



### **New School Montessori Center Infant and Toddler Ones Program**

Our New School Infant program provides a safe, nurturing environment where the focus is on meeting the children's physical needs in a timely and respectful manner, thus establishing a vital level of trust between the child and the caregiver.

#### **Teachers and Caregivers**

Michelle Little will begin her 8th year at the school this fall. Having earned her AMS Montessori certification for Infants and Toddlers in 2007, Michelle has worked in our Toddler Two's program and has recently worked to establish our new Infant program.

Sue LaCasse will begin her 5th year as a classroom assistant. Along with Michelle, Sue has been instrumental in the creation and success of our infant program.

Michelle and Sue work as a great team. They are approachable, fun, and laid back! Both teachers are trained in SIDS prevention, CPR and First Aid, and continue to enroll in additional safety-related classes. Most of all, they are dedicated to providing a safe and loving environment for the children.

#### **Schedule**

We will structure our day around the varying schedules of the individual children. Before or during your child's first day of school, we will ask you to provide a written schedule of your child's eating and sleeping routines. It is not our goal to have all the babies eating at the same time and sleeping at the same time, but to respect their individual routines. While in group care, the distractions of other children often make it difficult to maintain an identical schedule to the one the infant has at home, but we will do our best to keep their routines consistent.

We will provide you with a daily written report listing when your child sleeps and for how long, when he or she eats or drinks and how much, as well as a record of each diaper change.

## **Sleeping**

A section of the room is sectioned off as a designated napping area. Each infant will have their own crib or pack and play. No cribs, pack and plays, or mats will be shared. Infants are placed on their back to sleep. When your child turns one, we will offer the option of a mat for sleeping.

All teachers in the infant room have studied and comply with the laws regarding safe sleep practices for infants in childcare. We will provide you with a copy of our Safe Sleep Policy and will provide more information if interested.

## **Feeding**

It is important that you provide the teachers with a feeding schedule for your child on the first day of class. It is also a Division of Child Development (DCD) requirement to maintain a written feeding schedule and notate any changes until the child is 15 months.

The following are other basic requirements regarding infant feeding as directed by the DCD and county health inspectors:

- All bottles must be premixed and labeled with the child's name and the date. If it is breast milk this must also be indicated on the bottle.
- All food containers must be labeled with a name and date\*. Once a food container is opened and served to the child, we may not serve it again. If you wish, we will refrigerate and send it home.
- We are not allowed to give children our own personal food, or allow them to share food.

\*It is fine to bring in containers of dry food for snacks, supplies of jarred baby food, etc., and we will store them for your child. Please make sure to label the items.

## **Supplies**

We have a supply of bibs and eating utensils. Therefore you do not have to send any of these items unless you want to contribute to the community bib collection. Please note all of our supplies, materials, and environment is sterilized thoroughly each day.

Supplies to be provided by parents:

- **Diapers and wipes** (at least one package of each - we will store them here)
- **Diaper cream/sunscreen/other medications** (if needed) \*we must have a signed permission form for any medications, including diaper creams
- At least two full **changes of clothing**
- **Pacifier** (if your child uses one)
- **Sheet(s) and blanket** for napping. We are required to change the crib sheets for infants daily. We ask that each week you bring a clean sheet for each day that your child will be here that week. We will send the used sheet home with you each day. We do have a supply of extra crib sheets if you forget to bring one.

## **Health**

We understand that infants often exhibit signs of illness (diarrhea or low grade fevers) when they are teething. However, even if we suspect it is “just teething”, we are required by the DCD to send your child home if he or she has diarrhea or a fever of 100 or higher. The child may return to school once they have been fever free (without medication) or free from episodes of diarrhea for 24 hours. Please refer to the Parent Handbook for more information about the school’s health policy.

We are aware that infants frequently put toys in their mouth as one of their primary means to explore their environment. We have several tubs designated for toys that need to be sanitized. Throughout the day, we retrieve the toys as soon as the child is finished “exploring” them and place them in a tub to be washed and sanitized.

Please feel free to contact us with questions or concerns.

***The Infant Team***