

Small Group Goals

Listed below are the criteria we use for each different small group. Our staff does not use standardized tests to evaluate each child's progress. We believe that a teacher's intuition and observations is the most accurate & powerful developmental assessment tool available. Through our hands-on assessments of social interactions, art work & projects, we are able to evaluate overall development! The names of the small groups listed below are the most common group names used at DLC. If your child is in a differently named group, the children and teacher(s) in that group collectively decided on a new name.

Small Group – The Squirrels (2 – 3 years old approximately)

Motor Development

Gross Motor

- Large body movements
- Moving to music
- Hopping
- Begin Left/Right coordination
- Throwing and catching a ball

Fine Motor

- Tearing Paper
- Finger plays
- Finger paints
- Exploring tactile medias
Playdough - glop/glupe
Media trays – rice, etc.
- Sensory experiences
- Pre-scissor activities

Social/Emotional Development

- Using words to solve problems
- Encourage self expression
- Encourage self-help skills
- Introduce/increase awareness of positive social behaviors
- Develop cooperative play/sharing

Cognitive Development

- General – Development attention span,
language development, memory experience
- Following 1-2 simple directions

Pre-Reading/Literacy

- Develop/encourage verbal skills
- Increased vocabulary
- Exposure to written print in their environment
- Singing/rhyming
- Recognize the first letter of their name
- And/or recognize their whole name
- Begin sorting tasks
- Following/understanding directions
- Understanding spatial relationships: in/out, over/under, front/back, around/through, backwards/forwards, Inside/outside

Pre-Math

- Recognizing and naming primary shapes (circle, triangle, square, and rectangle)
- Primary colors – red, yellow, blue
- Recognition or assorted numbers
- Begin counting activities
- Work on one-to-one correspondence
- Sorting and classifying activities
- Color mixing
- Pre-math concepts (full, empty, half, inside, outside, under, over, etc.)

Memory/Visual Discrimination

- What's missing?
- Memory games
- Puzzles