

Creative Curriculum

Infants, Toddlers and Twos

Preschool: Threes

Pre-K : Four- and Five-Year-Olds

Our infant, toddler and two-year-old programs are rooted in the Creative Curriculum as well as Maryland's Healthy Beginnings Initiative, which emphasizes that children learn best when they are actively engaged in the processes of creating and exploring the world around them. Our child-centered syllabus is based on the understanding that the child is the primary focus of the educational experience.

The three-year-old program is designed to prepare children for the academic and social demands of school. Teachers focus on building verbal, social, emotional and cognitive skills in preparation for Pre-K.

In our pre-kindergarten classroom, the curriculum is a comprehensive early literacy program designed for use with preschoolers and is approved by the Maryland Department of Education.

Caregivers for Infants (6 weeks-18 months)

- Establish predictable routines
- Talk, read, and sing to your child
- Encourage safe exploration and play
- Provide warm, loving and responsive care
- Recognize & celebrate each child's unique qualities and background
- Build strong relationships with parents through ongoing communication

Caregivers for Toddlers (18-24 months)

- Balance child-directed and teacher-directed activities
- Provide and rotate materials that encourage exploration
- Engage children in activities drawn from the child's interests
- Focus on pre-reading skills through reading and language development
- Provide a nurturing community that models and teaches caring and friendship

The Creative Curriculum for "Threes" uses multi-disciplinary teaching methods, which include:

- Expansion on language skills to develop vocabulary
- Daily lessons in phonological awareness, alphabet recognition, print, and oral language
- Weekly lessons in social studies, science, math, and music
- Activity and learning centers that encourage social and emotional development

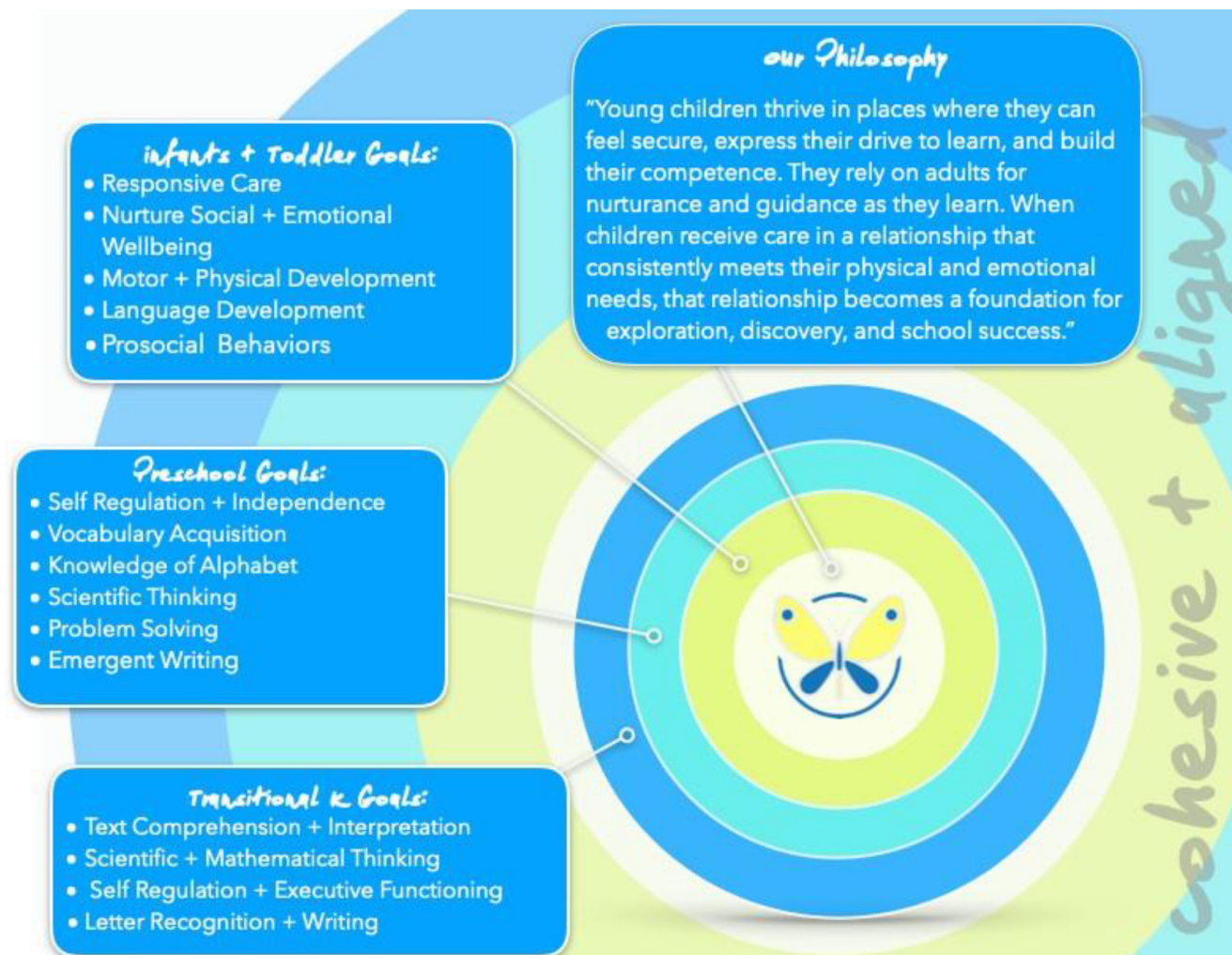
Our Pre K Program:

- Teaches concepts and skills associated with oral language and literacy, including alphabet knowledge, early writing, and phonemic awareness
- Supports language skills that reinforce vocabulary and strengthens conversational exchange
- Builds mathematical knowledge, concepts, and skills as a foundation for later mathematical competence
- Supports a sense of competence that involves exploration, discovery, and imaginative play
- Addresses the Maryland Model of School Readiness (MMSR) standards in content and procedure

11 Our Curriculum

11.1 The Creative Curriculum:

The Cradlerock Children's Center program operates on The Creative Curriculum. This curriculum applies the latest theory and research on best practices in teaching and learning, with content standards developed by states and professional organizations. This program balances both teacher-guided and child-initiated learning, with an emphasis on responding to children's learning styles and building on their strengths and interests. At each stage, our teachers provide the building blocks necessary to build the skills and tools appropriate for your child's development.



11.2 Assessments and Portfolios

Infant /Toddlers/ Twos:

Teachers conduct on-going observations using the Healthy Beginning Observation tool. These observations are used to assess children biannually utilizing the Creative Curriculum Individual Child Profile.

Preschool and Pre K:

Assessments are conducted twice a year for the children in Preschool and PreK classes. This assessment helps to chart the child's progress together with the Digital Portfolio which is a collection of classwork the child has completed throughout the year.

Parent and teacher conferences take place twice yearly providing opportunity for a detailed report on the child's progress. Parents may ask to schedule a time to discuss any concerns they have with the teacher at any time during the year

11.3 Technology Policy

Cradlerock Children's Center recognizes technology as an avenue for learning and exploration for preschoolers. Computers are used with educational software that is researched and recommended by the Early Childhood Education community. Time spent on the computer is limited for each child adhering to the licensing regulation of 30 minutes per child per week. Children at Cradlerock Children's Center do not watch TV nor do they use laptops, tablets, etc. for viewing entertainment. Occasionally, videos that correlate to the curriculum and/or theme may be watched on one of the aforementioned devices. Computers, tablets, TVs, laptops, etc. are never viewed by children under the age of 3.

11.4 Field Trips and Special Activities

Field Trips and special visitors to the center are an integral part of our educational program. Parents may be asked to pay a fee to cover the cost of a field trip or special visitor to the center. Parents can volunteer to assist staff on these trips. Parents that opt out of field trips will be required to find alternate care for the day. For children under the age of three, field trips are optional, and childcare is available for those not attending the trip.

11.5 Summer Program

Cradlerock Children's Center has a summer program from June-August. This is a structured program that helps to meet the social, emotional, and cognitive needs of each child. Activities that are planned are related to art, technology, water play and field trips. A detailed schedule of the planned activities will be provided to all families prior to the summer program.

Children not participating in the summer program may be required to withdraw until the fall. This process is subject to availability.

11.6 English Immersion Program

The English Immersion Program is offered to preschool aged children of Immigrant Families and is a program that grew out of the increasing number of children in the immediate area with limited or no English skills. Our partners; The Judy Center, assist by identifying qualifying families to participate in this valuable program at CCC. The children interact with English speaking children in the enriched, high quality play-based environment daily. The purpose of the program is to positively impact kindergarten success by developing the children's English skills, as well as their social/ emotional and physical development.

11.7 Sign Language

Our infants through younger two-year-old classrooms engage in learning Sign Language with the Sign for Time Curriculum. This program helps to increase language development and social interaction.

11.8 Spanish

Our Preschool and PreK classrooms are introduced to Spanish. This curriculum helps to introduce a foreign language, cultural similarities and differences to the world around them. The children learn these concepts through music, small group activities and art creativity. The units are taught through theme related topics that correspond to our monthly units throughout the year. This allows a correlation to what they are learning in the classroom every day and the world around them.

11.9 Physical Fitness

Our physical fitness program incorporates the development of the gross and fine motors skills through creative games and team sports along with increasing flexibility and core strength through yoga.

11.10 Music

The study, practice, and discipline of making music gives the brain and body a complete workout. Activities are designed to encourage multi-sensory learning, which employs and integrates several senses at once, stimulating multiple areas of the brain.

Children of all ages experience music of varying styles, genres, and cultures. They interact with other peers and engage in movement, rhythm, and vocal activities that develop far more than just music skills. Our approach to early childhood education primes children for success in school and in life.

11.11 S.T.E.A.M

Preschool aged children engage in hands on STEAM projects weekly. Our focus is on developing the following skills:

- S** Science encourages investigation and answering questions, often involving experimentation.
- T** Technology refers to using simple tools like crayons and rulers, as well as more complex ones like microscopes and computers.
- E** Engineering refers to recognizing problems and testing solutions.
- A** Arts encourage creativity and allow children to illustrate concepts they are learning.
- M** Mathematics deals with numbers, but also patterns, shapes, organizational skills and much more.

Benefits of Kindermusik For Babies



Social & Emotional

- Strengthen bond
- Cuddle, play & hum
- Social interaction w/ others
- Side-by-side play
- Group & circle dances



Cognitive

- Brain development
- Locate and respond to sounds
- Instrument & object play
- Learn steady beat

Aa

Language & Literacy

- Develop vocalization
- Build language skills
- Explore sounds
- Repeat songs
- Learn rhymes & chants

Music

- Bounce to steady beat
- Explore instruments
- Listen to sounds
- Move to music



Physical

- Gross & fine motor skills
- Roll & crawl to music
- Stand independently
- Learn to walk
- Grasp & release objects

Benefits of Kindermusik for Toddlers



Social and Emotional

- Build special rituals
- Practice sharing
- Express emotions
- Imitate and play with others
- Participate in circle games



Cognitive

- Develop routines
- Engage curiosity and imagination
- Identify pictures and sounds
- Clap and tap in time to music

Aa

Language and Literacy

- Verbal exploration
- Sing and vocal play
- Storytime and finger plays
- Imitate sounds
- Learn simple rhymes

Physical

- Hold and shake instrument
- Run, jump, stop and go
- Learn finger plays
- Turn pages of a book



Music

- Drum, sing and dance together
- Inspire daily routines
- Strengthen the bond you share

Benefits of Kindermusik for Preschoolers



Social and Emotional

- Explore and discuss feelings
- Share with others
- Show pride in achievements
- Contribute in group games
- Respect others



Cognitive

- Label colors and shapes
- Identify objects
- Repeat songs and stories
- Participate in pretend play
- Follow 3-step directions

Aa

Language and Literacy

- Develop self-expression
- Create imaginary play
- Use voices expressively
- Make up stories and rhymes
- Match pitch with singing voice

Music

- Find and develop singing voice
- Build vocabulary of music terms
- Develop musical skills
- Learn songs through repetition



Physical

- Hop, skip and walk to music
- Draw simple objects
- Build with blocks
- Play instruments with mallet
- Jump over small objects