud that pulls our boots off! There are so many opportunities for learning and the teachers get great satisfaction looking through the eyes of our children while teaching and guiding them!

ELECT-Early Learning for Every Child Today:

What is Early Learning for Every Child Today? *It is a Framework for Ontario's Early Childhood Settings* that describes how young children learn and develop. It provides a guide for curriculum in Ontario's early childhood settings, including child care centres. It is intended to complement, not replace, the *Ontario Day Nurseries Act*. The *Early Learning for Every Child Today* is based on an extensive review of early childhood curriculum and pedagogy in Canada and internationally, research findings, and the collective professional expertise of the Panel members.

The ELECT tool will allow us to help every child to become an international leader in achieving their social, intellectual, economic, physical and emotional potential to the max. The purpose of the *Early Learning for Every Child Today* is to guide and support curriculum's being used in childcare centres. It also provides direction for programs and features a continuum of developmental skills and a shared language that will support early childhood practitioners and caregivers as they work together across early childhood settings.

Toddler program plans are based upon the ELECT approach. It is organized into five sections, including 1. Social 2. Emotional 3. Communication, Language and Literacy, 4. Cognitive and 5. Physical. All Monkey See Monkey Do educators have ELECT training and implement the framework into our program plans.

Other programs offered throughout the Year:

There are many other activities the children will take part in that are listed on the monthly calendars. In the toddler room they will be offered the following in addition to our programs...

- Each music lesson is ½ hour. At the end of the year we host an end of the year concert and graduation ceremony where we share what the children have learned throughout the year!
- Physical education program called Rainbow Fun is for a ½ hour in the mornings. This will be offered all year long once a week.
- Phonics is for ages 2-2.5; this small group work time introduces toddlers to phonics, colors and shapes. It helps prepare them for preschool by developing longer attention spans, memory, language and fine motor skills.



Reminders:

- Our program starts at 9:00am which includes special curricular activities, phonics and creative arts. Arriving early will ensure that your child takes part in all classroom activities and avoid disruption to the programs taking place.
- Make sure that you provide extra clothing in your child's cubby at all times. Please label all of your children's belongings. This reduces the chance of items being lost.
- Please send "inside shoes" (not slippers with soft soles, due to a possible fire drill) for your child during the winter months as they will need to change their boots for outdoor play.
- Don't forget to supply us with diapers, wipes and a sleep blanket in a storage bag. Sleep blanket will be sent home weekly to be washed.
- Please have your child come in with a water bottle each day that goes home each night to be washed☺.
- During the warmer seasons please bring sunscreen and a hat. In the winter time please bring in spare mittens, socks and snow pants and hat.

Above all, we are experienced, warm professionals who will give your children the absolute best care within the nurturing and stimulating environment that we have created. We look forward to helping your children grow into inquisitive and curious little people. Please let us know of any support that you would like to lend or information that you feel would benefit our program and your children's learning opportunities.

Toddler Daily Schedule

7:00am-9:00am

Morning drop off
Free play
Wash hands for AM snack
Morning snack
Wash hands & Diaper changes

9:00am-11:30am

Outdoor play time
Learning/Large group time
Any special activities (science day, cooking day, music class, etc)
Small group (Creative, Fine motor, phonic)
Diaper changes & Wash hands for lunch

11:30am-2:30pm

Lunch
Nap/Rest time

2:30pm-4:00pm

Diaper changes
Outdoor time
Wash hands for afternoon snack
PM snack

4:00pm-6:00pm

Large group time (music and movement, Story time)
Free play
Diaper changes
Small group activities (creative, sensory, fine motor)
Afternoon pick up



June 1, 2010

Dear Parents,

We are delighted to inform you that **Monkey See Monkey Do** is participating in **Quality First**. Quality First is an initiative within Halton that supports early childhood programs to further develop the level of quality care and education they offer to young children and their families.

Quality First is based on the following indicators of quality childcare:

- **Environment/Curriculum:** are appropriate learning materials and experiences available for children in a safe and caring environment?
- **Supervision/Administration:** does the Supervisor support the staff team?
- **Professionalism:** do teachers participate in professional activities and life-long learning?
- **Inclusion:** does the childcare have policies that support the inclusion of children with special needs? Does the childcare support diversity?
- **Adult/Child Interactions:** do teachers interact with children with sensitivity?
- **Support for Early Childhood Education Students:** does the centre accept Early Childhood Education students and support them as a field placement site?

Programs are supported through an ongoing process which includes: observation and evaluation of the program, self-evaluation and goal setting, staff professional development, resources and support from a consultant. Commitment to Quality is an ongoing process. By participating in Quality First, we have made a commitment to increase and maintain the quality of care and learning we provide to the children and families of **Monkey See Monkey Do**.

We encourage you to ask us more about Quality First and our progress and achievements. Please refer to the Quality First poster located in the hallway and the materials we have provided.

For more information and a list of Quality First Centres in Halton please visit www.mcrc.on.ca/thrc/ and click on Quality First. For inquires please contact:

Erin McAdam, Quality First Program Assistant

Phone: (905) 875-4600 ext. 141

Email: erinm@thrc.ca

Sincerely,

MSMD