

An Exploration of Infant and Toddler Outdoor Play



Researchers from the University of Nebraska-Omaha examined play at the Infant House & Toddler Village Montessori Educational Centers in the spring of 2017. Interviews and video observations were utilized to understand how children play outdoors and how caregivers promote play. Below are some key findings from the play observations.



More time was spent playing in open areas (e.g., green space) (54.0%) than on playground equipment (31.8%).



Children most often engaged in play within a group setting with an adult instructor (44.9%)

36.6%

Children spent 36.6% of their time in slow movement such as walking.

28.3%

Children spent 28.3% of their time in limb movement such as throwing.

22.6%

Children spent 22.6% of their time in moderate or fast movement such as running