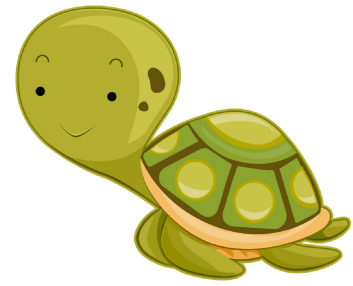




Welcome to the **Turtle's Classroom**



Welcome to the Turtle's Classroom! Throughout a year in the toddler room, children will experience many exciting changes. Now being mobile, toddlers are less dependent on their caregivers when it comes to the exploration of the classroom environment. Our goals are to provide a safe, loving, and interesting environment with as few restrictions as possible, so that your children are given the maximum opportunity for exploration, discovery, and learning.

In keeping with our philosophy of a least restrictive environment, we try not to impose rigid standards regarding bottles, pacifiers, blankets and objects of comfort. Your child may have bottles throughout the day. Our only rule is that a child must be seated and may not wander around while consuming a bottle. We encourage our families not to worry much about a toddler's continued attachment to the bottle. In our experience, no one has ever moved on to the Two's classroom still in need of a bottle. Generally, children find our environment exciting and rewarding enough to let the bottle go. We are also allowing pacifiers in our classroom. However, for sanitary reasons, we recommend a pacifier clip so they don't end up on the floor or in another child's mouth. As your toddler gets older, we will gradually and patiently wean him off the pacifier to get him or ready for the graduation in to the two's classroom. We prefer that blankets and cuddly comfort objects be saved for nap time, but we also understand that a child may need them during the day while working through a transition period. Please keep in mind that all items brought from home must be safe and hazard free. Should an item cause continuous friction among other children, we try to remove the object as discretely as possible.

The major difference between the Infant and the Toddler Room is that we begin to develop a set schedule of activities. We eat snacks and lunch at designated times and nap once a day. For the younger Turtles that are still used to napping twice a day, we will allow them to start their naps a little earlier but gradually transition them to the regular classroom nap time. We also have a set time for circle time and small group activities, that most of our Turtles enjoy and participate in. Outdoor play is scheduled twice during the day as long as the weather cooperates with our plans. Of course we always take into account the general mood of the class when structuring our day. We feel that no project is worth doing if the children are busy working through other situations.

Please bring the following items to school on your first day:

- At least two complete changes of clothing, including pants, shirts, and socks. Check the outfits occasionally to make sure they remain seasonally appropriate.
- A small blanket for naptime. It will go home on Friday to be washed and needs to be returned on Mondays.
- Comfort objects such as pacifiers and/or stuffed animals. As stated earlier, these are often vital objects to a Toddler. We suggest two pacifiers in case one gets misplaced.
- Family pictures from home. Four to five pictures including pictures of parents, grandparents, siblings, and pets. When choosing the photos, please keep in mind that we will not be able to return them. We will mount them on one of the classroom walls with contact paper so that they will last for a while.
- LABEL EVERYTHING you bring into the center. We do our best to find misplaced objects but sometimes we are unsuccessful.

Last but not least, we would like to reiterate our Center's open-door policy. Please know that you are always welcome and feel free to visit our classroom at anytime. In fact, there are many times where you can be of great help. We like to hear your feedback and suggestions since we are striving to accommodate the needs of each and every family. Call us anytime at our classroom line, 703-378-3408. We will be glad to discuss your concerns and/or your child's progress.

We are excited to having you as part of our ILC family.

Your Turtle Teachers