

CARING FOR KIDS

Parents Information Guide



Those who care help us grow

Child Care Center

Caring for Kids admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, national and ethnic origin or disabilities of any kind in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies or other school-administered programs. Caring for Kids is an independent contractor.

CARING FOR KIDS

HOURS OF OPERATION: Monday - Friday; 6:30 AM - 6:00 PM

AGES: 6 Weeks to 5 Years.

- When you register your child, you will need to pay a registration fee \$30.
- Tuition is due two weeks in advance.
- Neither the registration fee nor tuition is refundable.
- There are no fee reductions for holidays, vacations, nor illnesses. There may be a small, yearly increase in fees.
- A reduction in tuition is available for the oldest child in families with multiple children.

PHILOSOPHY:

CARING FOR KIDS provides a warm, supportive environment where children's physical, social, emotional and intellectual development is optimal. The center is a safe, child-oriented space where children can explore, discover, and create. Children's feelings of self-confidence is fostered and self-reliance is encouraged.

Parent involvement is an important aspect of any successful early childhood program. We anticipate a partnership between parents and CARING FOR KIDS. We provide a support system to the parents. This involves information, guidance, assistance, referral and emotional support when needed.

Young children need to use all senses, vision, hearing, touch and even smell and taste to learn. Our preschool environment includes materials and activities which encourage the child to use these modalities to explore and understand.

Children are most motivated to learn when they have a high degree of choice in the educational activities in which they engage. They need to have freedom to move from one activity to another.

The teacher's role is to facilitate learning by asking questions to help the child's observation, to make suggestions for further exploring a concept and to introduce new vocabulary and concepts. She looks for opportunities to help the child gain as much insight as possible from any learning experience. The teacher designs and continuously changes activities and materials in the room to stimulate the child's curiosity and to extend his learning.

Children need a strong foundation in pre-academic skills before they begin instruction in reading, writing and math. Our focus is to provide children with activities which promote development in those prerequisite skills. We will provide a continuity throughout our program. Cognitive abilities, small and large motor skills, eye-hand coordination, language development and other readiness skills will be introduced in the infant room. These same skills will be reinforced through the planning of progressively more complex tasks in the toddler and preschool rooms.

We offer an early childhood environment of materials, equipment and activities designed to stir your child's curiosity arouse his interest and challenge him to learn at his own rate.

STAFF:

A teacher, trained in early childhood education or child development plans and directs the activities in each room of the center. Her team consists of adults with early childhood education and experience. The primary consideration is they be warm, caring people who are aware of the needs of young children.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT:

We believe that it is most important that our staff be involved with parents in close cooperation and planning for the welfare of each child. It is important that children experience a connection between home and the child care setting.

Families are invited to visit, call with questions, suggestions, and ideas, or volunteer their time and energies to take part in the program. We hope that you will keep us informed by notifying us of any specific change which may affect your child at the center. In turn, we will contact you when we think you should know of any specific incident at the center concerning your child.

We have an Open House during which you may become better acquainted with our staff and program.

Teachers arrange conferences with parents as needed. Parents may call to schedule a conference with their child's teacher or the director whenever they feel this would be helpful.

We hope that you will join us during the year for lunch, to share a story, a song, or your time or expertise in any area.

MEALS:

Breakfast daily is cereal and fresh fruit. Lunch and snack menus are posted on the bulletin board and emailed to those who would like to get them that way.

Parents may bring food from home if what is on the menu is not something their child will eat or if they want them to have something else.

Parents of infants will need to provide adequate bottles for breast milk, or formula, juice and baby food.

HEALTHFUL HINTS:

Registration is not complete and children cannot be admitted to school until the required immunizations are up-to-date as required by State law. This can be verified either by an official immunization card/form from the doctor or by the director checking on the statewide database, USIIS.

For their own good and for the good of others, children who are experiencing any symptoms of a contagious disease, including colds, should not come to school. Children who are showing signs of unusual irritability, vomiting, loose stools, sore throat, runny nose, rash or fever should also be kept home as these may be signs of impending illness.

If your child becomes ill at the center, we will contact you. Since we do not have facilities to care for sick children, you will need to pick up your child when we call. Children will not be readmitted until their fever or other symptoms have subsided for twenty-four hours without medication.

Communicable diseases should be reported to the office immediately. All parents will be notified when a child in the group has a contagious disease. If your child should catch a communicable disease, we will need a note from his physician stating that your child is in good health before being readmitted.

Our center is a "firearm free zone." Firearms are not permitted in the center at any time including toy guns.

We are also a "nut free zone." Since many children are allergic to nuts of one kind or another, please keep this in mind if you bring food from home.

HELPFUL HINTS:

- Because the children work and play hard, we suggest simple clothing. Comfortable clothes which he/she can manage and need not worry about keeping spotless.
- Getting "dirty" is a part of learning, so don't be upset if your child comes home "paint" or sandy.
- Children should not bring toys, play guns, money or candy to school. When these are lost or broken at school, they cause unnecessary grief.
- Do not send your child with jewelry. Jewelry can get caught on play equipment and cause injury. Small stud earrings with "screw on" backs are acceptable.

INFANT NURSERY

FOCUS:

The primary goal of the infant nursery is to provide care in a loving and nurturing atmosphere for infants 6 weeks to 24 months old.

DESCRIPTION:

There is one caregiver for every four infants. A routine is followed in which there will be a morning and afternoon naptime, a "work time" (during which care givers work on single goals with the infants), and an hour and a half lunch time, when parents are welcome to come visit. Naturally, the schedule is flexible, as the individual needs of children this age are of primary importance.

There is a designated sleep area and activity area. When the children are awake, they are in the stimulating and social atmosphere of the activity area.

Of highest priority is basic care taking of the infants. This means being sure that their most fundamental needs are met. These needs are as follows:

- Clean diapers
- Feeding
- Sleep
- Love, nurturing and social contact
- A clean, safe environment

The secondary function of the nursery is to provide an atmosphere in which we begin implementing our philosophy of learning.

An infant nursery of this sort is a very special place. The caregiver-child and caregiver-parent relationships make this a setting in which there is much personal interaction and involvement. Thus, the nursery becomes a warm, joyful, and fun atmosphere in which all flourish.

THINGS TO BRING:

Every morning, your child's cubby should be refilled with the following:

- Bottles of formula, milk or juice with covers.
- Disposable diapers. (6 - 8)
- Baby food.
- Desitin.
- Wipes.
- Sheet and Blanket.
- Changes of clothing and bibs.
- Whatever else you use on your child.

All of the above must be labeled with your child's name. Please be sure to use permanent markers!

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Everyday' you should bring all the bottles you expect your child to drink during the course of the day. The same goes for your child's lunch. You may leave extra food, formula or juice in your child's food cubby.
- In preparation for going to the toddler room, we suggest that the children to begin finger food by no later than 12 months. Feel free to ask if you need lunch suggestions.
- We have water play in the afternoon for the older children on hot days. Please let us know in the mornings if you don't want your child to participate.
- Each child needs a sheet and blanket, which will stay at the center and will be washed at the end of each week at home.

- At the end of each day, you will find your child's empty bottles and dishes in his or her cubby. Be sure to collect them every day.
- The refrigerator is cleaned every Friday. Nothing should remain over the weekend.
- Please feed your child breakfast at home or come in early and feed him or her at the Center. If breakfast is to be fed to your child by the staff, please advise us in advance. We are not able to feed breakfast to the children until 8:30, when we are fully staffed.
- To insure against spoilage, we discard any half eaten jars of food after 24 hours. Please bring only as much as you think your child will eat.
- Please check the bulletin board by the front door for important messages. We will also email you with any important messages.

Please feel free to call the Infant room (801-333-5796) if you have any concerns regarding your child. Don't hesitate to call even if you just want to know how your child is doing!

TWO's

FOCUS AND DESCRIPTION:

The children in the toddler room range in age from 24 months to 3 years. The major emphasis with this age group is to provide a stimulating, loving, and secure environment in which the children can develop a beginning sense of independence, social skills, and skills in working with learning materials. The program does not stress "academics" as much as it nurtures the child's growing awareness of his abilities in all areas.

There is one adult for every seven children. The schedule is similar to that of the preschool program, but with shorter time spans for each activity.

Two-year-olds are at a stage in their development when they are learning to become more autonomous, needing to "do it myself". Our two-year-old environment is designed for safe exploration. Activities and materials offer successful experiences, promoting the feeling of "I Can", which is important at this stage.

The adults offer firm but kind and understanding guidance. Emphasis is on rewarding and praising appropriate behavior. This attitude is extended to toilet training which is a goal in this stage. Activities and areas are planned where the children in this group are able to develop their large motor skills. Some of these tasks include walking on low balance beams, moving to music, an open area for jumping, hopping, etc. and small vehicles to push, pull and ride.

Also included in the two-year-old room are block areas, where the children can build simple structures; a housekeeping area, where familiar family roles can be acted out; an art area, where children can enjoy small group art activities such as finger-painting, collage and clay. Simple puzzles, sorting games, peg boards, etc. are available for the toddlers to manipulate. These activities help to refine their eye-hand coordination as well as their visual discrimination skills.

There are daily story times, music times, sand and water play and simple science activities.

Outdoors, the two-year-olds enjoy a separate playground and a low climbing apparatus as well as occasional structured game playing.

THINGS TO BRING:

- A change of clothing to be kept at the Center.
- Disposable diapers, if necessary. (4 - 6)
- Wipes
- A small blanket and a sheet. You will need to take them home on Friday for laundering and return on Monday.
- **ALL ITEMS NEED TO BE LABELED WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME**

PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

3 – 5 Years Old

FOCUS:

Emphasis in our program is on developing socialization skills, recognizing and learning to verbalize feelings, developing independence by learning to make appropriate choices and learning to respect and be considerate of one another. We believe that children benefit more from concrete learning experiences than from artificial paper and pencil activities; that process is more important than the product.

OUR LEARNING CENTER CONCEPT:

Our preschool classrooms are divided into learning centers. These centers are clearly defined areas which focus on specific curriculum areas. These centers divide our classrooms in such a way as to allow our children to make choices, to move freely and independently and to grow through the experiences set up by our teaching staff. They also give opportunities for a larger number of children to learn individually or in small groups so that the teacher can take advantage of moments of readiness, keen interest and desire to learn. The activities change in each center regularly according to the themes which present varied learning experiences.

Centers are set up in each of the preschool classrooms as described below.

ART CENTER:

Individual cooking and/or various art and craft activities daily. Emphasis is on the creative process.

HANDS ON CENTER:

Manipulative activities appropriate for each age level. Examples are puzzles, pegboards, legos, beads to string, laces to tie.

BLOCK CENTER:

An area where children can use their imagination, problem solve, work cooperatively and discover about weights, balance, ramps, sizes, shapes, proportions and distances.

LISTENING CENTER:

A time and place to tune out noise and concentrate on listening skills. This center provides the opportunity to practice or reinforce learned concepts.

HOUSEKEEPING CENTER:

A dramatic play area great for socialization and filled with props for dramatic play using newly acquired concepts of the world around us.

LIBRARY CENTER:

Children's books, a felt board, a puppet stage with puppets, and a relaxation area for the children to experience the wonderful world of books and stories.

DISCOVERY CENTER:

An area where individual or small groups of children can discover and explore materials related to a theme being studied. A place to introduce science and social studies concepts, and to develop vocabulary.

ACADEMIC CENTER:

An area where children are introduced, through teacher! Directed activities to pre-academic as well as more academic skills needed for success in a kindergarten curriculum.

MUSIC TIME:

Children join together to sing, dance, participate in creative movement, play rhythm instruments, enjoy finger plays and simple drama. Music may occur spontaneously during the day, adding joy and understanding to whatever the children are doing.

FIELD TRIPS AND RESOURCE PEOPLE:

At times the children may take trips to broaden their understanding of a theme or concept. Parents and other members of the community are regularly invited to share a skill, perform read a story, to bring their interesting world to us.

THINGS TO BRING:

- Children need to bring a small blanket and a sheet. This need to be taken home on Fridays for laundering and returned on Mondays.
- A complete change of clothes with your child's name.
- PLEASE LABEL ALL ITEMS BROUGHT BY YOUR CHILD.

"CAMP CFK"

CAMP CFK SUMMER CAMP - PRESCHOOL ROOMS:

We feel that children need a change in environment during the year. Therefore, our center becomes a summer camp during the months of June, July and August. The camp setting reflects the open, easy atmosphere that summer signifies to all of us. The staff becomes "counselors" and the children become "campers". A monthly calendar is sent home to let you know what our weekly themes and special events are.

During the summer, activities offered include:

- Sprinkler parties
- Field trips
- Theatrical productions
- Picnics and cook-outs
- Summer arts and crafts
- Unique summer themes which will be announced