



Teaching and Learning at TIES Tots

What Your Child Will Learn with Us:

Our religion is the center of our lives. We emphasize the importance of our Islamic creed as well as fiqh to children, our families, and our staff. We teach the foundation of the Muslim's belief, including:

- ❖ Allāh does not resemble the creation in any way
- ❖ Allāh created everything
- ❖ Allāh is not in need of anything
- ❖ Allāh is the only one who deserves to be worshipped
- ❖ Whatever we imagine in our minds, Allāh is clear of that
- ❖ Prophet Muḥammad is the last of the prophets and messengers
- ❖ Prophet Muḥammad, along with all the prophets and messengers, called people to Islam



We also teach basic fiqh concepts, including:

- ❖ How to perform istinja', wudu', and clean najasah
- ❖ Basic information about prayer, fasting, hajj, zakat, Islamic manners

*E*ducation

should be more than just learning facts; it should prepare learners to be successful in this life and the hereafter.

We spend time each week on Qur'an and Arabic studies. Children are introduced to short surahs, with the goal of memorizing the last half of the 30th Juzu' by the time they graduate Kindergarten. Our Arabic lessons include learning numbers, letters, shapes, colors, printing, and basic vocabulary. We emphasize Islamic holidays and events through parties, stories, projects, discussions, gifts, and days off of school.

We also use a variety of resources to ensure that state standards in all the core learning areas are met. Our program at TIES Tots supports the development of all the necessary academic and social skills children need to be successful learners. Children develop their confidence, curiosity, social abilities, communication, and abstract reasoning skills that will serve them the rest of their lives.



Center time is a key component of our classrooms. In center time, teachers introduce concepts and skills. Teachers then support student learning with small group and individual work.



Play and project work are the heart of our program and allow students the opportunity to explore and apply important skills and concepts. Students develop learning plans and engage in routines that foster independence.

As children are engaged in activities, we gather information about each child's developmental abilities and evaluate progress so we can modify and adjust what we are doing in our classrooms to deliver the best individualized instruction for our children that we can. We strongly believe that learning happens through play and practice. Hands-on exploration is facilitated and encouraged in our various classrooms.

Our teachers are committed to best practices in the field of education. They bring a wealth of experience, education, ongoing professional development, and skill to their teaching and working with families. Most importantly, our teachers love learning with and caring for our students.

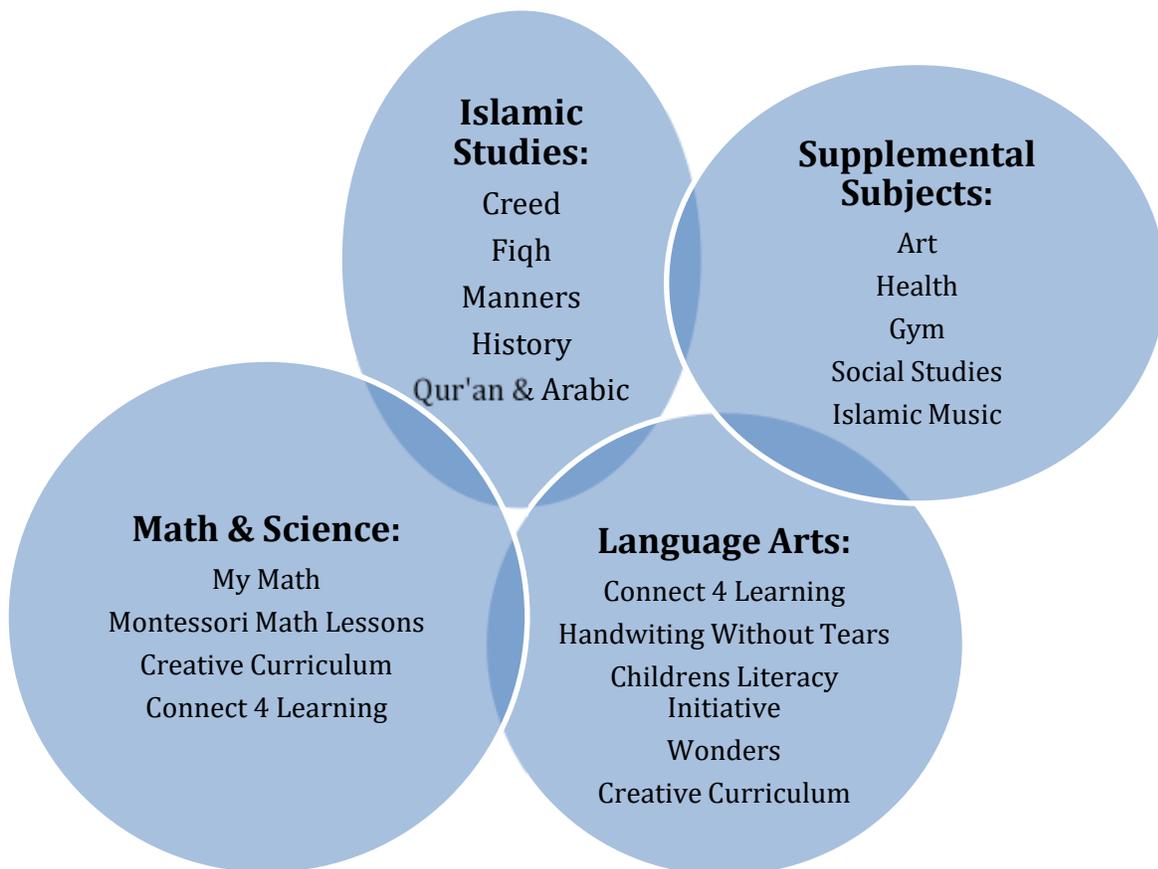
We also believe it's important for our children to participate in our community. We tackle this in several ways:

- ❖ All age groups have daily outdoor gross motor time. We take advantage of local playgrounds, parks, and community resources to give the children a variety of experiences.
- ❖ We schedule field trips annually.
- ❖ We participate in community early childhood initiatives, including Children's Literacy Initiative, Albert Einstein Medical Center's FUN (food and nutrition education) Program, The Academy of Natural Sciences Family Day programs, and our local Philadelphia Library's story times.



We design our environment in a way in which children learn to be compassionate, respectful, value justice and cooperation, and understand their role in the world.

Our Curricula:





How Your Child Will Spend His/Her Day With Us:

Center Time:

- ❖ Center time is an active, collaborative, reflective, process-oriented time for child directed exploration
- ❖ It is also a time for one-on-one engagement with a teacher
- ❖ It is a time to review and master individual goals as well as practice/reinforce concepts of the week
- ❖ It is a time for our teachers to conduct observations and assessments

Small group time:

- ❖ Small group time is a focused teacher-directed lesson time



Social-Emotional Growth:

- ❖ Multiculturalism is vital for children because it sets social goals and promotes respectful behavior for the people and the community of which we are a part. We utilize books, Islamic music, games, and a wide range of activities to teach our children how to be positive community members.
- ❖ Solutions Suitcase: We teach our students responsive behavior management techniques, including:
 - Cooling off when upset
 - Speaking directly and kindly to each other
 - Listening carefully to others
 - Proposing solutions and agreeing on a solution to try
 - Seeking help from an adult
- ❖ We do not use time-out practice unless prescribed by a licensed medical practitioner
- ❖ Parent Resources: We provide parents with resources on normal occurrences such as toddler biting, learning how to share, safe sleep practices, toilet training, Kindergarten transitions and much more. Our goal is to be on the same page with parents with regards to their child's care.



Outdoor Time:

All age groups have regular outdoor gross motor time. Weather permitting, we conduct 45-60 minutes of supervised outdoor play and/or walking trips around the neighborhood 1-2 times a day for all children. We escort children to local playgrounds and parks, including Spruce Hill and



Walnut Hill playgrounds, Clark Park, Penn Alexander Playground, and we also use our school's front yard. From time to time, we offer field trips, and we encourage families to join us.

Children are accounted for at all times. A permission slip for participation in walking trips is included in the enrollment package. On rainy days, children are given the opportunity to exercise and play in our multipurpose room at least once a day.



The safety of children and staff is guarded in all activities at TIES Tots. Proper restraint systems (seat belts/ car or booster seats) and the correct use of them are critically important during travel to/from our program.

*Families must **provide proper restraint systems** for their child to participate in a field trip.*

Food Program:

Families are welcome to join the CBS Kosher Food Program. They provide Kosher breakfast, lunch, snacks, milk and juice for program participants at free or reduce costs. Applications are available in the school office. Families who are more comfortable not joining the program need to provide Halal breakfast, lunch, and snacks for their children on a daily basis.

Rest Time

Infants and young toddlers (0-18M) sleep according to their own schedule and are put to sleep on their backs. After lunch, all children in the toddler and preschool classrooms participate in quiet rest time. Children generally sleep for 1-2 hours. Kindergarten children have usually outgrown the need for a midday quiet time; therefore, it is not scheduled into their day.



However, if a child needs time to rest a particular day, that option will be provided to meet his/her needs.

Toilet Training:

The most important factor in making the toilet training experience successful and as low-stress as possible is a parent/teacher partnership that supports the child. Research indicates that children cannot successfully learn how to use the toilet until they are physically, psychologically, and emotionally ready. Many pediatricians say that most children under 24 months of age are not physically capable of regulating bladder and bowel muscles. Most positive toilet training occurs only after children show signs of physical control or awareness of their bodily functions and when they demonstrate an interest or curiosity in the process. We are committed to working with you to make sure the toilet training is carried out in a manner that is consistent with your child's physical and emotional abilities and your family's concerns.

TRANSITIONS

Each child is unique and will respond to change and new experiences in his/her own way.

It is important that we work together to ensure that your child's transition is a positive experience.

It is the family's responsibility to toilet train. However, we are committed to supporting families in the training process. We ask that families schedule a meeting with their child's teacher to put a toilet training plan in place.

How Your Child Will Grow With Us Year After Year:

We want every child to feel welcome in our school. Each child is unique and will respond to change and new experiences in his/her own way. Some children are open to change, they feel comfortable in a new setting right away. Others may take significant time (even weeks) to adjust to a new classroom, routines, schedule, and teachers. It is important that we work together to ensure that your child's transition be a positive experience.

Hours of Operation:

Monday – Thursday: 7 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Friday: 7 a.m.—5 p.m.

Office Hours:

Monday – Friday: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Kindergarten Hours:

Monday – Friday: 8:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

School-Age Hours: (5-13 years old):

Monday—Thursday: 7 a.m.- 8 a.m. & 3:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Friday: 7 a.m. - 8 a.m. & 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.



Staff qualifications

Our caregivers and teachers are hired in compliance with state requirements as well as religious qualifications. Typical staff certifications are as follows:

Position Title	Education/Certification	Experience
Director	Master of Education	5-10 years
Teacher	Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education; or Bachelors degree in ECE or a related field; or currently enrolled and completing ECE credentials	3 years
Teacher Assistant	High School Diploma and working on Child Development Associate Certification	1 year
Aide	High School Diploma and Stars training courses	

Caregivers/teachers participate in ongoing training in the areas of child growth and development, healthy and safe environments, developmentally appropriate practices, guidance, family relationships, cultural diversity, professionalism, and religious studies.

Child : Staff Ratios

Children are supervised at all times. All caregivers receive scheduled breaks to reduce fatigue and help ensure alertness.

We maintain the following standards for child to staff ratios:

Age	Child to Staff	Maximum Group size
0-12 months	4:1	8
13-24 months	5:1	10
24-36 months	6:1	12
3-5 years old	10:1	20
5-6 years old	12:1	24
7-12 years old	15:1	30