



Welcome to Toddler Two

Moving from Toddler One to Toddler Two is a passage, but it is not as dramatic as the move from the Nursery to Toddler One.

We, the staff in Toddler Two, do encourage and highly recommend a one-day visit of 2 hours or so by parents while your child is transitioning.

At the same time that your young toddler is entering the Toddler Two room, older toddlers are moving out of the room and are already toilet trained. However this does not mean that your child should have started toilet training when entering Toddler Two. What is most important is that your child exhibits readiness for toilet training (please see the attached information) before it is begun. This will happen naturally, at the right time for your child.

There is a measure of aggression in our room because toddlers are still learning communication and socialization skills. We focus on language and the needs of the children; i.e., a child may need some time alone, so they are encouraged to play alone at the table or another area. Toddlers unintentionally hurt each other while learning to express themselves. We ask for your patience and cooperation during these times.

We use positive language to express directions. "Your feet belong on the floor. Bottoms are for chairs." Not - "Don't put your feet on the chair." We use redirection if possible. Time-outs are used when positive language is not working. After discipline is used, we let each child know that though we did not like their actions or words, we care for them very much.

Sarcasm and shaming are not appropriate for children. We do not threaten or use scare tactics.

You will find a weekly lesson plan posted in your child's classroom. Please take the time to see what the theme is each week. Parents can help by reinforcing or discussing what is being talked about in school. There is also a schedule posted which tells you the sequence of routines, daily. You can also check the menu daily. It is posted on the Parent Board in our room.

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), provide opportunities to practice small and large motor skills, and complete toilet training before moving on to the Young Preschool room.

We ask parents to provide an extra supply of play 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 AND/OR PERSONAL ITEMS BROUGHT IN TO THE CENTER. Also, we suggest rubber-soled shoes for safety reasons. Toddlers can be unsteady and rubber-soled shoes are safer on the climber, in Baker Hall and when running. No open-toe sandals, please. Remember that all the children will go outside most days unless the weather is extreme, so bring the appropriate outside clothing each day. One last note about dress. Toddler One does not have the room to store mega-packs of diapers, but mega-packs are fine in Toddler Two.

Each day, your child's teachers will write an activity note to give you personal information about your child's day. Please take the time to read it each day. Feel free to ask questions or voice your opinion. We need to be partners in this important work. West Shore has an open door policy. You may 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 lengthy 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.