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The Toddler Times

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The Toddlers Continue to Learn and Grow

Language Development in Toddlers (Part I)

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The Importance of Early Communication

Early communication and appropriate adult responses become the basis for healthy normal psychological development. Children become self-confident that they can communicate effectively. Language development begins in infants. The importance of the infant's very first experiences of having a need and communicating that need in their own language- crying and body movement. Appropriate adult response is important.

Respectful Communication

Toddlers should be spoken to frequently and respectfully. If you are in a conversation with your child, acknowledge them by name. Then wait until they turn to look at you before you proceed. Speak slowly and softly so the child has time to see your facial expressions and to watch the movement of your mouth as you formulate words and sentences. Try to be pleasant and positive. Your child will have this time to listen attentively, an essential element that

contributes to effective communication and social relationships.

Communication Rhythms

A give and take rhythm develops when two people communicate. One person speaks; the other listens. Then the listener has a turn to speak. We can experience taking turns when we are communicating with toddlers. Throughout the sensitive period for language, it is important for the child to hear correct language spoken. The child is absorbing the language of his or her culture in a holistic way.

Reading to Children

We know it's important to read to children at any age. We can read stories, poetry, rhymes and picture books. Be selective. Choose books with realistic pictures that help the child learn the names of everything. This is also a special bonding time to the parent or caregiver.

The Naming Game

Children love the naming game. First, point to a picture and say the name. After you have pointed to several pictures, ask the child to point to a picture that you named. "Point to the ball." "Show me the ball." As a

result, of playing this game, children learn to look closely, to concentrate and to remember what they have learned. Learning the names of many sets of pictures and objects increases vocabulary. A broad vocabulary enables them to better understand what they read later on.

Building a Sense of Order

Learning the names of everything in the environments meets an immediate psychological and physiological need. Understanding that everything has a name helps to build a sense of order. This, in turn, helps the child learn to classify and to trust the environment. All this enables the child to adapt to his/her culture.

3285 South County Trail

Beginning Monday, February 1st, school will be at our new address. There will be some change in session times and days. Please see below:

Before care: 7:40 – 8:45*

Morning: 8:45 – 11:30

Lunch: 11:30 – 12:10

After care: 12:10 – 5:00*

* Please see me if you are interested in B/A care

Entering the parking lot:

As you drive in the lot, park in the front three spaces to the LEFT of the vestibule entrance or on the left side of the building. This will allow the pre-primary cars dropping off to access the drop off area (right side). Use the Montessori entrance to the right of the front door. The toddler room is immediately on the right.

Drop off Procedures:

Morning drop off is at the Montessori entrance and begins at 8:40 with school starting at 8:45. If you arrive after 8:45 please park your car in the spaces to the immediate right as you pull in. The pre-primary drop off begins at 8:50 so cars will be pulling around for drop off as these children are greeted by the teacher and proceed to the classroom independently, so the cars will be moving around the U. If you plan to arrive after 9:00, please call us with an arrival time so that we can let you in the Montessori entrance. (Pre-primary children arriving after 9:00 will use the vestibule entrance as not to disturb the classroom). So the Montessori will be locked but we will let you in as this door leads right into the toddler room. It will take some time to work the drop off logistics out so please bear with us.

Pick up Procedures:

We will have your child ready at the Montessori entrance for pickup. If we are still in the play yard, please park your car and walk to the back left side of the building to the gate of the play yard. All children have to be signed out in compliance with DCYF regulations. We will ask for a password for each child so if someone other than parents are picking up we can verify that they are on the Release information form. We may also require a picture of others authorized to release your child to. Pick up from lunch will be inside the classroom through the Montessori entrance.

Fire Drills:

The state is now requiring at least 15 fire drills during the school year. We will provide more detailed information on this in February.

Enrollment changes:

Toddler options are two or three mornings. In Sept. we will also add a five day option. Beginning in February the three days offered will be Monday, Wednesday and Friday. You are welcome to add lunch any day or a third morning. Please see enclosed information.

BrightStars

Montessori of Greenwich Bay is among the first in RI and the only program in East Greenwich to be recognized for its commitment to providing high-quality care and education by BrightStars- RI's new quality rating and improvement system.

Twenty other programs across the state gathered for Starry, Starry Night, an event celebrating and saluting the first group of child care/education programs that have joined BrightStars. More than 100 community leaders were in attendance including RI Education Commissioner Deborah Gist.

Press release: "BrightStars raises the bar for early childhood programs in RI", said Tammy Camillo, BrightStars Director. "Montessori of Greenwich Bay's participation is a sign that they are a leader in a statewide effort to invest in high-quality early childhood care and education".

Programs enrolled in BrightStars are assessed across many standard and criteria in the following quality domains: 1) child's daily experience, 2) teaching and learning, 3) staff ratio/group size, 4) family communication and engagement, 5) staff qualifications, and 6) program management. We are setting goals to

provide the highest possible care and education for your child. We are eligible to participate in BrightStars in the new space six months after we receive our DCYF license.

Classroom News

Parent Resource Group Meeting

The Parent Resource Group will meet on Wednesday, February 10th from 6:50 – 8:00. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. It will be the first meeting in our new building. We will talk about the logistics of the new space, upcoming events and curriculum, how parents can help/be involved as well as go over the Parent Surveys from the fall. There will also be a presentation on something from the Montessori curriculum.

Welcome New Staff

We will have an early childhood credentialed teacher begin with us in February. Valeria Pecchia will be in the classroom a few days in January so the children can become familiar with her. She will be helping in both the toddler and 3-5 year old classrooms. Valeria has a BS in Management and Elementary education and is currently pursuing her Masters in social work. She has over ten years experience in early childhood education including five year as a lead Kindergarten teacher and a year in a Reggio Emilio preschool. She is excited to become part of our growing community and we are happy to have her join us. We are still happy to have Vanessa with us as well!



"Save the Earth" tip

Idle Time: Do you ever wonder if you should leave your car running or turn it off if you are waiting for someone or something? Leave it running if you will be less than a minute. Otherwise its more efficient to turn the engine off and start it again when you're ready to go.