

# Our Time Together

Dear Parents and Caregivers:

Welcome! Our Time Together can be an exciting and fun opportunity for your child to improve current skills, learn new skills, make friends, and have fun. This is also an opportunity for us to create a parenting community and share development milestones. During the toddler years, your child will make huge strides physically, intellectually, and emotionally, whether it's learning to use the potty or stacking blocks.

Something to observe in this program is how your child plays adjacent to other children in the playgroup. Introduced by Mildred Parten in 1932, this cooperative social interaction is called parallel play and helps children begin language development, build confidence, and form relationships. Your child will increasingly learn to share and become aware of other's emotions, as well as learn cause and effect through trial and error of adjusting and solving problems in play. Following is a sample program schedule.

## **Sample Our Time Together Schedule.**

- 9:00 - 9:40: Free Choice Time/Arts and Crafts
- 9:40 – 10:00: Circle Time/Songs/Books
- 10:00 – 10:20: Outside Play/Snack set up inside by Parent Volunteer
- 10:20 – 10:30: Snack/Goodbye Song/Sticker for Participating

Hopefully this schedule gives you an idea of the fun we plan to have. Each month will be theme based and we will spend time each day making crafts, listening to books, learning songs and moving to music. I encourage you to talk about these topics throughout the month with your child during our sessions and at home.

A toddler is constantly learning how to do new things. Continue to give yours loving support, and as often as possible provide a little freedom for them to strive for independence. Don't worry if they occasionally "unlearn" a skill - a little regression is just part of the process in the toddler years.

I'm looking forward to a fun and rewarding Our Time Together. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call me.

Best Regards,

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