

~Toddler~

Colorama is a spring festival celebrated with a grand multi-colored light show behind the Grand Coulee dam spillway. In March we created our own colorama. Excitement flashed across our days exploring the mysteries and wonders of color. The read-a-thon gave us opportunities to search for and enjoy colors in illustrations. We also delighted in nature's colors, food colors, experiments with color and colors in association with feelings.

More colorful jamborees are featured on our calendar in April in the spirit of spring, like Easter. The Week of the Young Child follows. It is meant to bring families, professionals and communities together to value the education of young children. Watch for posted activities. These events mark the passing of time in the development of young children. Research says infants and young toddlers have an innate sense of time moving forward as they settle into day-night, wake-sleep rhythms. Approaching 3 they start to understand event locations, durations and sequences. Toddlers, however, live in the now and not now world which limits their understanding to event-dependent moments.

Research suggests the best preparation for deeper understanding of independent moments in time is to wrap toddlers in rich engaging conversations, build more vocabulary and language skills. These practices support a child's ability to connect the past and present reliably to predictions of variable outcomes and comprehension of concepts in future times.

Our lessons will map pathways to these goals. They include a lot of guided questions in each area of development. For science and nature we will examine things that happen in repeating cycles like day and night, seasons, days of the week and life cycles. Ask where are we in the cycle? We will use tools like timers, hour glasses and event clocks to measure time. We can follow a number line, identify numbers, count, and ask what comes first, before, after, in between, or last. We can create ordered lines of shapes colors or random items asking similar questions. With music we can clap and count beats and use a metronome. We can play clock hopscotch. We can count fast and slow holding notes up and down a keyboard. "Simon says" can direct forward and backward movements. Pre-reading activities include tracking story line elements from beginning to end. Doing tasks and routines can mark ordered steps prompting us to ask is our task complete? Pre-writing guide us to draw standing lines (verticals) and sleeping lines (horizontal). At home you might find appropriate books or apps like jungle time.

Time to rumble in the time jungle!

Your Toddler Team