

### **Toddler Class Questions & Answers**

*This document is not a part of the contract and is intended to explain procedures.*

#### **What will the toddler experience?**

The toddler-aged child is growing in many abilities and coming to school adds another dimension to his or her experiences. As the children work together they are learning to relate to each other, are developing new social skills and establishing foundations for future exploration and learning. They are creating habits for learning new things and confidence for exploring new experiences. The children develop independence in caring for themselves and managing their own activities. There is an increase in vocabulary and expanding verbal expression, especially for social and emotional language skills.

#### **How does my child transition from home to school?**

The phase-in process is a partnership with parents that supports the child's successful transition to school. The purpose of phase-in is to acclimate the children to the schedule, routine and expectations of our environment. The phase-in process allows the children to become comfortable with the teachers and the environment safely in small groups before introducing the whole group. By beginning with a smaller number of students in the class, the children can have more personal attention and develop a connection to the teachers before the full group spends time together. Security with separation varies among the children with some having no difficulty and others having differing levels of anxiety. The phase-in period will be two weeks until the full group is ready for the full morning period. Most of the children will be able to adjust well, but occasionally some children need adjustments to the schedule during the first month of school. If we go at the child's pace, they will have a sense of security in the group and a connection with the adults that allows them to proceed with learning from the environment.

#### **What is the phase-in procedure and schedule?**

Please refer to the phase-in schedule provided to you.

#### **Do the children have a daily snack?**

Yes. This activity typically gives the children opportunities for lessons in grace and courtesy – waiting for friends, eating and socializing together, using polite language and generally feeling very independent. This year may look a little differently in our procedures, but we will still be providing opportunities for the children to experience snack time in the classroom.

**What clothing should my child wear to school?**

It is important that the children be able to manage their own clothing. Garments that allow the child to learn to take it off and put it on again and that do not hinder freedom of movement are requested. For example, back buttons or shoulder buttons are difficult for children to manage by themselves. When your child is ready to use the toilet, pants should be "easy on and off". Onesies at school make it difficult for your child to be independent. Supportive, closed-toed shoes (like athletic shoes) are preferred and for this age they should either be slip on or Velcro so the children can learn to manage them independently. Please keep in mind when choosing outfits that the clothes can get dirty through the use of paint or chalk or markers in the class or while playing outside.

**What items are necessary for the child to have at school?**

- A package of diapers (if your child is currently wearing them) or several pair of underwear if they are toileting independently
- A package of wet wipes
- Two sets of clothes including pants, shirts, and socks
- One pair of extra shoes is also desirable in case shoes get wet

Extra clothes should be marked with your child's name.

**When can we observe the class?**

We encourage observations by parents. However, observations need to take place by appointment only. Please contact the office to schedule an observation. Please note: observations take place through an observation window outside the classroom.