



Older Toddler Daily Learning Highlights Week 3 | Day 1

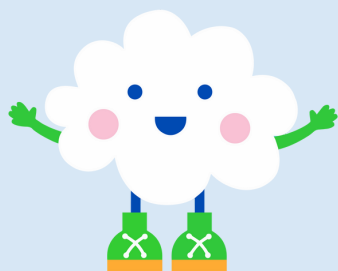
STEAM

Our math brains got a workout while *Counting 5 Little Monkeys*. We built knowledge of quantity and number while listening and responding to the story, “5 Little Monkeys.” We use pom poms to represent the monkeys that we saw in the book and pretended to put them to bed in an ice cube tray. This bed had a spot for each monkey, unlike to one in the story! This helped us see each ‘monkey’ so that we were able to count them. Let’s sing “5 Little Monkeys” at home together!



Physical Development

We really had fun with the activity, *Monkeying Around with Circles: Process Art*. Our finger muscles were working hard as we used glue and drew on cardboard circles and paper. Encouraging young children to stay within their workspace provides opportunities for them to follow simple rules in a group setting and supports self-control and peer relationships. As we practiced skills we would eventually need for future writing, we also explored, recognized, and described circles and their distinguishing features.



Language & Literacy

Where are the 5 Little Monkeys? We began to develop an understanding of the use of simple “wh” questions during a read-aloud. We demonstrated our comprehension of where the felt board monkeys were by pointing to or telling our teacher whether they were on the bed, tree, or bath. Presenting children with opportunities to control their impulses, focus, and follow simple directions encourages the development of self-control. As older toddlers begin to learn the story, they will likely feel competent and eagerly seek new learning challenges.



Music & Movement

We experimented with sounds during the activity *Monkey Music: Tambourine Beats* today. We increased our understanding of language when we learned to sign language for the word, ‘monkey’ and heard the story, “Hand, Hand, Fingers, Thumb,” by Al Perkins. We saw the monkey playing a tambourine, so we played one, too! Experimenting with instruments provides an opportunity for them to recognize and enhance their abilities and supports their developing sense of self. As we used our senses to explore music, we practiced keeping our attention on a specific activity.



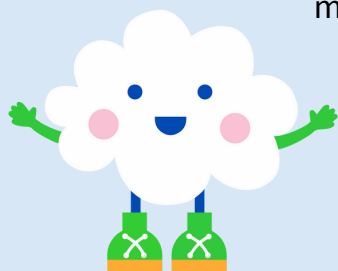
Older Toddler Daily Learning Highlights Week 3 | Day 2



We had a great time exploring with bubble wrap as we listened to music and conducted a *Marching Band Stomp!* We were able to bond with our new classmates and learn about different movements that we can achieve with our bodies. The song developed our vocabulary skills, especially directional and placement vocabulary while expressing ourselves creatively. As we all clapped and stomped to the song, we worked on developing our large muscles and gross motor skills while we used our sense of touch and hearing to march on the bubble wrap!

STEAM

We did *Fizzy Chemistry* today. It was so cool! Participating in this science experiment gave us the opportunity to explore chemical reactions and learn and directly observe cause and effect. We obtained an understanding of tools and how they work while we developed our hand-eye coordination and developing control of our hands while using these tools. Our mathematical skills were advanced when we measured the ingredients for the experiment. This was a great way to learn and better understand science and math.



We played *Scrunched Paper Toss* today and used our muscles, motor skills, and focus. Who knew that exercise could be so much fun?! Our teacher started by showing us baskets and scrunched-up paper balls and asked us what we thought we were doing. After we used deduction to figure out that we were tossing the balls into the basket she asked us what we could do differently when we missed a basket. It took some inference on our part to figure out why balls might have missed the basket; we really had to use our brains and body for this activity!



What Did You Do at School Today? At the end of the day, we shared and reflected on what we did at school with our friends and teacher. We used complex language in conversation with others when we took turns telling our teacher and classmates what we liked most about our day. We communicated in the form of song, while clapping and tapping, which helps us understand there are different forms of communicating. When we talk about something that has happened already, it helps us develop our recall-memory skills. Having conversations with our peers also helps us develop expressive and receptive language, as well as learn patterns in speech.



Older Toddler Daily Learning Highlights Week 3 | Day 3



Language & Literacy

Who Is Here Today? We loved seeing our pictures, as well as our friends, as we identified who was here and who was missing today. We selected our picture/name badge and put it on our designated display surface to indicate our attendance in the classroom. With adult instruction and support, we began to understand the classroom routines and daily rituals which support the development of self-control and help us feel safe in the new classroom.



Music & Movement

Our teacher read the book *Dancing Feet* today. It was an interactive activity where we could hear the story while imitating the actions the animals were doing. We gained the opportunity to move our bodies to the rhythm of the story. While we repeated phrases after the teacher, we learned lyrics and enhanced our memory skills. It also helps teach us that we can use pictures as cues to follow a story and expand our observational skills in literacy.

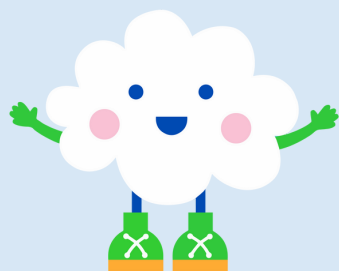
STEAM

We used our cognitive and fine motor skills today to connect and *Sort Nuts and Bolts* together. Matching sizes and shapes to put together the nuts and bolts helped develop our mathematical skills of spatial awareness and shape recognition. We needed to use concentration and attention to detail to accomplish the task which enhanced our ability to use these. Our social-emotional relationship skills were enhanced as we engaged in play with other children. We relied on our teacher to help us identify difficult tasks and to provide direct guidance to navigate the task, which supported our developing sense of self with others.



Physical Development

We learned a lot during the activity *Is it Safe?* We held up a green “go” sign when our teacher made safe choices and a red “stop sign she was about to make an unsafe choice, such as climbing on the chair to stand on it. When we engage in activities such as this, we are beginning to understand the meaning of safe and unsafe, with adult and visual supports. This activity provided an opportunity for us to practice self-control, a skill that plays a key role in our overall success and healthy development. Ask me what safe and unsafe choices I learned about!





Older Toddler Daily Learning Highlights Week 3 | Day 4



Music & Movement

We sang the song, 'This is How I Breathe', to learn how to breathe deeply. We practiced taking breaths in to feel our belly grow as we took the air into our lungs. We saw a picture of a balloon so we can imagine the balloon filling with air. In the future, when we need help calming down, our teacher will help us to breathe deeply and learn to self-calm. As we pretended to fill the balloon we used dramatic play to engage in a progression of individualized and imaginative play.



Language & Literacy

I Spy a round, red object...what do you think it is? It was so much fun playing with our teachers and friends today! Since I Spy is a group activity, it aids in our social development, teaches cooperation, and allows us to practice give and take with our peers. While we play, we are attending to and learning descriptive language from our friends and teacher, as well as learning to use visual cues and discrimination. Let's play this game on our way home today!

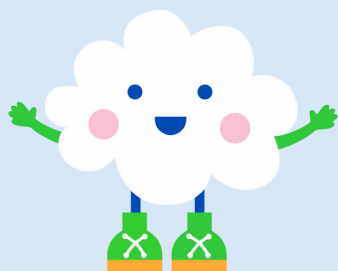


Physical Development

We used a lot of concentration and focus on *Stringing Beads* today. This activity is not only entertaining, but it also develops our hand-eye coordination and fine motor skills. We need persistence and concentration to accomplish this task. We need to manipulate the beads in our hands between our thumbs and fingers, which involves translation, shifts, and rotation movements within the hands. Visual discrimination helps us choose the beads we want to use. Beading also enhances our pattern skills as we focus and practice sustaining attention to this complex task, demonstrating our persistence.

STEAM

We used our observation skills to explore the outdoors looking at the *Colors In My World*. We all looked around to see if we could find blue, green, and other colors outside, and then some of us used different colors to paint on a big piece of butcher paper. We are learning to share and work together on collaborative projects. This promotes the development of a sense of self with others. Sorting objects by two colors is a mathematical skill we will need later for pattern skills and geometry.





Older Toddler Daily Learning Highlights Week 3 | Day 5



Language & Literacy

During the *My Mad Face* activity, our teacher read the book, “You Are Not Small”, and it taught us about size and comparisons. Our teacher read it to us in groups and we learned so much as we listened to new vocabulary and words to use when we want to describe people and things. We also focused on how the characters in the book were feeling, according to the look on their faces. This experience supports the young child’s awareness and recognition of a common emotion, such as mad.



Music & Movement

We danced to the song *Rock Your Body to the Colors* by Jack Hartman as a group today. We listened to the color words and other lyrics and gained new vocabulary as we danced to the upbeat tempo. When we dance and have shared experiences with our friends, we strengthen our peer relationships. Dancing allows us to engage in a fun way to exercise as we express ourselves creatively. Let’s have a dance party at home!

STEAM

Did it Sink or Float? We conducted a science experiment today and learned about how objects sink or float. Did you know that rocks sink, and ping-pong balls float? This activity taught us about the weight of different materials. It also gave us the ability to manipulate objects to learn how they behave in water. When we conduct science experiments, it nurtures our intellectual curiosity about the world around us and encourages discussions and the ability to think critically. We also developed our increasing scientific vocabulary as we learned words associated with the properties of water during this investigation.



Physical Development

We had *Beach Ball Fun* on the playground today, and it was a blast! We experimented with the different things we could do with a beach ball such as throw it, roll it, and move it in our arms. Our teacher described what we were doing so that we can continue to build our vocabulary and concepts. As we practiced tossing the beach ball underhanded and overhand we coordinated our body movements as we developed our large motor skills. During this activity, we demonstrated an awareness of how our body moves in space as we maintained our balance and coordination.

