



West Shore
Child Care Center

WELCOME TO YOUNG PRESCHOOL

We are delighted to have your child in our classroom. There are some facets of the program for older children that you will find different from the toddler level. The most obvious is the size of the group. Your child will be in a family group of 10 three-year-old children, which is a little larger than a toddler classroom. Before 8:00 am the children will be combined with the older preschool class as children arrive for the day. This will also occur at the end of the day.

Because of this, it is important for children to have developed social coping skills in addition to being chronologically old enough to move into this new department. Children must be able to follow established routines as well as to manage their own jackets, shoes, and toileting (with assistance, of course).

The goal in the Young Preschool department is to provide children with a safe, loving and stimulating atmosphere. By providing these things, we feel that children will develop the necessary skills needed to successfully progress through their future school years.

The Center has adopted the philosophies of the High/Scope Early Childhood Curriculum. The curriculum is based on the belief that children learn best through 'active learning', direct hands-on experiences with people, objects events and ideas. The children will explore, ask and answer questions, solve problems and interact with classmates and adults as they pursue their choices and plans throughout the day. They will be engaging in teacher and child initiated learning activities in 10 child development content areas. These areas are: Creative Representation, Language and Literacy, Initiative and Social Relations, Movement, Music, Classification, Seriation, Number, Space and Time (Math and Science). The children will be engaging in activities that will help each child develop within each of these areas. A central element of the curriculum is the 'plan-do-review' sequence, small and large group activities and outside time. The lesson plans are posted within the classroom for you to look at.

A DRY ERASE BOARD is hung outside the classroom door on which the staff will write a general note outlining the activities of the day. If the teacher feels that anything out of the ordinary happened on a particular day with your child they will write you a note. If you have a question concerning your child's day please speak with the staff either at pick up or drop off.

When your child starts in the Young Preschool room we ask that they have a blanket and pillow (if your child would like) along with a doll or stuffed animal for rest time. Occasionally a child still has potty accidents or may get clothes wet outside or in the water table. Therefore we ask that there be two complete changes of clothes and if possible, another pair of shoes kept in child's high basket. While a child is transitioning into the new room, we will continue to work on toilet training. However pull-ups are not recommended and if they are used, they may only be used at naptime for *a limited time* only.

If your child did not make a family collage in the Toddler II room, we ask that you send in pictures of your child and family members so they can be mounted and displayed in the classroom. This collage helps your child feel more comfortable while you are at work.

Items you need to bring - please LABEL all items:

- Two (2) change of clothes with shoes if possible (weather appropriate)
- A lunch box if you bring breakfast
- Small blanket and pillow (if desired)
- A comfort toy for nap
- Photographs of your child and their family for a collage
- Weather appropriate outside clothes:
 - Winter: Snow jacket, snow pants or snowsuit, winter boots, hat, mittens.
 - Summer: bathing suit, towel, sunscreen and summer hat.