

# OLDER TODDLERS



## PARENT HANDBOOK 2023 - 2024

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# DAILY SCHEDULE

<b>7:30 – 8:00 AM</b>	<b>Center Opens, Breakfast, Free Choice Play</b>
<b>8:00 – 9:00 AM</b>	<b>Free Choice Play (Drop Off ends at 9:00 AM)</b>
<b>9:00 – 9:30 AM</b>	<b>Snack, Diapering</b>
<b>9:30 – 10:30 AM</b>	<b>Circle Time, Music and Movement, Art, Instructional Activities</b>
<b>10:30 – 11:30 AM</b>	<b>Centers, Outdoor Learning Time and Play</b>
<b>11:30 – 12:00 PM</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>12:00 – 12:30 PM</b>	<b>Diapering, Book Time</b>
<b>12:30 – 2:30 PM</b>	<b>Naptime</b>
<b>2:30 – 3:30 PM</b>	<b>Wake up, Diapering, Snack</b>
<b>3:30 – 4:30 PM</b>	<b>Free Choice Play, Outdoor Learning Time and Play</b>
<b>4:30 – 5:30 PM</b>	<b>Prepare for Departure, Diapering, Story Time, Centers</b>
<b>5:30 PM</b>	<b>Center Closes</b>

# IMPORTANT ITEMS FOR SCHOOL

- Family Photo – This will help your child during transitions and will be displayed in our classroom.
- Diapers/ Pull Ups – A large pack of diapers or pull ups. We will inform you when your child is running low. Remember to write your child's name on the outside of the box or sleeve. You may provide diaper cream in the event your child needs it. A medication slip will need to be completed.
- Blanket & Pillow– These items should be travel sized. By the end of the year your child should be able to put these items away independently. Smaller items are easier for children to carry.
- Snacks – Your child will need 10 weekly snacks. One of these choices should include a healthier option. These should be provided weekly on Monday's. We do not have the space to store snacks purchased in large quantities.
- Lunchbox – Your child will need a nutritious lunch each day. Due to limited refrigerator space, please include an icepack in your child's lunchbox.
- Water Bottle / Cup – Your child will need a water bottle or cup that is labeled with their FIRST AND LAST name on it.
- Milk/ Breastmilk /Formula – If your child enjoys a bottle, we will offer it at snack times, lunch, and before nap. This will need to be labeled with their FIRST AND LAST name. Please let me know in the morning if you have packed it in your child's lunchbox so that it can be moved to the refrigerator.
- Extra Clothes – Two sets of extra clothes should be kept at school in the event of an accident or messy activity. (shirts, bottoms, socks)
- Sunscreen and Bug Repellent – You are able to provide sunscreen and bug spray for your child. An authorization form will need to be signed before we are able to apply it. This will need to be labeled with your child's FIRST and LAST name.
  
- Items to be labeled with FIRST and LAST NAME
  - Diaper Box or Sleeve
  - Diaper Cream
  - Lunchbox
  - Water Bottle / Cup / Bottles
  - Extra Clothes
  - Sunscreen and Bug Repellent

# THINGS TO KNOW

- Drop Off and Pick Up – Drop off and Pick Up will occur at the classroom door. Drop off ends at 9:00 AM each day, unless your child had a doctor's appointment.
- Playtime - Please dress your child in “play clothes” that will allow them to play and explore in a variety of activities. We will be participating in messy activities such as painting and sensory play.
- Shoes – No crocs, flip flops or sandals. To ensure your children can safely engage in all Center activities, you child will need to wear correctly sized, fitted, closed-toed shoes.
- Birthdays and Celebrations - We love to celebrate our friends! Birthday and celebration items must be store bought. Please let us know a couple of days before so we can prepare for those children with allergies.
- Medication – A permission to administer medication form must be filled out before a staff member can administer medication to your child. This includes diaper cream.
- Illness – If your child is contagious or is running a temperature of 100 or above, your child must remain at home in order to help prevent the spread of illness. If your child is at school and develops a fever, is vomiting, or after 2 diarrhea diapers, you will be called for pick up. Children sent home from school may not return to school until all symptoms have been absent for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication.
- Personal Toys – We understand that children sometimes need a comfort item when starting school. Your child may bring a lovey or small soft toy for naptime. The classroom and Center are not responsible for any lost or damaged items.

# MEALTIMES

- Breakfast - We are more than happy to serve an already prepared breakfast to your child when they arrive to school before 8:00. If they are not ready to eat, we will serve it for morning snack.
- Snacks- Snack is served at 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM. Each child will have their own snack bin to store their weekly snacks.
- Lunch - Your child will need a nutritious lunch each day. Due to limited refrigerator space, please include an icepack in your child's lunchbox.
  - Consider providing the following foods. These foods have been what most parents have provided for the children's lunches.
    - A main meal - meal should be ready to reheat. We do not prepare lunches of any kind (mac and cheese, pizza lunchables, or frozen meals) Hotdogs must be cut into small pieces, the Center is not permitted to cut any item.
    - Dairy – favorite cheese, yogurt, milk for drinking
    - Fruits/vegetables – we are not permitted to cut any items at school. Please cut carrots lengthwise and grapes/cherry tomatoes for them at home. Items not cut into small pieces will not be served.
    - A small dessert snack – Pudding, gummies, cookies (these will be offered last)

# LEARNING IN THE CLASSROOM

- The earliest years are all about relationships. Toddlers need secure attachments to the special people in their lives so they can feel comfortable exploring new things and places. Our focus at the beginning of the year will be social-emotional so each child feels secure and ready to explore in the classroom. We recognize that all children grow and develop at their own pace. Learning in our classroom will be individualized so all children can participate fully. We will be using the Creative Curriculum (below) to guide us.

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL
1. Regulates own emotions and behaviors
a. Manages feelings
b. Follows limits and expectations
c. Takes care of own needs appropriately
2. Establishes and sustains positive relationships
a. Forms relationships with adults
b. Responds to emotional cues
c. Interacts with peers
d. Makes friends
3. Participates cooperatively and constructively in group situations
a. Balances needs and rights of self and others
b. Solves social problems
PHYSICAL
4. Demonstrates traveling skills
5. Demonstrates balancing skills
6. Demonstrates gross-motor manipulative skills
7. Demonstrates fine-motor strength and coordination
a. Uses fingers and hands
b. Uses writing and drawing tools

LANGUAGE
8. Listens to and understands increasingly complex language
a. Comprehends language
b. Follows directions
9. Uses language to express thoughts and needs
a. Uses an expanding expressive vocabulary
b. Speaks clearly
c. Uses conventional grammar
d. Tells about another time or place
10. Uses appropriate conversational and other communication skills
a. Engages in conversations
b. Uses social rules of language
COGNITIVE
11. Demonstrates positive approaches to learning
a. Attends and engages
b. Persists
c. Solves problems
d. Shows curiosity and motivation
e. Shows flexibility and inventiveness in thinking
12. Remembers and connects experiences
a. Recognizes and recalls
b. Makes connections
13. Uses classification skills
14. Uses symbols and images to represent something not present
a. Thinks symbolically
b. Engages in sociodramatic play

LITERACY
15. Demonstrates phonological awareness, phonics skills, and word recognition
a. Notices and discriminates rhyme
b. Notices and discriminates alliteration
c. Notices and discriminates discrete units of sound
d. Applies phonics rules and knowledge of word structure to decode text
16. Demonstrates knowledge of the alphabet
a. Identifies and names letters
b. Identifies letter-sound correspondences
17. Demonstrates knowledge of print and its uses
a. Uses and appreciates books and other texts
b. Uses print concepts
18. Comprehends and responds to books and other texts
a. Interacts during reading experiences, book conversations, and text reflections
b. Uses emergent reading skills
c. Retells stories and recounts details from informational texts
d. Uses context clues to read and comprehend texts
e. Reads fluently
19. Demonstrates writing skills
a. Writes name
b. Writes to convey meaning
c. Writes using conventions

MATHEMATICS
20. Uses number concepts and operations
a. Counts
b. Quantifies
c. Connects numerals with their quantities
d. Understands and uses place value and base ten
e. Applies properties of mathematical operations and relationships
f. Applies number combinations and mental number strategies in mathematical operations
21. Explores and describes spatial relationships and shapes
a. Understands spatial relationships
b. Understands shapes
22. Compares and measures
a. Measures objects
b. Measures time and money
c. Represents and analyzes data
23. Demonstrates knowledge of patterns
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
24. Uses scientific inquiry skills
25. Demonstrates knowledge of the characteristics of living things
26. Demonstrates knowledge of the physical properties of objects and materials
27. Demonstrates knowledge of Earth's environment
28. Uses tools and other technology to perform tasks
SOCIAL STUDIES
29. Demonstrates knowledge about self
30. Shows basic understanding of people and how they live
31. Explores change related to familiar people or places
32. Demonstrates simple geographic knowledge
THE ARTS
33. Explores the visual arts
34. Explores musical concepts and expression
35. Explores dance and movement concepts
36. Explores drama through actions and language
ENGLISH LANGUAGE ACQUISITION
37. Demonstrates progress in listening to and understanding English
38. Demonstrates progress in speaking English



# Wish List

- Bubbles
- Large Crayons
- Washable Markers
- Washable Paint / Finger Paint
- Children's Paint Brushes
- Foam Shaving Cream – unscented
- Elmer's Glue bottle and large glue sticks
- Sidewalk Chalk
- Books: new or well loved!