

## Infant/Toddler Program

**Our Infant/Toddler Program is based on the following guiding principles of high quality care for infants and toddlers**

### **Primary Care**

In a primary care system, each child is assigned to one teacher who is principally responsible for that child's care and education. A primary care system supports all areas of a child's development as all infants and toddlers depend on responsive, secure relationships to develop and learn.

### **Small Groups**

Every major research study on infant and toddler care has shown that small group size and good ratios are key components of quality care. CCDC provides ratios of 1:3 or 1:4, in groups of 6-9 children, depending on the age. Small groups facilitate the provision of personalized care that infants and toddlers need, supporting peaceful exchanges, freedom and safety to move and explore, and the development of intimate relationships.

### **Continuity of Care**

In our continuity of care system infants and toddlers remain with the same teacher during a significant part, if not all, of a child's first years in our program.

### **Individualized Care**

Following children's unique rhythms and styles promotes well-being and a healthy sense of self. Responding promptly to children's individual needs supports their growing ability to self-regulate, i.e., to function independently in personal and social contexts. The program adapts to the child, rather than vice versa, and the child gets the message that he or she is important, that her/his needs will be met, and that his choices, preferences, and impulses are respected.

### **Focus on Social-Emotional Development**

A focus on social-emotional development is one of the most important keys to high quality care and education. Healthy social-emotional development is the number one predictor of school and life success.

### **Cultural Continuity**

Children develop a sense of who they are and what is important within the context of culture. At CCDC we understand that consistency of care between home and school is important for the very young child.

