



We know that a safe and nurturing environment is of the uttermost importance, along with attentive and caring care givers. Our Greatest Gifts will provide a “home away from home” environment where the children are encouraged to grow, learn, and explore through play. Care givers will help each child meet goals based on each child’s individual age and stage of development.

Care givers will focus on four main areas of your child’s development

Physical development: Is the way your child moves their arms and legs (large motor skills) and their fingers and hands (small motor skills). Teachers help children learn these skills by offering different physical activities and equipment. Children run, jump, climb, throw and catch. They use their hands to explore materials like paint, play dough, puzzles, sand, and things to write with. By using their bodies actively both indoors and outdoors, children build healthy bones and muscles. Children will also gain independence with self-care skills such as undressing to use the toilet and remembering to wash hands.

Social and emotional development: Teachers will model behaviors that will encourage sharing, and being polite to their peers because toddlers learn by example. The teachers will encourage social and self help skills while giving the children the opportunity to express their feelings in a healthy way. They will build an appreciation for diversity by seeing and talking about how people are the same and different. Children will complete activities with confidence and look for new challenges like putting on shoes and trying to tie them. Children will learn to resolve conflicts that may come up during play.

Cognitive (thinking) development: Supports the mental processes needed to use language, memory, thinking and reasoning. During the course of the day, the children will explore the classroom to do activities such as sorting objects, fixing puzzles, building blocks, and taking things apart and fitting them back together. Children will start to count, know numbers and basic shapes. They will explore simple addition and subtraction songs. They will also begin to understand basic social studies like people’s roles within the community.

Language development: Teachers spend a lot of time conversing with children so that they will learn how words should sound and how to have a conversation with their peers. Teachers help your child use their growing communication skills to learn new concepts. They will read books with simple words, sing songs, say rhymes, finger play, listen to music and do things in a repetitive manner to make learning easier. Children will learn the difference between similar sounding words with rhyming games and songs. They will be asked simple questions about stories in book and start to understand that drawing and writing are ways to communicate

Toddlers learn best in a safe, loving place where they can explore, in their own way. Some of the following are ways that your child will learn.

1. **Through relationships with their care giver.** Teachers help your child feel secure and important. They will create strong, and positive bonds with your toddler that will help them gain confidence to explore and learn.

2. **Through hands on play.** Toddlers learn best when they can see, hear, taste, touch, and smell objects safely. Through exploration, they start to see how the world around them works and how to solve problems.
3. **Exploring the world around them.** Giving them a chance to explore the room and outdoors every day if possible. Play is important way your toddler explores material, test ideas, and starts figuring out why something happens.
4. **With support from their teacher.** Teachers will ask questions to help children think about what they are doing, acknowledge the children's efforts, and offer suggestions that will help the children try new things.
5. **By connecting new ideas and skills to what toddlers already know and can do.** All of us learn best when we can link new information to what we already know. Teachers help toddlers do this so that they build knowledge. Teachers also connect learning to whatever your child is interested in, like ball, animals, or trucks.
6. **Math** Children explore math concepts they will use later in school. For example your child sorts materials in the marker space are into things they can build with and things they can decorate with (classifying). They will explore shapes and textures while making art (comparing, understanding attributes). They clap out the beats to a song (counting).