



Toddlers (18 months-3 years)

During their toddler years at Building Blocks children develop social skills as they learn to care for and respect one another, and as they learn to problem solve. Loris Malaguzzi, founder of the programs in Reggio Emilia, has taught us that children express their thoughts and feelings through 100 Languages, the spoken word certainly, but also through gesture, music, constructing, dramatic play, dance, paint, clay, and drawing to name a few. Exploring these languages prepare children for their future journeys in preschool.

Hands-on and authentic experiences guide the curriculum for children to discover. Children are encouraged to use their senses as they explore the world around them. Through early literacy experiences, children learn to appreciate language, gain new vocabulary, and learn to use new words and concepts. Simple participatory songs and finger plays are important introductions to speech patterns, motor skill development, and math concepts.

Project work often steers their curriculum. Our teaching staff observes the children's interests through their play. Activities are developed and items are added to the environment to encourage further exploration, questioning, and discovery. It is proven that children learn more when the subject stimulates them; therefore colors, numbers, and emergent literacy are all strengthened through the Project Approach.

Our teachers and staff are quick to provide both encouragement and a safe, secure environment as these busy little people develop self-confidence. Toilet training is another component of our toddler program. Our staff will work together with parents to establish a toileting routine for toddlers. We feel consistency between home and school will obtain the best results.

Evidence of their growth and learning is documented and placed in a portfolio for each child.