



Monte Tavor Toddler Curriculum Guide

Fall 2025-2026

Age: 2 Years

Nature-Based • Spanish Immersion • Relationship-Centered • Play-Focused

At Monte Tavor, our toddler curriculum is designed to nurture the growing independence, curiosity, and expressive energy of two-year-olds. Rooted in nature-based exploration and play-based learning, our approach supports each child's development across emotional, physical, cognitive, and social areas—while honoring their unique rhythms and relationships.



Our Philosophy

Two-year-olds are active participants in their world. They learn through movement, imitation, repetition, and connection.

Our curriculum emphasizes:

- **Relationship-centered care** to build trust and emotional security
- **Play-based learning** to support creativity, problem-solving, and autonomy
- **Nature-based experiences** to foster calm, curiosity, and environmental awareness
- **Spanish immersion** to enrich language development and cultural connection



Developmental Focus Areas

Domain	How We Support It
Social-Emotional	Group rituals, peer play, gentle conflict resolution, and emotional vocabulary building
Language & Communication	Daily Spanish and English songs, storytelling, and conversational modeling
Cognitive Exploration	Sorting, sequencing, cause-and-effect play, and early problem-solving
Physical Development	Climbing, balancing, dancing, and fine motor activities like painting and pouring
Self-Help & Autonomy	Encouraging dressing, handwashing, self-feeding, and transitions with choice and routine



Play-Based Learning

Play is the heart of our toddler curriculum. At age two, children begin to engage in:

- **Parallel and cooperative play** with peers
- **Pretend play** using props, dolls, and nature materials
- **Sensory exploration** with water, sand, dough, and natural textures
- **Creative expression** through painting, music, and movement

Educators offer open-ended invitations to play, allowing children to lead with curiosity and imagination.



Outdoor Learning

Toddlers spend significant time outdoors, where nature becomes their classroom. Activities include:

- Climbing mini structures and navigating natural terrain
- Collecting leaves, sticks, and seasonal treasures
- Participating in nature walks and outdoor circle time
- Engaging in seasonal projects like fruit washing, leaf collages, and garden care

Outdoor learning supports physical coordination, sensory integration, and emotional regulation.



Seasonal Learning

Our curriculum follows the rhythm of the seasons. In fall, toddlers explore:

- **Natural ingredients** oats, corn starch, flour, corn meal dry and wet
- **Mini Science Kits** using natural ingredients
- **Magnets, Sink and Float activities**
- **Pumpkin scooping and washing**
- **Apple stamping, floating and tasting**
- **Color changing of leaves**
- **Leaf sorting and nature collages**
- **Leaves fall**
- **Painting with natural dyes** (beets, blueberries, turmeric)
- **Warm spice scent jars** for olfactory exploration
- **Mini hay bale climbing** for gross motor development

These experiences connect children to the natural world while supporting sensory, motor, and cognitive growth.

Daily Rhythm & Rituals

Toddlers thrive on predictability. Our daily flow includes:

- Morning greetings and songs
- Indoor and outdoor play rotations
- Meals and rest
- Circle time with stories and music
- Group transitions and closing rituals

This rhythm helps toddlers feel secure, build attention span, and participate in community life.

Fall Activities for Toddlers (Age 2)

Seasonal • Sensory-Rich • Nature-Inspired

As autumn unfolds, our toddlers engage in hands-on experiences that reflect the changing season and support their growing independence, curiosity, and creativity. These activities are woven into our daily rhythm and outdoor explorations.

Nature & Art

- **Corn Cob Painting:** Rolling painted corn cobs across paper to explore texture, color mixing, and pattern-making
- **Leaf Printing & Collaging:** Using real leaves to stamp, sort, and create layered art pieces
- **Feather Painting:** Dipping large feathers into paint to create sweeping strokes and tactile designs
- **Potato Masher Prints:** Exploring shapes and repetition with mashers dipped in fall-colored paints
- **Spray Bottle Silhouettes:** Using leaves and pinecones as stencils while spraying paint to reveal vibrant outlines
- **Pinecone Painting:** Rolling or stamping pinecones in paint to create abstract textures

Outdoor Exploration

- **Mini Hay Bale Climbing:** Practicing balance and coordination on soft, seasonal structures
- **Nature Walks & Collections:** Gathering leaves, acorns, and sticks for sorting, counting, and storytelling

- **Leaf Sorting by Size & Color:** Categorizing leaves into “big,” “medium,” and “small” to build early math and observation skills
- **Bear Hunt Sensory Tray:** Inspired by *We’re Going on a Bear Hunt*, exploring natural materials like logs, pinecones, and berries
- **Magnifying Glass Discovery:** Investigating textures and details in nature using child-safe magnifiers

Sensory & Seasonal Play

- **Apple Stamping:** Halved apples dipped in paint to explore symmetry and color
- **Pumpkin Washing & Scooping:** Sensory play with gourds, seeds, and water
- **Warm Spice Scent Jars:** Smelling cinnamon, nutmeg, and cloves to stimulate olfactory senses
- **Fruit Tasting & Texture Exploration:** Sampling pears, persimmons, and roasted squash
- **Tape Pull & Sticky Play:** Strengthening fine motor skills with colorful tape strips on various surfaces

Language & Social Development

- **Spanish & English Song Circles:** Seasonal songs that build vocabulary and rhythm
- **Storytime Under the Trees:** Reading fall-themed books in outdoor settings
- **Group Art Projects:** Collaborative painting and sorting activities that foster peer connection and shared routines
- **Pretend Harvest Play:** Using baskets, scales, and natural materials for imaginative market play

Scribbling & Printing for Fine Motor Development

Crayons • Pencils • Oil Pastels • Chalk • Paper Variety

At Monte Tavor, we view scribbling as a powerful form of expression and a foundational step in fine motor development. For toddlers, scribbling is not just mark-making—it’s a way to explore control, build strength, and begin understanding symbols and communication.

Materials We Use:

- **Crayons:** Thick and thin styles for grip variation and color exploration
- **Pencils:** Soft-lead and chunky styles for early control and pressure practice
- **Oil Pastels:** Smooth, vibrant tools that glide easily and encourage layering
- **Chalk:** Used on paper, wood, and outdoor surfaces for large-arm movement
- **Paper Variety:** Textured, recycled, cardboard, tissue, and colored paper to stimulate tactile interest and experimentation

Developmental Benefits:

- Strengthens **hand and finger muscles** for future writing and self-help skills
- Builds **hand-eye coordination** and bilateral movement (using both hands together)
- Encourages **visual tracking**, color recognition, and early pattern awareness
- Supports **emotional expression** and storytelling through marks and shapes
- Introduces **symbolic thinking**—the idea that marks can represent ideas, feelings, or objects

How It's Integrated:

- **Outdoor Scribble Stations:** Chalk and oil pastels on large paper taped to fences or laid on floor or grass
- **Tabletop Invitations:** Crayons and pencils paired with seasonal prompts like leaf outlines or apple shapes
- **Sensory Pairings:** Scribbling combined with textured paper, sandpaper, or natural materials
- **Group Projects:** Collaborative murals where toddlers add their own marks and colors
- **Language Connection:** Educators narrate children's scribbles ("You made a swirl!"), building vocabulary and confidence

What's Included

Monte Tavor's toddler program offers a warm, engaging, and developmentally rich environment where children explore, connect, and grow through play, nature, and relationships.

Tuition includes:

- **All learning materials, toys, educational materials, equipment and supplies** for art, science, sensory play, toys and equipment for indoor and outdoor exploration
- **Diapers and wipes** (if applicable, available for a fee)
- **Two meals and two snacks daily**, with seasonal ingredients and family-style routines
- **Spanish immersion curriculum**, integrated into songs, storytelling, and daily transitions
- **Nature-based seasonal curriculum**, including outdoor walks, sensory bins, and seasonal art
- **Seasonal activity guides and family updates** to keep you connected to classroom life
- **Daily sensory invitations** using natural materials like leaves, pinecones, water, and sand
- **Child-safe lab tools** for early science exploration (droppers, magnifiers, scales, etc.)
- **Emotional literacy tools** such as puppets, feeling charts, and social stories
- **Print and writing materials** for scribbling, tracing, and representational drawing
- **Books and bilingual literacy resources** focused on seasonal changes and cultural stories

- **Documentation of developmental milestones**, including photos, quotes, and educator reflections
- **Parent-teacher conferences** to reflect on growth, transitions, and emerging interests
- **Outdoor learning stations** with climbing structures, nature tools, and sensory trays
- **Group art projects and collaborative play** that foster creativity and community
- **Safety, consistency, and lots of laughs**, because joy and trust are the foundation of learning
- **And Much More**

Family Partnership

We value open communication and shared insight. Families are invited to participate in:

- **Parent-Teacher Conferences** to reflect on developmental milestones and goals
- **Seasonal newsletters and calendars** to stay connected to classroom life
- **Ongoing dialogue** about transitions, routines, and emerging interests

Together, we celebrate each child's journey with warmth, curiosity, and care.