



WestShore
Child Care Center

Welcome to Toddler One

There is a change that takes place moving from West Shore's nursery to the toddler department. There is an even bigger change if a child is moving from a home setting into a toddler environment. We want to tell you about some of these procedures so that we- parents and staff- might better work together to meet the needs of your child.

Your child will go from making up his/her own daily schedule to a loosely structured environment. In our nursery and in your home, feeding and sleeping is individualized. In the toddler environment things are done in a group. Children have lunch at the same time and there's ONE adult to supervise seven children as they feed themselves. In this classroom, we use 'sippy' cups and cups to drink from. Bottles are not used due to health concerns. Pacifiers are used only on cots at naptime.

Another change is breakfast. While we provide a snack at 9:30 a.m., we do not provide a breakfast. However, we are happy to supervise a completely prepared breakfast from home. Most parents find a lunch box works well. Please remember that teachers do not have access to refrigerators, microwaves or utensils. Breakfast is cleaned up promptly at 8 am.

From 18 months to 36 months children begin to move towards establishing their own identity. They need lots of reassurance and love, but at the same time they know what they want and when. Often at this age, children are learning language, but do not have a good enough command of words to express desires and feelings. This results in there being a measure of aggression found among two-year olds. Children unintentionally hurt each other in their struggle to cope in a group setting and in learning to express themselves. We ask for your patience and cooperation during these times.

You will find lesson plans posted in your child's classroom. Please take the time to see what the theme is each week. Mom and Dad can help by reinforcing or discussing what is being talked about in school. There is also a daily schedule posted which tells you the sequence of routines.

A toddler has a small attention span, so our staff tries to gear lessons accordingly. Our goals are: to create positive self esteem, begin vocabulary development, encourage independence, develop socialization skills (caring, sharing and listening), and to provide opportunities to practice small and large motor skills. There will be lots of new learning experiences that may be messy, so please have your children wear clothing that we, and they, do not have to worry about keeping clean.

Our staff uses positive language to express directions. Time-outs are used at times when positive language is not working. Example: "I need you to keep your feet on the floor,"

instead of, "Don't put your feet on the chair." We tell the child the right way to do something, emphasizing the positive. After discipline is used, we let each child know that though we did not like what s/he did, we still care very much about him/her. Sarcasm and shaming is inappropriate for children- neither do we threaten, or use scare tactics.

We ask parents to provide at least two complete changes of clothing that fits, and is weather appropriate. Clothing needs to be kept at school in your child's basket (pants, shirt, socks, and underwear.) PLEASE MARK YOUR NAME IN EVERY PIECE OF CLOTHING. Also, we suggest rubber-soled shoes for safety reasons. Toddlers can be unsteady and rubber-soled shoes work the best in Baker Hall and when running. Please remember that all the children will go outside most days unless the weather is extreme so bring the appropriate outside clothing each day.

Each day, the teacher will write an activity note to give you personal information about your child's day. Please make sure that you pick it up each day. Please feel free to ask questions. We need to be partners in this important work. West Shore has an open door policy. Feel free to visit at any time. If you have concerns, please speak to your child's teacher about a conference either by phone at naptime or in person after hours. Please do not involve him/her in deep discussion while they are working with the children.

Toddlers are a challenging and exciting group of children and we are looking forward to watching your child grow.

Thank you,
Toddler One Teachers