

Dear Families,

We are excited to announce the start of **Toddler Time at the EEU!**

What is Toddler Time?

- Toddler Time is a new group for toddlers and their caregivers and is part of Early Support at the EEU. The EEU's Early Support program is for children under age 3 and their families. Children and caregivers who attend Toddler Time will have opportunities to engage in a variety of toddler-friendly activities and spend time with others. The Early Support program at the EEU was previously referred to as the Infant Toddler Program. In the past the Infant Toddler Program ran playgroups for toddlers, and we are excited to share that we will be moving towards implementing a new group model known as Toddler Time.

The goals of Toddler Time:

1. Create a **safe and welcoming environment** for children, caregivers, and staff
2. Foster a **sense of community** and facilitate **social connection** among children and caregivers
3. Create opportunities for children to participate in **engaging and enriching activities**
4. Provide **coaching and support to caregivers** to help them build their capacity and confidence and enhance children's learning and development

Who:

- Toddlers age 15 months- 3 years and their caregiver (parent, nanny, grandparent, family member, babysitter, etc.) will participate in the group. Caregivers will stay with their child during the group. The same caregiver does not need to attend each week.
- Toddler Time will be facilitated by our team of educators: Teacher Sam, Teacher Emilie, and Teacher Amy.

When:

- Tuesday OR Wednesday
- 8:45-11:30 am (arrive and leave when you like!)
- Each Toddler Time group will meet one day per week (Tuesdays or Wednesdays). Within the 8:45-11:30am window on their assigned group day, families have the flexibility to arrive and depart when it suits their schedule.

Where:

- EEU Temporary School Site: 3735 Brooklyn Ave NE Seattle, WA 98105

What to expect:

- Families who enroll in Toddler Time will have an assigned day of the week to come to Toddler Time at the EEU. On that day, you can join the fun anytime during the 8:45-11:30am window and stay for whatever length of time is comfortable and convenient for you and your toddler.

- We will set up a variety of engaging activities for toddlers and their caregivers including pretend play, art, sensory exploration, music, movement, books, and more. Children will also have opportunities to play in our outdoor space.
- We will wrap up at 11:30, and teachers will need to say goodbye and clean up the room.

Snack:

- Families are welcome to bring a snack for their child (must be nut-free). For now, our group will not include a formal snack time, but we will have a designated space (table and chairs) where children can have snack with their caregiver during the group. You are also welcome to have a snack outside the classroom in our outdoor area.

Early Support/IFSP Services and Toddler Time

- Some families who will attend Toddler Time are enrolled in Early Support services at the EEU. If your child and family have an Individualized Family Services Plan (IFSP), you can have a discussion with your service providers (occupational therapist, physical therapist, speech-language pathologist, and/or educator) about the service delivery format that works best for your child and family and the provider.
- There may be opportunities for coaching sessions to be scheduled during Toddler Time if that is a good fit for the family and provider. This is not a requirement and will depend on the target outcomes and family and provider availability. Visits may also take place at the EEU before or after Toddler Time. Services can also remain separate from the group (in-person or virtual). Our therapists and educators may be joining the groups from time to time to work with individual families during the group time. Please talk with your provider(s) about plans for your child and family.

Our plan for Toddler Time is a work in progress. Please note that some details of the program may need to be adjusted as we figure out the best ways to engage with and support all families. We hope that you will share any feedback along the way. We are excited to get started, and we know that your participation and feedback will help us enhance and improve the program.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Sincerely,

Toddler Time Teachers

Early Support at the EEU