

Welcome to the Infant Department

West Shore Child Care Center

We value the trust you place in us by choosing our environment for your child. Infancy is defined by our licensing agency as the important period from birth to eighteen months. Our children form their first attachments to loved ones at this time. The security of a child's attachment to these primary people provides a base for a child's sense of self-worth and trust.

Your child will be assigned to primary caregivers, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Primary caregivers are responsible for your child's belongings, feeding, daily notes and equally important, daily communication with parents. While all teachers will help with your child's care, these two caregivers are responsible for communicating with each other and informing the other caregivers in the room important information concerning your child.

Everyday, specialized time is spent with each baby. Each child is unique and therefore we strive to help them develop at their own pace. All schedules are individualized. Please fill out feeding, diapering and sleep instructions and return these before your baby is in our care. We rely on this information so that your child's routine can be followed as closely as possible. We will keep you informed with our activity note about your child each day.

We will serve breakfast to children as they arrive and when a staff member is free to serve it, only if food is completely prepared and brought from home. In order to serve breakfast and provide emotional support as parents leave, children must have a clean diaper before parents leave each morning. If your child needs changing upon arrival at the Center, we ask that you, the parent, do the changing. In return, your child will be changed and ready for you to take home.

Medications will be administered with the proper authorization. If your child needs medication upon arrival, this too, is parents' responsibility.

Also, please dress infants in clothing that makes diaper changing easier. For example, pants that have leg snaps are much preferred over pants or outfits that must be completely removed. Easily removed clothing times ten children releases staff for more important activities, such as rocking, giving hugs, providing support and developmentally appropriate stimulation.

All items brought from home must be labeled with your child's name or initials: food, bottles, clothing, pacifiers, diaper wipes, coats, sweaters, blankets, anything that might get confused with another child's belongings.

Infants becoming toddlers are prone to falls as they learn to balance and walk. Children will get in each other's personal space or have disputes over possession of a toy. Staff will prevent accidents as often as possible. However, if your child is the recipient of a minor injury, you will be informed in writing at the end of the day as to the general circumstances of the injury. If another child is involved, it is our policy to withhold the name. When sufficiently provoked, most children will bite, shove, and hit out of frustration. Everyone learns the skills of negotiation. It is a normal part of growing up.

Your child will remain in this department until approximately 18 months of age. When space is available, your child will be transitioned gradually, making sure s/he is comfortable, to the toddler department. Should there be no vacancy in the younger toddler room when your child turns 18 months, staff will bring appropriate older activities into the nursery on a daily basis until space is available. We will not transition any child that is not developmentally ready, and of course, we can not ask a child to leave the Center to make room for your child.

Thank you for choosing West Shore.