



Older Toddler Daily Learning Highlights Week 1 | Day 1



Music & Movement

In Circle Time we heard our teacher sing each of our names in the song, “*We’re Glad You’re Here!*” “Hello songs” and routines support awareness of others and foster the development of peer relationships and a positive sense of self. This experience provides an opportunity for older toddlers to begin to focus on their own unique characteristics and recognize the similarities and differences between themselves and others.



Language & Literacy

We learned how to say, “*Help Me!*” verbally and using sign language. First, we listened to a story about taking turns and asking for help. Later in the day, we practiced what we learned during a game. This activity gave us the opportunity to use our problem-solving skills, as well as the ability to persevere while waiting for a turn and/or asking for help. As we begin to ask familiar adults for help when encountering difficult tasks or situations. This skill will extend to interactions with friends as well as lead to the development of self-knowledge with others.

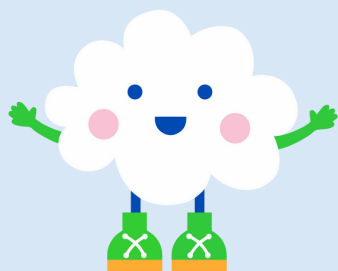


Physical Development

Putting together *Knobby Puzzles* was a great way to build our geometric knowledge of shapes, colors, and sizes. Putting together puzzles with knobs helps us match up objects. Matching objects helps us gain an understanding of the concept of shapes, sizes, and patterns which are critical math skills. We hone our visual discrimination skills which help our directionality, which allows us to identify the alignment or orientation of an object in relation to its position. Manipulating objects, like knobby puzzle pieces, develops our fine and gross motor skills and develop our hand-eye coordination.

STEAM

We learned *How to Flatten Play Dough* today! While playing with playdough we developed the small muscles in our hands, by manipulating the dough to flatten a ball. This activity lent itself to using our problem-solving skills while manipulating the dough with our hands and/or rolling pins to see what works better. As we worked to flatten play dough, we began to explore our own abilities and develop a sense of competence that supports emerging self-awareness. Additionally, encouraging us to participate in enjoyable experiences alongside one another fosters peer relationships.





Older Toddler Daily Learning Highlights Week 1 | Day 2



Language & Literacy

We enjoyed a *Meaningful Storytime* experience as we *Made Books Come Alive*. During this activity, we used pictures to talk about a book and how it related to us in the classroom. With the help of our teacher, we begin to understand our classroom routines and daily rituals as we read a story related to us, this supports the development of self-regulation as well as our sense of self with our teachers and peers. Reading together helps us acquire meaning from a variety of materials as we learn to sustain attention to a specific activity.



Music & Movement

We learned an important classroom routine as we practiced *Meaningful Transitions*. We learned our Transition Song which helped us learn when it was time to go to a different activity. With this song we are learning our classroom routine and how to anticipate transitions in class. While singing and dancing to the song, our balance and coordination skills are being developed and we build attention and focus skills.

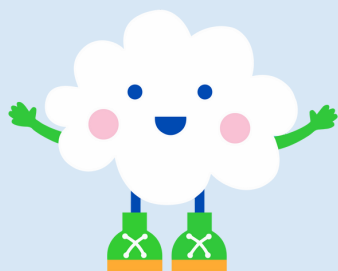
STEAM

What can we do with glue? We had a *Glue Smorgasbord*, where we explored all types of glue and what we can use it for. During this activity, we used glue and other art materials in various ways to express ourselves through open-ended art experiences. We learned about the scientific process while investigating, creating, and exploring through play. We also experienced cause and effect while using glue and art materials while we were able to manipulate objects to determine how they work.



Physical Development

We cared for baby dolls and learned some important self-help skills during our *Meaningful Dramatic Play: Caring for Baby Dolls* experience. We practiced caring for our babies by getting them dressed and ready for the day. This teaches us that we can also be independent in our dressing ability. This gave us the opportunity to work together and engage in positive interactions with our friends, helping us develop our sense of self. Dramatic play experiences foster our imagination as well as allow us to engage in a progression of individualized and imaginative play.





Older Toddler Daily Learning Highlights Week 1 | Day 3

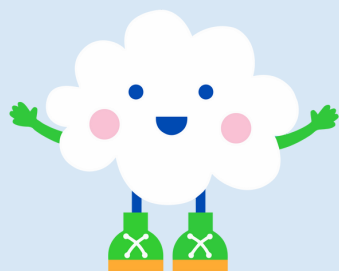


Physical Development

We learned a fun new song called, “*This is the Way We Wash Our Hands*” to help us learn how to properly wash our hands. As children grow older they begin to learn the proper steps to initiate self-care and basic personal hygiene routines needed to maintain healthy habits. By pairing routines with songs, we are helping children sequence the steps needed to complete the activity while building their independence. Ask me to show you the next we wash our hands!

STEAM

Chalk, Chalk, Go Away, we created art creations while exploring with chalk, paintbrushes, and water. We had to use our arms, wrist, hands, and fingers to refine our grasp to create artwork chalk creations and then manipulate the wet paint brushes and spray bottles. As we observed the changes the water made to the chalk, we developed an understanding that water has different states/phases. We also observed and discussed the effects of drying and evaporation of water on the chalk surface.



“*Head Shoulders, Knees, and Toes*” was such a fun learning song that we did today! This song helped us learn the parts of our body as we demonstrated balance and coordination to complete a variety of movements. We also practiced one-to-one correspondence as we touched one body part while the name was said. As we sing and move together we feel a part of a classroom community and demonstrate confidence and satisfaction in our own abilities, expressing pride in accomplishment.



Our teacher read the book “*Clifford’s Manners*” where we learned all about manners and how to be polite. As we sat in a group, we demonstrated spatial awareness, while engaging in and maintaining positive relationships and interactions with adults and their friends. Listening to our teacher read the story, we were provided with the opportunity to increase our knowledge of new vocabulary. We also used our words, signs, and simple phrases in response to the text that was read aloud to practice using manners expected in daily classroom interactions.



Older Toddler Daily Learning Highlights Week 1 | Day 4

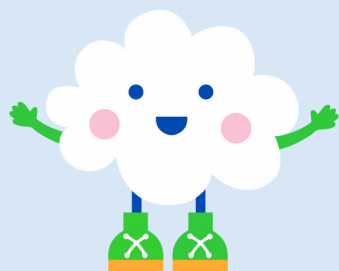
STEAM

Creating Friendship Art was so much fun! First, we used our hands to make handprints on the paper. Next, our teacher sang a song as we used toy bears and different colors of paint to stamp prints on paper. We engaged in scientific inquiry and compared the prints of our hands to the prints of the bear's paws. We also grew our vocabulary as our teacher described what she saw. As we observed cause and effect as our teacher drew our attention to the different color prints that result from our actions and those of our friends.



Language & Literacy

We reinforce our literacy skills as we *Revisited Curious George Ready for School!* We heard this story already this week and we activated our prior knowledge when reviewing the routine that George had as he prepared for school. With our teacher's help, we communicated our opinions and ideas as we recalled and classified pictures related to a previously read story which supports our development of a sense of self and feelings of competence.



Physical Development

We strengthened our large muscles as well as developed our balance and coordination skills as we played during our *Ball Dump* exploration. We also developed our skills in persistence and focus as we did not give up and tried again when the balls didn't go where we wanted to go. As our teacher used our names, made comments on our actions, and asked questions, we became more aware of our peers and began to interact with them in meaningful ways. We also developed our large motor skills as we moved from standing to a squatting position while we played with balls.



Music & Movement

We learned the names of our new friends today while we sang *Hello Friend*. Singing the song builds our literacy and attention skills. It also allowed us to focus while we followed directions and developed our listening skills. "Hello songs" and routines support awareness of others and foster the development of peer relationships and a positive sense of self. This experience supports older toddlers to begin to focus on their unique characteristics and recognize the similarities and differences between themselves and others.



Older Toddler Daily Learning Highlights Week 1 | Day 5

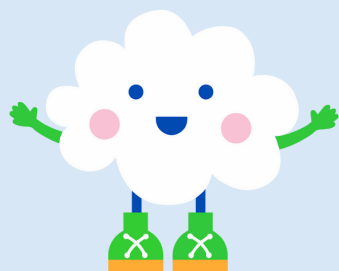


Physical Development

We continued to focus on learning our routines in the classroom with the activity *My Spot on the Whole Group Rug*. Encouraging young children to stay on their spot and be aware of their peers as they shake their sillies out provides an opportunity to follow simple rules in a group setting. This experience supports the development of self-control and peer relationships. Additionally, opportunities to share their opinions and preferences promote children's positive sense of self.

STEAM

What's in the Water Table? We found out today! We used sponges to experience and observe absorption. We used cups to pour as our teacher described the properties of water to further our scientific inquiry and discovery, as well as grow our vocabulary. During this activity, most children rely on direct adult modeling to play alongside adult-selected peers. This leads to the development of a child's sense of self with others. We also discovered with simple tools as we demonstrated our knowledge of related dynamic properties of the earth and sky.



Music & Movement

Did you know that when we dance, we are learning how to move our bodies to the rhythm of music, and we use and develop our spatial awareness skills? We had a silly time dancing to the song, "Shake My Sillies Out," by Raffi.

Dancing also develops and gives us the opportunity to use our large muscles and gross motor skills. Listening to music provides the opportunity to attend to sounds in music and lyrics, as well as helps us understand what comes next following cues and patterns in a song. Play a silly song and let's dance at home!



Language & Literacy

Which Book Would You Like? We listened to a variety of stories as the teacher gave us different ones to choose from and then read the books that we picked. As we choose a story to read, we began to recognize our own preferences and develop an increased sense of self-awareness. Being read engages us fully in a literacy activity that is fun, which associates reading with happy and positive activity. This makes us want to be able to read and explore literacy. Because we had previously read the book, we had a personal connection and were able to comprehend and understand the context better.