

The POD Model at The Children's Garden

What's a POD?

Some schools use the term Primary Care Groups, we use PODs! Each POD consists of one Primary Caregiver and up to 5 students. Each POD is a group of children and a caregiver who stay together the entire time the child is in that classroom. Ultimately, a caregiver may choose to move up to the next classroom with their POD to enhance continuity of care and attachment. At The Children's Garden, the POD model applies to children in the Infant, Wobbler, Toddler, and Preschool Prep classrooms.

Why are PODs important?

The POD model provides each child with the opportunity for individualized care and attention. Using the tenants of attachment theory, children and caregivers are able to form secure relationships that allow for both autonomy and attachment. Children are able to flex their newly forming individuality muscles while in a comforting, respectful, and emotionally secure environment.

What does a POD leader/teacher do?

POD leaders are empowered to create their own lesson plans for their unique group and follow the flow of their interests. Each POD can explore relevant material to their developmental stage and POD leaders can tailor their group curriculum to meet the individual needs of their students. POD leaders are trained in the subtle art of child observations, noting changes in behavior and adapting teaching styles as necessary.

Does this help teacher-parent communication?

Yes! Your child's POD leader might very well become your biggest ally. POD leaders are the specialists on the children in their group – experts on the nuances. They will be your guide through the tricky moments and share in your joy during the milestones and developmental victories. When POD leaders are absent, the other classroom teachers effortlessly guide the POD, as all teachers in your child's classroom are knowledgeable and ready to help.

Will PODs interact throughout the day?

Absolutely. All POD groups come together at various times during the day for uninterrupted play time, meal times, rest times, group times, and potty times. Children form friendships with children in and out of their POD groups, and other Pod teachers make sure to interact meaningfully with the children outside of their own POD to ensure trusting relationships can develop.