

Daily Schedule:

8:30 AM	Arrival and Free Play
9:15 AM	Clean up, Circle Time (songs, finger plays, stories)
9:30 AM	Bathroom, Snack
10:00 AM	Outside to Playground
11:30 AM	Bathroom, Group Activity
12:00 NOON	Lunch
12:30 PM	Dismissal or Extended Day

Our main priority in the Yellow Room is to create an environment that feels nurturing and safe. We adhere to our daily routine to provide predictability to a child's day. We will provide an inviting environment each day with familiar materials such as crayons, markers, paints, and play dough. Our touch table will be open each day containing familiar and soothing activities such as water or sand. We will spend time at the start of the year creating routines and giving the children the opportunity to become comfortable and familiar with the classroom environment.

Once children are comfortable, we will begin to explore a theme they can relate to. Ideas for themes often emerge from the interest of the children. Some popular themes have been the seasons, transportation, animals, community helpers and the ocean. We keep the emphasis on process instead of product and strive for open-ended activities within the theme. At this age, dripping puddles of glue onto a piece of paper becomes a valuable experience and we encourage individual experimentation.

Our curriculum is designed to enhance the physical, cognitive, emotional and social development of each child. Self-help skills such as getting dressed to go outside, washing hands for snack and lunch and putting toys away at clean up time give children independence and confidence in their physical abilities. Reading throughout the day and simple conversation develop language and understanding.

We believe that children learn through play by "doing". Playtime is your child's chance to stretch their imagination. Toddlers learn by doing – they make endless discoveries about their world by exploring the world around them.

Experimenting helps children find out what they are good at and that helps to build their self-esteem and confidence. Play helps children build social skills. They are presented with opportunities to take turns/share while helping to work through many emotions such as anger, frustration, and sadness. Labeling and validating feelings for children helps a child to communicate and understand their emotions. Parallel play predominates at the beginning of the year. When children show signs of readiness, they are encouraged to branch out to cooperative play with a friend. Play spaces for two or four children are created to allow opportunities for social development.

Play builds language skills while talking to a friend, doll, and stuffed animal or simple conversations. Play also helps to empower children. The dramatic play area helps to build problem solving skills. Blocks, crayons, puzzles and snapping or buttoning doll clothes helps to develop fine motor skills and eye-hand coordination.

During free play, all areas of the classroom will be open for exploration. In a typical morning, your child may fill buckets with sand at the touch table, move to the easel to paint a picture, listen to a story in the book corner, and make a pretend birthday cake at the play dough table. It is not unusual, however, for a child to spend the entire morning in the block area engaging in imaginative play. Although we encourage children to experience diverse activities, we respect their desire to make these choices.

Outdoors, the children enjoy using the swings, running and climbing as they develop gross motor skills and increase balance and coordination. The sandbox encourages digging, measuring and wet to dry experimentation, along with dramatic play as they create neighborhoods with dump trucks and excavators. Children and nature are a natural match, and there are many opportunities to explore by hunting for insects, watching birds fly overhead and observing the change in seasons by watching the leaves change in Fall, Winter snow fly and the budding of renewed growth in Spring.

Snack and lunch time provide each child the opportunity to come together with classmates to engage in conversation, building social and language development while enjoying a lunch from home. Independence and self-help skills are boosted as they learn to take care of the own lunchbox, eat with utensils, and clean up when finished.

All these aspects of learning are viewed as an ongoing process that continues throughout the learning life of every child. We strive to provide the foundation for these important skills amidst a fun and interesting atmosphere.