

Welcome to the Hippo Room



Welcome to the Toddler Room, where your child will have unlimited opportunities for discovery and exploration. Energetic, patient and understanding teachers are critical for the healthy development of your toddler. We create a structured environment where young children experience a balance between teacher directed and independent activities.

As you prepare for your child's first day, these are some of the supplies that you will need.

- 1 large package of diapers
 - 1 container of diaper wipes
 - Diaper Cream and/or ointment as needed
 - Two complete changes of clothing (be sure to include clothing for warmer and cooler days)
 - A lightweight blanket
 - An extra hat and mittens since we do play outside all year
 - Family pictures
- (IT IS IMPORTANT TO LABEL ALL OF YOUR CHILD'S BELONGINGS)**

Now that your child is becoming a toddler (and achieving new developmental milestones), here are some things that will change:

- Your child will begin using a sippy cup at meals and snacks. Your child may also begin to use a regular cup starting with just a tiny amount of milk or water in it.
To ensure that your child gets enough to drink, we will monitor the amount of fluid she drinks throughout the day, and encourage fluids.
- Independent eating skills are encouraged through the use of spoons.
- Your toddler will begin to sleep on a cot. Don't worry! The cots are only 3 inches from the floor, so in the unlikely event that he rolls off, he won't be hurt. Parents will still provide blankets on Mondays and take them home to be washed on Fridays.
- Toddlers begin to take one nap a day. Our naptime in the toddler room is a little bit earlier than in our other classrooms to accommodate this adjustment. Naptime is approximately 12:30 to 2:30.
- Playground Time! Your child will go to the playground twice a day as weather permits, so make sure that she has comfortable shoes to wear each day. Toddlers will travel to the playground in wagons.
- Toddlers begin to develop a set schedule of activities. 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 enjoying other experiences.
- Because toddlers are busy, new, and unsteady walkers; they will experience an increase in bumps and bruises. Because toddlers are so interested in moving on to their next exciting adventure, they don't always cry when they get a new boo-boo. Please be assured that your child's teacher will document any observed injuries and report to you as soon as possible.

Consistency is important in the life of a toddler, and we provide a gradual transition to all of the exciting new milestones listed above.

- We understand that as your child transitions from infants to toddlers, she may still need an extra nap here and there. If your child seems tired earlier in the day, we may provide the opportunity for her to visit the infant room and take a quick nap in a crib.
- In early toddlerhood, each child's feeding needs remain unique. Rest assured, if your child still needs a bottle, pureed baby food, an extra snack, or assistance eating table food, this will be provided.
- Our toddler rooms maintain very low teacher-to-child ratios. This is so we can maintain a high level of individualized attention and interactions.

Frequent and positive communication is essential as we grow our relationship with your family.

- As you drop-off your toddler each day, be sure to complete the top portion of the daily log. This information helps us to plan your child's day accordingly, as well as provide you with information when you come to pick up.
- We encourage you to call anytime you have a question or concern.
- To capture the moments that we enjoy each day, we have created a **private** Shutterfly account for the toddler classroom. Please provide your email address, and we will enter your family as a member. As a member you will have access to any pictures that we publish of your child.
- Daily emails are distributed to each family that has provided us with email contacts. Your daily email will be a short description of the day's organized activities along with any observations and reactions made by the children in your toddler's class.
- Monthly newsletters are distributed to each family. This tool allows your family to take a closer look at the activities and experiences your child has while with us. In addition, we provide you with information on upcoming special events; and suggestions for activities, songs, and fingerplays to try at home.

Our foremost responsibility is to provide a safe and secure environment for your child. You can help us by:

- Signing in and out on the clipboard each day.
- Notifying us of any attendance changes.
- As you drop off your child, informing us of anything that may affect how we care for your toddler is very important. This includes letting us know about bumps and bruises that have happen at home, changes in your child's temperament, alternate pick-ups or pick up times...

We would like to reiterate our center's open door policy. Please know that you are always welcome, and free to visit our classroom at any time. In fact, there are many times when you can be of great help.