

## Morning Group

This large group activity has so many learning benefits it is hard not to want it to last all day. But developmentally, children are not ready to function for long periods of time in a large group. Typically, this activity occurs twice a day for five to ten minutes for twos, depending on the needs and dynamics of the children involved. Learning self-control, communication, socialization, listening skills, math concepts (calendar), memorization (finger plays and songs), and knowledge about the weekly theme (rain forests to space exploration) are all aspects of circle time! Create a special place to have it every day. Carpet squares or vinyl placemats help each child have a "spot" in morning circle.

## Bible Focus

This group time is designed to highlight the weekly Bible verse and a Bible story that illustrates it. Think of Bible Focus as a circle time devoted to learning about God, Jesus, or the scriptures. Use props, music, and interaction to keep these times lively and engage your learners. Schedule Bible time as a mid-morning large group (after center time), a before lunch group time, or a mid-afternoon group time. Work with your children and their schedules and energy levels to determine the time they are most receptive to opening their ears and hearts!



## Large Group

Some programs will have another large group gathering in the late morning, and some will use it to close the program at the end of the day. Work with your program administrator to choose the best time for this second large group activity. Remember to keep it short for twos!



## Small Group

Small group times offer you the opportunity to work with a few children at one time to provide an activity that requires more teacher participation. Use this time to make sure each child has a special time with you.

An enrichment activity is listed in each of the following learning centers. Enrich as many centers as you can to provide stimulation for your children's development.



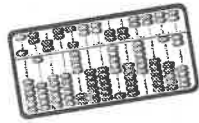
## Language

This area develops communication and early reading skills. Learning how to care for books, holding them and turning a page in sequence are only a few of the first important steps in developing a respect for books and reading. Storytelling is a great way to practice your own creativity and language skills as well! Listening, a key learning concept, is also an important skill developed in this area.



## Creative Arts

While playing in this area, children learn the concepts of form, shape, line, and color. They also gain increased muscle control. One of the biggest benefits of this center is the fact that when they create something here, it is lasting, not like a block tower or finished puzzle! Children need to have their accomplishments and creations become tangible so that they have that "I did it!" feeling validated. Building self-esteem, one piece of artwork at a time, is what this center is all about.



## Math/Manipulative

This center is designed to build fine motor control, spatial awareness, eye-hand coordination, problem solving skills, and social interaction. Typically set up with tables, children work together in small groups or singularly with puzzles that challenge, Legos® that create, lacing cards that teach, and anything else that requires the children to think while using their fingers!

## Dramatic Play

In this popular area, children make great headway in areas of language, social, and emotional development. Imaginative play in this area allows children to take on and explore new roles and to associate between real and the imagined. Learning to function in a group, take turns, and play cooperatively are outcomes for children who master this center.

## Science/Sensory

This winning center allows the child to feel, smell, touch, hear, and sometimes taste the medium that teaches the concept. Measuring, pouring, discovering physical properties, and volume are all aspects of this center. This small, hands-on area enforces the social concepts of cooperative play! Math, science, and motor development are all added benefits of learning in this sand, water, oatmeal, and shaving cream environment.



## Blocks

This area helps children learn math concepts like proportion - two triangles make a square. It also assists children in forming ideas about cause and effect, gravity, and problem solving. Children learn quickly that in order for a tower to “reach for the sky” it needs a large base. The block area is

also a great place for children to socialize and work together while developing motor skills. Using their imagination and fellow-builders, children can turn this area into an airport, castle, or even their own neighborhood!