



Parklands School Toddler Group

www.parklands.wa.edu.au



SESSION FORMAT

The Parklands Toddler Group has been designed to enable children from infants to 3 years, together with their parents and/or carers, to develop confidence and self-esteem through a variety of different experiences. Playgroup also provides a nurturing environment for children to experience their first structured contact with other children. In this way, playgroup provides your child with opportunities to develop their social, emotional and intellectual selves at a unique and pivotal time of life.

THE PREPARED ENVIRONMENT.

The room is deliberately prepared with particular developmental learning needs in mind. The equipment is laid out on the shelves in order of difficulty, arranged from top to bottom and left to right on the shelves, to imitate the direction and flow of writing. It is like a 3D map for the children to help them decide what equipment they will start with and what they will take next. This sense of order is fundamental for children of this age, and so is the process of choosing a piece of equipment, using it and returning it when finished.

It is important to note that although the aim is for the child to be independent and to pack away and equipment where they got it off the shelf, they will not necessarily be able to do this alone and parents can assist.

Having only one set of each activity is a deliberate feature of the prepared environment, as learning to wait and take turns is part of the social learning of this age.

REPETITION AND CONCENTRATION

Children will often do the same activity over and over – this is because repetition strengthens neural connections, and this repetition is a signal that they are absorbed and concentrating. The whole goal is to allow the children to make their choices and to engage so fully with equipment in their play that they are free to stay so absorbed with it for as long as they choose to, doing it over and over if they desire. As adults, our role is to watch for this concentration, and try to keep out of their way while it happens (celebrating quietly!)

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Because of this, when group activities are offered, it is not considered essential for everyone to participate, as some children may be in their deep state of concentration, and are free to continue. Children are quite able to do different things alongside other children without interrupting each other's learning and activities, and both Sophie and parents can support this as necessary. When the child is ready to finish they can join the group if they choose.

MORNING SESSION ACTIVITIES	
9:00am – 10:00am	Individual Activities – Indoor/Outdoor Play
10:00am – 10.15am	Snack
10:15-10.30am	Pack-away time Story time and music

Activities:

Practical Life Some typical jobs include: pouring, using tongs, spooning, opening & closing, cutting food, buttoning, washing dishes, using a glass, and sweeping.

Language activities – Literacy begins before birth; talking and being read to are the first steps. We include an age appropriate library corner, songs, story-time, and language objects. We offer a place for you and your child to be together unhurried.

Nature Table

We have a small Nature Table which we encourage the children to stock. If your child finds anything of interest while out and about please encourage her/him to bring it in, tell us about it and loan it to the table for a short period. We also try to keep a vase stocked with fresh flowers for the children to arrange so if you have a thriving garden please bear us in mind.

The Snack Time

Snack time allows children to socialise in a group situation and to develop their practical life skills. The snack routine involves handwashing in the bathroom and selection of fruit from the platter. Tea and coffee will be provided for the adults.

Pack-away Time

Please assist with clean-up and guide and encourage your child to help. For specific instructions on pack-away tasks please ask Sophie.

Story and Music Time

At the end of the session the group will enjoy a shared book or music session together.

SESSION TIME AND AVAILABILITY

Sessions are Tuesday mornings from 9-10.30am. If you are interested in joining our playgroup you are invited to attend a complimentary, obligation free visit at one of our sessions. After experiencing our playgroup you may choose to join our waitlist for available places.

FEEES

Fees are \$100 per child per term which needs to be paid up front in the first two weeks of each term. There is also a one off \$20 enrolment fee for each new child attending playgroup.

PLAYGROUP FACILITATOR

Our playgroup is facilitated by an experienced play leader. If you have any queries or concerns about the programme please discuss it with our facilitator at the end of the sessions.

DR MARIA MONTESSORI

Dr. Maria Montessori was a pioneer of childhood education. She believed that each child is born with a unique potential to be revealed, rather than a 'blank slate' on which to be written. Dr. Montessori developed educational materials and methods that aim to assist children in their understanding on the world. If you would like to find our more about Dr Maria Montessori the following sites may be useful: www.montessori.edu/www.amshq.org / www.eqi.org.maria.htm