Brickton
MONTESSORI

Toddler Curriculum: Material Skill Set Chart

Practical Life

Practical life in the Toddler environment encourages the children to refine their motor skills and help them to become independent. There are a wide variety of materials for the children to practice with to develop hand-eye coordination, like pouring water back and forth between two pitchers. Students also strengthen their fine motor skills through activities like transferring dry objects by grasping, spooning and using tongs as well as creating art with a wide variety of materials and media. Dressing frames are used to teach the children how to button, snap, and zip in order to manipulate their own clothing successfully. Children are encouraged to return classroom materials to the original location, which promotes a sense of order, enhancing their organizational skills. Toddlers are encouraged to take responsibility of their work area, for example, cleaning up spills, as they learn to care for the environment.

Practical life encompasses many areas for toddlers, including care of self and the environment. Caring for the environment begins when a child arrives and carefully enters the classroom, being sure to safely move around to select a material and carry the material to a table or rug. We treat the environment and our materials with respect. Care of self teaches the children to be mindful of their own bodies, which includes safe movement, as well as learning how to dress themselves, especially during the toileting process. The children are encouraged to remove their coats and hang them up after time outside. They are also asked to stand near a stable object to independently step into their shoes with minimal adult assistance. We provide the children with a vanity full of articles of clothing to continue practicing these skills. These are all appropriate developmental expectations created to aid in the child's ability to become a confident person, secure in the knowledge of their own capabilities.

Order

Concept	Materials/Activities	Skills
Sense of order	Material placement on shelves Consistent placement of materials Hand washing Work cycle	• Develops understanding of sequential order in common routines • Develops follow through with common routines

Coordination

Concept	Materials/Activities	Skills
Gross motor control	Walking on the line Walking with materials Balance beam Large scrubbing	• Is able to walk carefully around obstacles • Practices walking carefully while balancing items in hands • Develops balance when moving around an environment • Develops proprioceptive and vestibular balance

Fine motor control	Water transfer with eye dropper Tweezer activities Scooping activities Drawing, stamping, stickers, gluing, punching, cutting Stringing Beads Containers and Lids Dressing Frames	• Develops proper hand grip for a variety of tasks • Uses art materials with moderate to good control • Transfers items from one container to another with scoops or tweezers • Independently opens and closes containers • Practices buttoning, snapping, and zipping • Can work a pegboard • Squeezes a sponge for transfer or cleaning activities
Hand eye coordination	Pouring Lacing Sweeping Mopping Watering the Plants Window Washing	• Pours from one container to another • Sweeps up items using a hand brush and dustpan • Wipes up a spill

Concentration

Concept	Materials/Activities	Skills
Concentration	Sweeping Handwashing	• Focuses attention on activities • Completes work cycle

Independence

Concept	Materials/Activities	Skills
Care of self	Dressing Handwashing Wiping face/nose Toileting Dressing Frames Teeth brushing	• Can prepare oneself for the outdoor environment • Can change own clothing • Practices with buttoning, snapping and zippering • Begins to understand the importance of general hygiene • Practices independent toileting • Washes hands with soap
Grace and courtesy	Hand shaking Excusal from Meals Rug boundaries Language at meals and work	• Learns to say “please” when asking for something or for assistance • Expresses appreciation for assistance given • Says “excuse me” when appropriate • Becomes aware of individual space • Says hello and goodbye to

		adults and peers • Knows to ask a classmate, "may I work with you?"
Care of the environment	Clean up Watering the plants Sweeping Mopping Table Scrubbing	• Recognizes the need to care for the environment • Finds the appropriate tools to clean the environment • Understands the need to clean up one's own messes

Sensorial

The sensorial area promotes the refinement of the senses through the use of touch, sight and hearing, for example, through strengthening visual-spatial skills, such as gradation of size, identifying color and shape. One of the most loved Montessori materials is the Pink Tower, which uses the language of smallest and largest as the children retrieve the ten cubes and gradually build the tower from largest on the bottom to the smallest on top. In addition, there are materials to help the children to discern the difference between thinnest and thickest, shorter and taller, louder and softer, etc. The exploration of these concepts builds a foundation the child can refer back to when delving into more abstract ideas.

Concept	**Materials/Activities**	**Skills**
Visual	Cylinder Blocks Pink Tower Brown Prisms Puzzles Sorting Color Box 1-2	• Develop visual discrimination of dimension • Develop spatial awareness • Recognize gradation of size • Names several colors
Auditory	Sounds in Environment Tone and Volume Sound Cylinders Music/Singing	• Develop sound discrimination • Recognize rhythm and patterns
Tactile	Geometric Solids Mystery Bag	• Develop visual discrimination of dimension • Grades objects from smallest to largest • Grades objects from thinnest to thickest
Thermal	Experiences with water	• Can distinguish hot from cold

Mathematics

In the Toddler program, children are introduced to mathematics through the Sandpaper Numerals and Spindle Boxes to develop an understanding of symbol recognition and one-to-one correspondence when counting. These mathematical concepts are then reinforced through classroom activities. For example, toddlers help set up the tables for meals and begin counting out the number of plates needed for the community to have lunch. Additionally, they may begin to match the amount of cups to the amount of plates set out, thereby recognizing simple equalities in their environment. Toddlers also begin to subscribe number meaning to events. For example, the teacher may say "We will sing two more songs", reinforcing the recognition of the quantity two to a number of items.

The recognition of shapes is a foundational mathematics concept for toddlers. In our environment, the children are introduced to shapes in a three-dimensional and two-dimensional format. Toddlers learn

the proper nomenclature of three-dimensional shapes through direct instruction with the teachers and conversation with peers. Montessori materials, such as the Geometric Solids, provide students with an opportunity to learn names such as cube, cylinder, and prism. During these presentations, children are encouraged to find examples of each shape within other materials around the room. When shown a cube, they may recognize the Pink Tower as a series of graduated cubes, and when shown the square-based prism, may be reminded of another favorite material, the Brown Prisms. Similarly, the Geometric Demonstration Tray provides opportunities for finding two-dimensional shapes in the environment. This then carries over into their work, making shapes out of stickers, and naming shapes from puzzles, books and the environment.

Numeration

Concept	Materials	Skills
Counting	Sandpaper numerals Spindle boxes 2 card matching	• Verbally counts 1 -10 • Can understand one-to-one correspondence to 10 • Can match number of one item to another • Begins to subscribe number meaning to events

Geometry

Concept	Materials/Activities	Skills
Solids	Geometric Solids	• Learns names of solids, such as prism, cube, sphere • Explores real life examples of solids in the environment
Shapes	Geometry Cabinet	• Identifies circle, square and triangle • Explores real life examples of shapes in the environment

Language

Developmentally, toddlers are craving opportunities to learn the names of things all around them. Teachers assist in the children's language acquisition by introducing Montessori materials as well as novel items of interest to them. Toddlers continue building language skills through daily classroom interactions with peers and adults as they converse during lessons, request to work with a friend, or ask to be excused from meals. Teachers provide opportunities to sing as a group, ask individual students to make song selections during community line time, and ask open-ended questions to allow independent problem solving. At this stage, they are also developing proper sentence structure, and are regularly encouraged to use grace and courtesy words when asking for something or making a request to a peer. Toddlers are also internalizing the intonation when a sentence ends with a lower or higher tone, depending on the usage.

The Toddler program is often the first formal exposure children have to writing. Toddlers will draw pictures and, at times, will offer explanations of the drawing, leading them to their first attempts at written communication. We use the Sandpaper Letters to introduce the proper formation of individual letters in conjunction with the sound of each. To reinforce name identification, the children have name cards in the coatroom to identify their coat hook as well as name cards for lunch. In some cases, children will also recognize their peer's names through regular exposure. Children of this age like to be read to and have the capacity to memorize the oral reading on each page from a book. This allows them to

begin to see words in the context of expression, where written words give information and describe events. Toddler can often analyze pictures in a book and expand upon the imagery during teacher guided discussion.

Oral Communication

Concept	Materials/Activities	Skills
Vocabulary Development	Mystery bag Loft/Vanity Classified Objects/Feltboard Object Matching Line time activities	• Increase basic vocabulary • Develop creative verbal play • Understand the back and forth of socialization with peers • Discriminate and group words • Can name and point to parts of the body
Using Language for variety of purposes	Line time activities Individual lessons Tea Party	• Practices asking questions • Practices answering questions • Initiates suggestions for line time • Tells stories of pictures • Uses grace and courtesy words and phrases • Recognizes intonation in speech • Says own name • Speaks in intelligible short sentences

Written Communication

Concept	Materials/Activities	Skills
Pre-writing	Chalkboard Coloring Painting	• Recognizes that stroke motion has meaning • Creates meaning with pictures

Reading

Concept	Materials/Activities	Skills
Pre-reading activities/phonemic awareness	Go-togethers Rhyming Matching Name cards	• Recognizes name on coatroom hook • Recognizes familiar words in the environment • Develop language patterns in speech and written texts • Can repeat lines from stories • Can expand on story read aloud • Can match picture to picture
Phonics	Sandpaper letters	• Introduced to beginning sound recognition

Cultural

The culture materials in the classroom cover social studies, science and art. The Toddlers learn to internalize the routine of the day and recognize transitions. Each morning we review the day, month, date and year on the calendar during line time. We also discuss the weather outside, noting rain, wind, sun, clouds and temperature. The days of the week are sung in both English and Spanish. As they come to understand that Thursday is the day our music teacher visits, they often acknowledge that as we review the calendar. Community line time and outside activities are introduced to teach slow/fast, high/low, quiet/loud, etc. Various types of music are played in the classroom, with an emphasis on Spanish, as it is Brickton's secondary language program.

Within social studies, we also talk about and identify the three elements of the earth - land, air and water. A continent puzzle is available to facilitate identifying the continents which is reinforced with a song. During birthday celebrations, we use a model of the earth and sun to represent the passage of each year as the earth revolves around the sun. Toddlers are exposed to cultural holidays by participating in celebrations, such as Halloween and Valentine's Day classroom parties, as well as listening to stories and music from other cultures.

To encourage scientific thinking, we utilize three-part cards to identify and analyze subjects like animals and their footprints, human body parts and the inside and outside of various fruits and vegetables. There are classroom plants and a fish to care for, promoting an understanding of living things. When painting, they are often given a primary and secondary color, or two primary or two secondary colors, to observe what happens as the paints mix.

Cultural Subjects

Concept	Materials/Activities	Skills
Science	Animal footprint matching cards Fruit matching cards Vegetable matching cards Human body cards	• Increase vocabulary • Identify living things in our environment • Name body parts • Recognize the internal and external parts of fruits and vegetables • Learn to discriminate between opposites (slow/fast, high/low, quiet/loud, etc.)
Social Studies	Continent map Clocks Land and water globe Weather Line Time activities Birthday celebrations	• Establish a routine and sense of order • Become familiar with the names of continents • Recognize the locations of continents • Become familiar with names of days and months • Learn the names of common types of weather • Participate in common cultural holiday celebrations • Recognize personal milestones through birthday celebrations

Art and Music	Painting Coloring Craft activities Art books Line Time activities Music	• Explore mixing primary and secondary colors • Explore mixed media • Working with art materials such as glue, scissors and paper • Appreciate famous works of art • Learn common songs • Appreciate different genres of music