



## Connect Through Play

Strengthen relationships with babies as you engage them in meaningful play opportunities.

### Open play includes:

- Sensory play. Different sensory stations will be set up daily to help the child explore and engage in sensory and fine motor skills.
- Soft building stations will be provided to help develop strong gross motor skills.
- Engaging with others will always be a great skill to encourage as children are learning boundaries with others and social/emotional development. Let your child engage with other children when they seem interested in an activity that has been set up.

\*Remember everything your child is learning is new, no matter how small the task is. It's something new. Use praise to encourage and boost a child's self esteem. This will help your child feel noticed and encouraged to try new things.

## Music Time

Music helps the body and the mind work together. Exposing children to music during early development helps them learn the sounds and meanings of words. Dancing to music helps children build motor skills while allowing them to practice self-expression. For children and adults, music helps strengthen memory skills.

- Music is a big part of a child's development, it helps with a child's speech and gross development. Once they start bringing in the moves, we've got a party! And that's what we want to see.
- Music and movement will be part of our daily schedule. Singing and dancing to our favorite songs will be key to this program.
- Instruments will be provided for each child to encourage their participation and collaboration during this fun part of the class.



## Story Time

Let's not forget what a daily story can do to a child's expanding imagination. Reading stories to your child has many benefits other than promoting early literacy and language development. It can help develop their concentration, social skills, communication skills, and encourages their imagination and creativity.

- Daily story time. Focus on books that present 5 senses, interactive books that help keep children engaged, pop ups, peekaboo.
- Felt board stories are more interactive and may be substituted for books during story time.
- Puppet shows are another form of interacting listening time activity.

## Circle Time

This creates a special time during the day for the children to connect with each other and their parent/caregiver. It encourages listening, talking, and sharing among the children and modeling opportunities for the teacher. Also, it encourages the development of social skills by providing daily, structured social interactions.

- This will be a time for each child to have the spotlight and encourage confidence while allowing them to express any feelings.
- A good morning/goodbye song will be sung during this time, each child will be asked to share how they're feeling for the day.
- This will be a transition period, children will get ready for swim class. This will allow for any mixed emotions to settle before the next part of the class.