



Infant Room

6 Weeks to 16 Months

Children learn about the world around them through every interaction and experience. It is especially important that infants feel secure and cared for. Teachers respond promptly to an infant's need for sleep, food, diapering, and comfort. Classroom space is provided for rolling, crawling, or walking. Teachers help infants who cannot move independently to regularly change positions, including regular intervals of tummy time to facilitate upper body strength.

Infants thrive with a variety of activities which are teacher-directed and self-chosen. CELC practices the play-based approach where children develop social and communication skills through meaningful play. The teachers in the Infant Room also use the *Creative Curriculum* as a guide for providing sensory and perceptual learning opportunities throughout the day. Babies receive close supervision. Staff will be alert to how toys are being used and the movement of mobile children amongst those who are immobile.

The daily schedule is structured with flexibility in mind so that teachers can meet each infant's needs by responding to the cues each child gives. Teachers also work with parents to maintain consistency in the child's schedule between the Center and home.

Early Morning

- Greeting and talk with parents
- Routine Care (feeding, diapering, sleeping)
- Self-directed activities in play area

Mid-morning

- Hand washing and group snack for infants who eat table food

Late Morning

- Planned play: teacher-directed activities for some, self-directed for others
- Routine Care
- Nap for some
- Outdoor play and/or buggy ride (after 10:45, weather permitting)

Noon

- Handwashing and lunch for infants who eat table food

Early Afternoon

- Routine care
- Nap for some
- Planned play: teacher-directed activities (for those awake)

Mid-Afternoon

- Handwashing and snack for infants who eat table food (3:00)
- Routine care
- Planned play: teacher-directed activities for some, self-directed for others
- Outdoor play and/or buggy ride (before 4:30)

Late Afternoon

- Self-directed activities in play area
- Routine care
- Greeting and talking with parents
- Teachers clean up for the next day

ITEMS TO BRING TO CARE (label all items with the child's name):

Bottles and/or sippy cups brought daily and returned clean the next day (4)

Formula (if applicable) - Unopened container labeled with child's first and last name

Breast milk (if applicable) - One day's supply labeled with the child's first and last name and that day's date; breast milk cannot stay at the center overnight.

Baby food for each day - Baby food will be introduced in coordination with the family and must begin no later than 6 months. Children will complete the transition to solid food before turning 12 months.

Light blanket or sleep sack

Pacifier (2-3) - if your child uses one

Diapers - We can store up to a two-week supply of diapers.

If using cloth diapers - **Parents provide a small foot-operated trash receptacle.**

Wipes - Store purchased, sealed

Diaper rash cream - Must sign a *Written Medication Consent*

3 changes of clothing - Each item labeled with child's initials in a labeled ziplock bag

Weather-appropriate outerwear (bring daily)

Sun hat for children who do not use sunscreen (sunscreen provided by CELC if *over-the-counter skin products authorization form* is signed)

Two family pictures

ITEMS NOT TO BRING:

Toys or stuffed animals from home

Quilts or pillows

Over-the-counter medications such as Tylenol or cough syrup

Each family is asked to bring a tote bag daily with food, and bottles or sippy cups as needed. Powder formula may be kept up to 30 days, but breast milk must be dumped or returned home at the end of each day. All baby food must be labeled with the child's name and dated. For Infants eating solid foods, breakfast and snacks are provided and menus posted by the classroom check-in location. Also, when picking up children, families are provided a half-sheet of the day's activities, food eaten, amount of time the baby slept, and diapering details.

In accordance with licensing standards, infants are put in their cribs to sleep on their backs. When children are strong enough to turn themselves over, they may sleep on their stomachs. Sleeping babies are checked every 15-20 minutes, but allowed to sleep as long as they need. Sheets are washed by the CELC daily and blankets are washed weekly.