



Infant-Toddler Program FAQs

Do you have curriculum for infants/toddlers?

Child Development Centers, Inc. utilizes a formal, purchased curriculum called *The Creative Curriculum*. Staff members participate in regular curriculum meetings to ensure proper implementation of the curriculum. The curriculum contains 21 early learning objectives that are subdivided into 4 content areas including learning about self and others, movement, the world, and communicating. It is primarily relationship-based with many social components that guide the child. It also includes activities that promote the child's social, emotional, physical, cognitive and language development.

What are the credentials of the infant room staff members?

Lead teachers in the infant classrooms have completed, are working on, or have in place a plan to advance their knowledge of child development. All infant lead teachers are required to pursue a minimum of a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential. Child Development Centers, Inc. exceeds the state's licensing requirements in this area to promote early childhood development.

Does the staff know first aid and CPR?

All staff members are required to be certified in first aid and CPR. Recertification is completed routinely by Child Development Centers, Inc. We exceed the state's licensing requirements in this area to ensure that children are as safe as possible.

What other trainings are required annually for staff members?

Staff members take specific courses such as common illness, identifying special needs, and ongoing curriculum instruction courses. Periodically, experts within certain areas are invited to present topics that promote quality in the classroom. Staff must have at least 6 hours of training annually.

How often is the room cleaned?

Child Development Centers, Inc. has full-time custodians in each building to ensure cleanliness. The rooms are cleaned every night. Every child's crib also is cleaned and disinfected weekly.

How often are toys sanitized?

Toys are sanitized daily. Any toys that are mouthed are removed from use and placed in a sanitizing container.

Do the children go outside?

Children go outside daily, weather permitting, to the playground.

What do I have to bring each day for my child?

Parents provide diapers, wipes, pacifiers and changes of clothes for their infants.

Does my child have a crib?

All children who are enrolled full-time are assigned their own crib. If a crib must be shared between part-time children, it is cleaned and disinfected between each child's use, and clean sheets are provided.

Do I need to bring sheets and/or blanket sleepers?

Child Development Centers, Inc. provides these items for your child. A supply of sheets and sleepers exists in each classroom to ensure that clean items always are available. All centers have washers and dryers.

Do I provide my own baby food?

We provide formula, cereal and baby food each day for your child at no additional cost. Child Development Centers, Inc. participates in the federal Child and Adult Care Food Program, which encourages proper nutrition.

How do you make sure bottles are clean?

Each infant classroom has a dishwasher to ensure that bottles are cleaned and sanitized. Bottles are never reused without being washed.

How do you heat bottles?

Each infant classroom is equipped with a special bottle warmer that is used exclusively for heating bottles. To ensure that the children are not burned, we never place bottles in a microwave oven.

Am I able to breast feed my child during the day?

Parents who breast feed are given private space to do so.

How are new foods introduced to my infant?

New foods are introduced by the parent. The infant classroom only will serve foods that you previously have given to your child and determined that he or she is not allergic to it.

How do you feed the infants?

All bottle-fed infants are held while being fed to at least 6 months of age, and until the child is able to hold his or her own bottle. Each classroom is equipped with at least 1 rocking chair to aid in this process. Also, each classroom has special floor chairs for the staff. Children are never left alone with a bottle.

Do infants have special toys?

Each infant classroom is equipped with toys that meet safety guidelines for infants and encourage development of their early skills. Some examples of the infant toys are rattles, soft materials, books, blocks, textured toys, musical instruments, puzzles and stacking toys.

What if I want my child to sleep on his or her belly?

Child Development Centers, Inc. relies on the standards established by the American Academy of Pediatrics and places children only on their backs to sleep. Any modifications must be approved by CDC's Director of Medical Services.

Do you have special procedures for keeping the floor clean and dry?

Each infant classroom requires parents and visitors to remove their shoes before entering.

How do I know what my child does every day?

Parents receive a detailed account of their child's day, both verbally and written. A take-home paper is provided that describes the eating, sleeping, diapering and developmental characteristics of their son or daughter.

Will you follow my child's schedule?

Yes. Each parent is requested to complete an infant registration form to outline the child's typical schedule. This form is used to help the classroom maintain the schedule in a predictable and consistent manner.

What are your diaper changing procedures?

Children are changed at least every 2 hours or as needed. Each infant classroom is equipped with a changing station including a hand washing sink. After each diaper change, the infant's hands are washed, the caregiver's hands are washed, and the diapering surface is cleaned. All garbage is removed from the classroom at least once a day. CDC uses a 16-step diaper changing process.

What are hand washing procedures?

Child Development Centers, Inc. understands the critical nature of proper hand washing with regard to illness and safety for children. Hand washing procedures include the use of running water and liquid soap. Hands are rubbed vigorously for at least 10 seconds including backs of hands, wrists, between fingers, under and around jewelry, and under fingernails. Hands are rinsed well and dried using a paper towel. The faucet is turned off with a paper towel. These procedures regularly are taught in accordance with the Pennsylvania Health Standards.

What happens if my child's clothes are dirtied?

Each center is equipped with laundering facilities to allow clothing to be washed immediately.

Will my baby have the same staff members?

Child Development Centers, Inc. understands the importance of consistency in the life of your infant. Therefore, each infant classroom is staffed with the same individuals each day. This helps your child with attachment to 1 or 2 caregivers and develops trust.

How do staff members interact with my child?

The infant staff members express warmth through behaviors such as physical affection, eye contact, tone of voice and smiles. Staff members evaluate and change their responses based on the individual needs of the infant. Children are provided individual attention and interaction throughout the day. Staff members get down to the infant's level, especially by frequently sitting on the floor with them. Certain routine activities such as diapering and feeding are the perfect times for staff members to have verbal acknowledgement with the infant.

THE TODDLER PROGRAM

What do I have to bring each day for my child?

Parents provide diapers, wipes, pacifiers, change of clothes, and any security items such as blankets, stuffed animals, etc.

Do I provide my own meals?

We will provide your child with breakfast, lunch and a snack each day at no additional cost. Child Development Centers, Inc. participates in the federal Child and Adult Care Food Program which encourages proper nutrition and provides the appropriate food groups for each meal. Whole milk is provided for each meal until age 2, then 1 percent milk is provided for each meal. Water is offered throughout the day as a healthy drink that insures hydration.

How do you handle mealtime routines?

The children sit as a group and eat family style. This means that children are served or serve themselves from child-sized bowls and pitchers. The children develop independent skills by practicing mealtime routines. Staff members sit with children to encourage conversation with their peers, proper use of eating utensils, and attention to the task of eating.

What will my child sleep on?

All children who are enrolled are assigned a cot.

Do I need to bring sheets and blankets?

Child Development Centers, Inc. provides these items for your child. A supply of sheets and blankets exists in each classroom to ensure that clean items always are available. All centers have washers and dryers.

What are the credentials of the toddler room staff members?

Some lead teachers in the toddler classrooms hold either an associate's degree in early childhood education or a related field such as elementary education, special education, psychology or sociology. Our organization requires all lead teachers in toddler classrooms to obtain at least a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential. Child Development Centers, Inc. exceeds the state's licensing requirements in this area to promote early childhood development.

Does the staff know first aid and CPR?

All staff members are required to be certified in first aid and CPR. Recertification is completed routinely by Child Development Centers, Inc. We exceed the state's licensing requirements in this area to ensure that children are as safe as possible.

What other trainings are required annually for staff members?

Staff members take specific courses such as: common illness, medication administration, identifying special needs and ongoing curriculum instructional courses. Periodically experts within certain areas are invited to present topics that promote quality in the classroom. Staff must have a minimum of 6 hours of training annually.

How often is the room cleaned?

Child Development Centers, Inc. has full-time custodians in each building to ensure cleanliness. The rooms are cleaned every night.

How often are toys sanitized?

Toys are sanitized daily. Any toys that are mouthed are removed from use and placed in a sanitizing bucket.

Do the children go outside?

Children go outside daily, weather permitting, to the playground.

Do the toddlers have special toys?

Each toddler classroom is equipped with toys that meet safety guidelines for toddlers and encourage development of their early skills. Some examples of the toddler toys are books, blocks, musical instruments, puzzles, stacking toys, push/pull toys, pretend toys, sand/water tables and toys, paint easels, art and craft materials, and stuffed animals.

How do I know what my child does every day?

Parents receive a detailed account of their child's day, both verbally and written. A take-home paper is provided that describes the eating, sleeping, diapering and development characteristics of their child's day.

Do you have curriculum for the toddlers?

Child Development Centers, Inc. utilizes a formal, purchased curriculum called *The Creative Curriculum*. Staff members participate in regular curriculum meetings to ensure proper implementation of the curriculum. The curriculum contains early learning objectives that are subdivided into 4 content areas including; learning about self and others, learning about movement, learning about the world, and learning about communicating. It is primarily relationship-based with many social components that guide the child. It also includes activities that promote the child's social, emotional, physical, cognitive and language development.

What are your diaper changing procedures?

Children are changed at least every 2 hours, or as needed. Each toddler classroom is equipped with a changing station including a hand washing sink. After each change the child's hands are washed, the caregiver's hands are washed, and the diapering surface is cleaned. All garbage is removed from the classroom at least once a day. CDC uses a 16-step diaper changing process.

How do you handle potty training?

Child Development Centers, Inc. believes that a child will present clues when he or she is ready to begin potty training. Some of these clues are as follows: the child expresses an exaggerated discomfort with being wet or soiled, while awake the child is dry for more than 2 hours, the child is dry throughout the night, and/or the child desires to wear underwear rather than a diaper.

We will work in partnership with you to accommodate your child's developmental needs. Each toddler classroom (2 years+) is equipped with bathrooms including hand washing sinks to assist in the process. This is a key developmental milestone for a toddler-aged child and should take place as the signs present themselves.

What are your hand washing procedures?

Child Development Centers, Inc. understands the critical nature of proper hand washing with regard to illness and safety for children. Hand washing procedures include the use of running water and liquid soap. Hands are rubbed vigorously for at least 10 seconds including backs of hands, wrists, between fingers, under and around jewelry, and under finger-nails. Hands are rinsed well and dried using a paper towel. The faucet is turned off with a paper towel. These procedures regularly are taught by Child Development Centers, Inc. in accordance with the Pennsylvania Health Standards.

What happens if my child's clothes are dirtied?

Each center is equipped with laundering facilities to allow clothing to be washed and dried immediately. Soiled and wet clothes are sent home to eliminate sanitizing of washers.

Will my child have the same staff members?

Child Development Centers, Inc. understands the importance of consistency in the life of your child. Therefore, each classroom is staffed with the same individuals each day. This helps your child with attachment to 1 or 2 caregivers and develops trust. Periodically, the full-time classroom staff may be absent. At this time a substitute will be placed in the classroom. Your child will be familiar with this individual or the individual will be partnered with a staff member your child knows.

How do you handle biting incidents?

Child Development Centers, Inc. understands that biting is an unfortunate expectation for children in the toddler classrooms. Parents should expect that a child may bite or be bitten by a fellow classmate. The staff understands that the parents will be concerned and will be upset when their child is involved in a biting incident. The staff members will not punish or harshly discipline children for biting behavior. They will redirect the children to different activities in separate areas of the classroom. They will take extra notice of the circumstances surrounding the incident to determine if a pattern exists that can be altered to prevent future occurrences. When there is a biting incident, the parents of both children will be notified in writing with an Incident Report. The names of the children will not be released to ensure confidentiality of both families. Biting is viewed as a typical stage of development and we will work to help children through this behavior.

How do you handle separation anxiety?

Separation anxiety is a normal reaction with toddlers. The staff members are trained in strategies that help the child succeed with this temporary stage of development. Child Development Centers, Inc. works to ensure consistent and predictable routines so that children are dropped off to the same staff members to help parents with this situation. When the children are very comfortable with staff members, the separation is smooth.

How do you handle discipline?

Child Development Centers, Inc. takes a positive approach to guiding behavior. First we try to prevent problems before they happen, such as proper room arrangement, allowing children outdoor time to release energy, and ensuring appropriate supervision at all times.

At times it becomes necessary to redirect children's behavior to a more acceptable activity. We focus on social skills and self-regulation, which teaches children the necessary skills to get along with others and follow simple expectations of safety.