

Pamm's House Young Toddler Literature Curriculum Introduction

Just like when I wrote my original [Pamm's House Toddler Curriculum](#), I was looking for something literature based that would suit my young group, infants through two-years-old. There is very little available for this age group: there's no "meat" to it, or it is too intensive and expensive. My days range from very busy with meeting the needs of babies and toddlers to very productive with doing activities with them. When I use a curriculum that is written in a Monday through Friday format, I often feel guilty because I can't complete every activity planned for every day. On the other hand, I want to expose my group to age appropriate literature and do some meaningful activities with them.

I'm also dealing with interest and attention spans of various levels. One book I can read once and they're done with it. Another book, I could read several times a day and the children never tire of it; even ask for it over and over.

I got to thinking about the major areas that are important for a toddler to explore to become well rounded and ready for preschool: pre-language, pre-math, fine motor, gross motor, social skills (games), sensory play, music and rhymes, and dramatic (pretend) play. These are very broad skill areas and can include a wide variety of activities that young toddlers can be involved with.

So, with all that in mind, I wanted to set out, again, to write another curriculum that's suitable for those who care for the very young. This curriculum is designed to be used as long as the children have interest in the book and activities. Some of these books we spend a week or two on and some we spend just one day on.

Sometimes they ask for the same book over and over and sometimes they ask for the same game or song or activity over and over. As long as there's interest in the topic, I continue with the book and activities. If they don't seem too excited about the book or activities, we spend a day or two on it, then go on to another book.

Planning A Unit

I begin with the room set up with a few things from the list of curriculum such as a puzzle center with the theme puzzles and props in the dramatic play area. I plan one or two activities daily that need supervision such as play dough and art. I memorize the action rhyme or song and plan to sing that a few times throughout the day. I read the featured book as soon as all the children arrive, before nap and in the afternoon (you know how toddlers love repetition). If the children seemed interested, I pick a few more activities for the next day and plan to repeat the activities that the children really enjoyed. If the book and subject seem to flop, I take a break for a day, then plan for another book the day after that.

Use this curriculum any way it fits in your program. If you work better by planning two activities a day, then, by all means, do that. You might like to use one book a day, one book a week, or one book a month. No matter how you use this curriculum, my main objective is to have fun exposing young toddlers to age appropriate literature.

Books

Even if you don't own the book, each should be available at your library. If you don't find it at your local branch, most likely your library can get it through an inter-library loan. Many books are available in the board book format and I ask for that when inquiring at the library.

I find it fun to browse thrift stores and look for classic books to add to our collection. It's nice to have several copies of the same book for everyone to look at. I also like to have the board book versions for the toddlers to explore on their own. Ebay.com and Amazon.com are my other favorite places to get books.

Some books need help from time to time from being used so much. I use clear packing tape to patch up books. I encourage the toddlers not to chew on the books and try to teach them, "don't hurt the books."

Supplies

I tried to choose activities and toys using things you probably have around the house. There may be a few items you may not have on-hand; for example counting bears--you could buy or borrow some colored counting bears, skip those activities, or improvise with something you may have on-hand such as counting links, poker chips, or Duplo blocks. Yes, it might be more fun to have bears to match a bear theme, but there's no need to buy some just for one or two activities, especially if you have small colored objects you can substitute with.

At least one outside resource will be needed for each unit and that would be a reference for sign language. I recommend the book The Joy Of Signing, any sign language book your library may have. Or just do a Google search for the sign you are looking for. The reason for young toddlers to learn signs is it puts a motion to words and letters. In my experience, most toddlers will speak sooner if they learn sign language. It gives the child something "to hold on to."

Related toys are suggestions of toys you may have on-hand you can add to enhance the theme. You may choose to use all of them, or none. I think it will depend on what you have around your house or classroom.

Additional Resource Links

I include addresses to websites that have lesson plans and activities for the featured book that may work for young toddlers, but are most suited for preschool children. Many have printable worksheets and coloring pages. I include these sites in case you have a mixed age group and you can add activities for your older children.

Have fun!
~Pamm