



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



TODDLER PROGRAM CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

THE LEARNING CIRCLE YMCA
A BRANCH OF THE SUMMIT AREA YMCA

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Toddler Program provides each Toddler with a Primary Care Giver who tracks your child's daily activities and provides parents with a daily report. Your Caregiver will establish individual goals for your child to promote language, social skills and independence and foster small and large motor development. A portfolio will be created to document the child's progress throughout their time at the center.

The Toddler Program is rich in language and sensory experiences. The Toddlers are gathered together in small groups for short periods of times, to allow children to have the opportunity to develop at their own pace. Activities are planned to suit each child's developmental level, and play is self-directed, as well as teacher directed to allow children to make their own choices. Toddlers are given simple directions and tasks to promote independence, gross motor time to promote small and large muscle development and to foster their learning through experiential play. Weekly music enrichment is an addition to our daily music experiences.

CURRICULUM

The Learning Circle YMCA has adopted the Creative Curriculum which is a framework for teaching that addresses all aspects of the child's development, and is comprised of five components:

- The Learning Environment**
- What Children Learn**
- How Children Develop and Learn**
- The Teacher's Role**
- The Family's Role**

Our staff creates monthly goals for your child, and we use each of the four focus areas as a guideline to plan weekly lessons based on monthly themes that support all areas of a Toddler's development. Our areas of focus for the Toddler age group are as follows:

Social/Emotional Development
learn about self and others

Physical Development
learn about moving

Cognitive Development
learn about the world

Language Development
learn about communicating





Each month we plan activities to reinforce colors, shapes and number recognition with the Toddlers. Children are introduced to new vocabulary to enhance their linguistic skills. Staff will use books, finger plays, puppet shows, flannel board stories, stories on tape and songs to increase language familiarity and skill, and to promote memorization, as we understand that Toddlers learn best through repetition.

MONTHLY CURRICULUM THEMES

JANUARY

WINTER WONDERLAND

New Year
Snowmen
Water and Ice
Winter Animals



FEBRUARY

HEALTHY ME & HEALTHY YOU

Parts of the body
Getting to know one another
Hygiene
Healthy Foods



MARCH

CULTURES AND COMMUNITY

My family
Children around the world
People in our community
Places in our community



APRIL

SPRING IS BLOOMING

Wind/Rain/Sunshine
Nature
Gardening
Celebrate the Earth



MAY

THINGS THAT GO!

By Land
By Water
By Rail
By Air



JUNE

MY SENSES

Sight
Taste / Smell
Feel
Sound



JULY

SUMMER FUN

Fireworks/Flags
Outdoor Safety
Beach Fun
Insects



AUGUST

ANIMALS

Zoo
Ocean
Forest
Pets



SEPTEMBER

EXPLORERS

Dinosaurs
Footprints
Night and Day
Up, Up and away



OCTOBER

FALL

Leaves
Apples
Pumpkins
Farm Life



NOVEMBER

OPPOSITES

Hard and soft
Big and small
Hot and cold
Up and down



DECEMBER

CELEBRATIONS

Giving and sharing
Holiday celebrations
I am special



LEARNING CENTERS

ART: Helps develop self-expression and creativity; fine motor skills; eye/hand coordination; a sense of personal accomplishment; recognition of colors, shapes, sizes and textures; manipulation and exploration, and the ability to express self in a non-verbal way.

BLOCKS: Provides children with basic skills and creative outlook. It improves small and large muscle coordination; working together with other children; fine motor skills and eye/ hand coordination.

MANIPULATIVES: Helps develop small motor skills; eye/hand coordination; language development; recognition of colors; problem solving skills; size discrimination; visual discrimination; matching; and attention span.

HOUSEKEEPING: Gives children the opportunity to work together using language to communicate and respond to other's needs; learn to share; explore, problem solve, use tools, utensils and articles of clothing; develop eye/hand coordination and follow directions.

QUIET AREA: Helps children develop an appreciation for literature; promote language and reading readiness skills; listening skills; eye/hand coordination and develop verbal expression, socialization and emotional relaxation

ADDED LEARNING AREAS

SCIENCE: Helps children with awareness; discovery, describing, exploration, experiences, observation, problem solving and experimentation.

ICE/WATER/SAND: Helps children with creativity; measuring; motor control; quantity; relaxation; self-confidence; tactile stimulation and sensory exploration.

TOYS: Develops large and small motor skills; socialization; eye/hand coordination; recognition of colors, size, texture, and shape; problem solving skills and encourages sharing and taking turns.

FAMILY STYLE MEAL TIMES: Helps children learn independence; facts about nutrition; make decisions; use proper hygiene and good manners; develop fine motor skills while using utensils; explore the five senses; understand shape and size; take turns; clean up and socialize.

THE LEARNING CIRCLE YMCA

A branch of the Summit Area YMCA

95 Morris Avenue | (P) 908 273 7040
Summit, NJ 07901 | (F) 908 273 5670

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The Summit Area YMCA is one of the area's leading charitable 501(c)3 organizations. Our programs and services are open to all through our financial assistance programs made possible through the generosity of our members, donors and partners. To help us help others, make your tax-deductible donation today at www.theSAY.org.