

Monte Tavor Infant Curriculum Guide

Fall 2025-2026

Ages 3–24 Months

Nature-Based • Spanish Immersion • Relationship-Centered

At Monte Tavor, we honor the incredible transformation that unfolds in a child’s first two years. Our infant curriculum is designed to nurture each child’s development across emotional, physical, cognitive, and social areas—while embracing the rhythms of nature, bilingual exposure, and responsive care. Infants typically join us between 3–11 months and transition to our toddler program by age 18 months to two years.



Our Philosophy

We believe infants thrive in environments rooted in **connection, rhythm, and exploration**. Our approach centers on building trust through consistent routines, fostering curiosity through sensory-rich experiences, and supporting early language development through daily Spanish and English immersion.



Developmental Focus Areas

We support growth across five key domains:

Areas	How We Support It
Social-Emotional	Responsive caregiving, predictable routines, and secure attachments
Language & Communication	Daily Spanish and English exposure through songs, gestures, and one-on-one interactions
Cognitive Exploration	Sensory-rich invitations to explore, observe, and problem-solve
Physical Development	Safe spaces for movement, tummy time, crawling, climbing, and fine motor play
Self-Help & Autonomy	Gentle encouragement of self-feeding, transitions, and choice-making

Nature-Based Learning in Action

Infants engage with the natural world through:

- Outdoor blanket time under trees
- Sensory play with leaves, water, and natural textures
- Observing birds, insects, and seasonal changes
- Gentle stroller walks (Outdoor spaces, Skyline site or Forested Areas) and nature songs

These experiences foster calm, curiosity, and a lifelong connection to the environment.

Daily Rhythm & Rituals

Our day includes:

- Morning greetings and songs
- Sensory invitations and floor play
- Outdoor exploration
- Meals and rest
- Storytime and music
- Gentle transitions and goodbyes

This rhythm supports emotional regulation and helps infants feel safe, seen, and supported.

Play-Based Learning (Ages 0–2)

At Monte Tavor, we believe that play is the foundation of early learning. For infants and toddlers, play is not just an activity—it's how they explore the world, build relationships, and develop essential skills.

What It Looks Like:

- **Infants (0–12 months)** engage in sensory-rich play: mouthing safe objects, reaching for rattles, exploring textures, and responding to music and movement.
- **Toddlers (12–24 months)** begin to experiment with cause and effect, imitate adult actions, and engage in parallel play with peers. They stack blocks, fill and empty containers, and explore pretend play with simple props.

Why It Matters:

- Encourages **cognitive development** through exploration and problem-solving
- Builds **fine and gross motor skills** through movement and manipulation
- Supports **language acquisition** through songs, gestures, and social interaction
- Fosters **emotional regulation** and autonomy through choice and repetition

Play-based learning is guided by the child's interests and rhythms, with educators offering invitations to explore, rather than directives to perform.

Outdoor Learning (Ages 0–2)

Nature is our co-teacher. Outdoor learning at Monte Tavor is woven into the daily rhythm, offering infants and toddlers a calm, stimulating, and ever-changing environment for growth.

What It Looks Like:

- **Infants** enjoy covered outdoor spaces, blanket time under trees, and sensory play with leaves, water, and natural textures.
- **Toddlers** climb mini structures, explore tunnels, collect leaves, and participate in seasonal activities like fruit washing, nature collages, and outdoor painting.

Why It Matters:

- Promotes **physical development** through movement, balance, and coordination
- Enhances **sensory integration** with natural sounds, textures, and scents
- Builds **attention span and curiosity** through open-ended exploration
- Supports **emotional wellbeing** by reducing stress and fostering calm

Outdoor learning also nurtures a deep connection to the earth, helping children develop empathy, stewardship, and a sense of belonging in the natural world.

Developmental Milestones by Age

3–7 Months: Foundations of Trust & Sensory Exploration

- Small cohort enrollment (4 infants)
- Activity gyms, swings, playmats, mouthing-safe toys
- Songs and listening to words or actions verbs
- Cloth Books
- Baby Band (Bells, shakers)
- Outdoor Playtime in covered spaces with plenty of fresh air
- Tummy Time in between naps
- Two-three naps per day, monitored every 15 min for safety
- Individualized feeding schedules
- Bottle feedings
- Introduction to pureed foods (vegetables, then fruits)
- Gradual increase in portions based on readiness

8–10 Months: Movement, Curiosity & Fine Motor Growth

- Crawling and transitioning to larger exploration spaces
- Musical instruments, light-up toys, balls, cars, pull-alongs
- Individualized feeding schedules
- Two-three naps per day, monitored every 15 min for safety
- Bottle feedings
- Introduction of soft, finely chopped finger foods
- Development of pincer grasp for self-feeding
- Cause and effect toys and with pop ups, windows and mirrors
- Baby band with rain sticks, mini drums, maracas and shakers
- Songs and Board Books with short sentences
- Rideable toys with help to strengthen legs and support walking

11–12 Months: Confidence, Routine & First Steps

- Climbing soft structures, exploring tunnels, rocking equipment
- Cruising along furniture or assisted walking
- Two solid naps with predictable routines
- Expanded meals including afternoon snack
- Introduction of chunkier foods like soups and stews
- Transition from breast milk/formula to family's choice of milk
- Two naps per day, monitored every 15 min for safety
- Circle story time with songs and large board books

13–15 Months: Group Play, Station Rotation & Sensory Art

- Outdoor play with climbing, swinging, sliding
- Group play and peer observation
- Rotating stations with:
 - Painting using natural dyes (beets, cherries, blueberries)
 - Sensory play with water, flour, cornstarch, food coloring
 - Circle time for stories and songs
- Nap transitions begin; some children shift to one nap and prefer mats
- Integration into infant/toddler activity schedule based on age and the seasons

Note: Daily notes are no longer provided once a child transitions to the one-nap schedule. Families are encouraged to schedule a conference to discuss developmental changes and hands-on learning experiences.

16–24 Months: Independence, Language & Mixed-Age Learning

- Confident movement and coordination outdoors
- Independent activity choices
- Mixed-age play with peers 6–12 months apart
- Participation in painting, reading, music, and movement
- Art, science, dramatic play, scribbling, reading, sharing moments,
- Rapid language development and expressive communication

This stage highlights the richness of early childhood development. Teachers observe and document growth across all domains, helping us refine our practices and celebrate each child's unique journey.

What's Included

Monte Tavor's infant program offers a nurturing, sensory-rich environment where every detail is designed to support early development, emotional security, and joyful exploration.

Tuition includes:

- **All learning and educational materials, toys and equipment** for sensory play, movement, and seasonal exploration
- **Diapers and wipes** (if applicable, available for a fee)
- **Two meals and two-three snacks daily** beginning at 13 months, with gentle support for transitions to solids
- **Spanish immersion curriculum**, woven into songs, routines, and caregiver interactions
- **Nature-based seasonal curriculum**, including outdoor walks, sensory baskets, and seasonal textures
- **Daily sensory invitations** using natural materials like leaves, stones, water, and fabric
- **Safe, developmentally appropriate spaces** for tummy time, crawling, climbing, and resting
- **Emotional attunement and relationship-centered care**, with consistent caregivers and responsive routines
- **Documentation of developmental milestones**, including photos, quotes, and educator reflections
- **Family newsletters and seasonal activity guides** to share what's happening in the classroom
- **Parent-teacher conferences** to reflect on growth, transitions, and emerging interests
- **Gentle transitions and nap support**, with individualized routines and crib-to-mat guidance
- **Music, movement, and language-rich experiences** to support early communication
- **Lots of laughs, cuddles, and joyful moments**, because connection is the foundation of learning
- **And Much More**

Family Partnership & Conferences

We value open communication and shared insight. During Parent-Teacher Conferences, we'll explore:

- Your child's developmental milestones and strengths
- Observations from daily routines and play
- Strategies for supporting growth at home
- Any questions, goals, or curiosities you'd like to share

We view these conversations as a partnership—your insights are essential to your child's journey.

In child development, **relationship-centered** refers to an approach that places the **quality of relationships**—especially between children and caregivers—at the heart of learning, growth, and wellbeing.

Core Principles of Relationship-Centered Care

- **Attachment and Trust:** Secure relationships with caregivers help children feel safe, which is essential for exploration and learning.
- **Responsive Interactions:** Adults tune into children's cues, emotions, and needs, responding with warmth and consistency.
- **Emotional Regulation:** Through co-regulation, children learn to manage emotions by experiencing calm, attuned support.
- **Individualized Support:** Each child is seen as a unique person, with their own rhythms, temperament, and developmental path.
- **Mutual Respect:** Children are treated as capable participants in their environment, fostering autonomy and confidence.

Why It Matters

- Brain development in early childhood is shaped by **relational experiences**—especially those that are nurturing, predictable, and emotionally rich.
- Strong relationships lay the foundation for **language acquisition, social skills, and resilience**.
- In nature-based and play-based settings like Monte Tavor, relationship-centered care ensures that exploration is grounded in emotional safety.

The Monte Tavor Journey

It's truly inspiring to witness children begin our program as young as 3–4 months and grow through thoughtfully designed environments tailored to each age group. By the time they reach their 3rd and 4th year, families can observe:

- Expanding language and learning skills
- Emerging behavioral patterns and emotional intelligence
- A wide range of personality traits and multi-intelligences

Our curriculum is not just a framework—it's a living reflection of each child's unfolding story.