

The Aemilian Preschool
Wee Start Preschool Curriculum
2 year olds

Two-year-olds are active, affectionate and sometimes strong-willed. It is the time when they begin to notice and explore their world. Much of their learning occurs through imitation and play. Two-year-olds fluctuate between clinging to adults and wanting their own independence. Although primarily interested in adults, they begin to play interactively with other children. Two-year-olds begin to use their language to express their wants, needs and emotions.

The Wee Start curriculum is designed to enhance the development of each individual child while challenging them to extend their skills and levels of understanding. Children this age fit into a wide range of developmental levels so we provide many open ended activities and experiences.

The following is a list of typical behaviors and stages of development seen in children around the ages of 2 -3 years. We plan hands-on activities and experiences so they have the opportunity to experience and practice these skills.

1. **Emotional and Social Skills** Teachers help the children deal with the initial separation from parents and make them feel secure about their new environment. At this age, children move from independent to parallel play to interactive and cooperative play. Many milestones are achieved.
 - Plays cooperatively with other children.
 - Begins to share toys, but may take toys away at times.
 - Seeks teacher's attention.
 - Expresses fear.
 - Observes others to see how they do things.
 - Enjoys "helping".

2. **Physical Development** is constantly promoted in the child's surroundings at our school. We provide countless opportunities for large muscle development such as climbing, group games and movement activities. Small muscle skills are encouraged through activities such as coloring, painting, cutting, water and sand play, blocks and manipulative toys.
 - Fine Motor Skills:**
 - Begins to eat with utensils.
 - Attempts to draw.
 - Turns individual pages in a book.
 - Picks up small objects with pincher grip.
 - Constructs simple two and three piece puzzles.
 - Enjoys short, simple finger play games.
 - Strings large beads.
 - Builds towers.
 - Gross Motor Skills:**
 - Stands on a balance beam.
 - Kicks a large ball.
 - Jumps in place.

- Runs without falling.
- Throws a ball without falling.
- Walks up and down stairs holding handrail.
- Marches to music.
- Tends to use legs and arms as pairs.
- Actively explores their environment.

3. **Creative Expressions** are an integral part of a child's day in preschool. Children learn to use imagination through role playing in an ever-changing dramatic play area. Pretend play is modeled and encouraged with blocks, puppets and other small manipulatives. Music gives children a chance to learn about the world through singing, dancing, listening, and playing instruments. While the main goal is for children to enjoy and appreciate music, beginning concepts such as rhythm, sounds and pitch are also introduced.

Art:

- Explores a wide variety of art media.
- Expresses self through artwork.
- Receives sensory pleasure by working with various materials and media.

Music:

- Enjoys singing, listening & playing instruments.
- Participates by moving to music.
- Imitates and explores musical sounds.

Drama:

- Acts out feelings and emotions.
- Shows interest in imaginative play.

4. **Cognitive Skills** are presented and challenged throughout the day through games, books, songs, puzzles, hands-on manipulatives, science activities...the list is endless. While helping children learn how all things in their world work together, we challenge them to extend their knowledge.

- Listens for 5-10 minutes in a group setting.
- Follows one step direction.
- Stays on task for 5 minutes.
- Counts to 5 by rote.
- Emerging recognition of shapes and colors.
- Emerging recognition of name in print.

5. **Language and Literacy Development** emerges as children share thoughts, feelings and perceptions through receptive language, listening skills and expressive language.

- Talks to themselves as well as others.
- Able to verbalize basic needs.
- Enjoys showing and naming objects.
- Speaks in phrases or 3 word sentences.
- Answers yes/no questions.
- Understands concepts big and little.
- Uses adjectives.