



*The Children's Center infant and toddler programs provide a warm and nurturing environment designed to encourage our little ones to explore and learn new skills. Because we strive to maintain low child to-staff ratios, there is plenty of opportunity to cuddle, care, and meet the individual needs of each child.*

*The infant program promotes consistency between day care and home caregiving practices and follows the child's schedule. The toddler program specifically focuses on teaching self-help skills and appropriate social skills, while the children enjoy a variety of sensory experiences and art activities. Outside, our separate infant/toddler playground offers the chance to explore without the intrusion of older children.*

*We believe play is essential to every aspect of a child's development. Read below to see in more detail the learning objectives we cover in our planning.*

## **Infant Curriculum**

*Ages 6 weeks to 18 Months*

The Infant Curriculum is designed to help babies learn and meet the following goals:

1. Develop a sense of belonging and trust
2. Understand the concept of object permanence
3. Develop emotional and social competence, including a sensitivity to others
4. Explore the environment safely, develop curiosity, persist in pursuing objects of interest
5. Develop the ability to self sooth and play independently
6. Recognize the concept of time and anticipate events
7. Develop the ability to express oneself, including a variety of feelings through vocalizations, facial expressions, and body movements
8. Grasp and manipulate objects, improve hand/eye coordination
9. Develop locomotion and motor coordination, including imitating actions and dancing
10. Become aware of space and variations in it
11. Engage in serve and return, and physical turn-taking interactions with adults
12. Recognize cultural and social relationships in their family and in their world

## Toddler Curriculum

*Ages 18 Months to 3 years*

The Toddler Curriculum is designed to teach and guide children towards meeting the following:

### SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

*How do young children develop understandings of themselves and others?*

1. Become aware of how one's actions affect others
2. Participate in group activities
3. Learn to take turns and share some of the time
4. Learn to respect the rights and property of others
5. Develop self-control and regulation skills
6. Develop negotiation and problem-solving skills (2 ½ - 3 years)
7. Learn to understand and accept behavioral limits
8. Learn to communicate freely with peers and adults
9. Learn to play cooperatively (including through dramatic play)
10. Recognize routines and learn to manage transitions
11. Learn to self-occupy and initiate own play
12. Develop a feeling of success, confidence, and a positive self-image
13. Learn to identify, express and cope with emotions in socially acceptable ways
14. Practice independence and self-help skills
15. Learn to recognize and express needs
16. Recognize and enjoy receiving praise; develop self-confidence through encouragement
17. Learn to show and verbalize affection
18. Recognize stress and learn appropriate coping skills

The Children's Center programs use the Pyramid Model framework which includes concrete strategies for promoting healthy social-emotional development of young children birth to age 5. To learn more, visit [www.pyramidmodel.org](http://www.pyramidmodel.org).

### PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

*How do young children use their bodies to explore and participate in their world while navigating risks and developing healthy behaviors?*

1. Improve gross motor skills (through walking, running, climbing, hopping, galloping, skipping, jumping, crawling, pulling, pushing, balancing, rolling, and stretching)
2. Develop eye/hand coordination (by practicing ball skills of throwing, catching, rolling, bouncing, kicking)

3. Increase outdoor play skills (and become adept in the use of gym and playground equipment)
4. Imitate and develop fine motor skill movements and abilities to include:
  - a. Buttoning, zipping, tying, cutting, folding, and pasting, stringing beads, lacing, and modeling with play dough
  - b. use writing and drawing tools
  - c. copy simple geometric shapes

## **LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT**

*How do young children develop understandings of language and use it to communicate with others?*

1. Learn to develop language as a necessary and desirable means of communication. Examples include asking for “more”, saying “all gone”, combining words.
2. Develop a variety of means of communication. Examples: points to familiar objects when named, combines use of words and gestures to make wants known, uses sign-language.
3. Increase number of words used meaningfully
4. Enjoy and appreciate stories and nursery rhymes/participate in song and repeats some short nursery rhymes
5. Learn to listen effectively and demonstrate listening comprehension
6. Follow simple two-step directions
7. Learn the ability to speak clearly
8. Develop the ability to communicate ideas and feelings
9. Learn meanings of words and respond appropriately (example: yes, no)
10. Learn to use pronouns and express possession
11. Learn to use words for bathroom needs and other self-help skills
12. Become familiar with environmental sounds
13. Participate in literacy activities and develop book awareness (front, back, page turning, storytelling from pictures, etc.)
14. Learn first and last name; learn teacher and peer names

## **EARLY SCIENCE**

*How do young children develop understandings of their physical worlds?*

1. Obtain some understanding of natural forces
  - a. Weather and Seasons
  - b. Time: morning, night, yesterday, today, tomorrow
  - c. Temperature: hot and cold
  - d. Air and Water
  - e. Motion and Machines
  - f. Space and Volume
2. Develop regard for the natural environment
3. Develop a respect for animals
4. Become aware of body parts and senses

5. Use tools of observation
6. Explore how things work
7. Build (with blocks and play with sand/natural materials)
8. Learn answers or solutions to questions and problems

## **PRE-MATHEMATICS**

*How do young children develop a readiness for mathematical thinking and use it to make sense of their world?*

1. Count by rote 1-15
2. Begin to recognize numbers
3. Classify objects by similar characteristics (size, shape, color, function)
4. Order objects by size and quantity (long/short, tall/short, etc.)
5. Start to acquire basic understanding of math processes through practical daily applications (e.g., memory games)
6. Recognize a visual calendar and/or clock are instruments for measuring time; begin to use terms related to time as a concept
7. Develop awareness of measurements in weight, height/length, volume
8. Begin to use terms related to direction and distance; describe actions using spatial terms

## **ART & CREATIVE EXPRESSION**

*How do young children express creativity?*

1. Explore a variety of age-appropriate materials and art media to create two and three-dimensional artwork
2. Recognize and identify basic colors and shapes (circle, square, rectangle, and triangle)
3. Explore various types of lines, marks, and shapes (to include exposure of star, diamond, heart, and oval)
4. Experiment with textures, investigate the world through the senses
5. Express feelings using a variety of materials

## **HEALTH & SAFETY**

*How do young children take care of their bodies and develop healthy behaviors?*

1. Develop good health habits (to include good handwashing, personal hygiene, dental care, exercise, and sleep)
2. Become independent in toileting
3. Practice and become adept in self-help skills
4. Involve children in planning, preparation, and enjoyment of nutritious foods
5. Develop awareness of space limits (body in space) and recognize space of others

6. Teach children to understand the need for rules and the importance of following them (with an emphasis on the program-wide expectations of Be Safe, Be Kind, Be Responsible, and Be Respectful)
7. Integrate health and safety practices into daily life
  - a. Stranger safety
  - b. Fire safety (including monthly fire drills)
  - c. Hallway and classroom safety
  - d. Parking lot and street safety
  - e. Water safety (including water play activities)
  - f. Sun safety (including use of sunscreen and sunglasses)

*Adapted from NH Early Learning Standards*