



Infant Room

6 Weeks to 16 Months

Infants learn about the world around them through relationships, sensory experiences, movement, and exploration. At CELC, we believe that strong, trusting relationships are the foundation of learning. Teachers respond thoughtfully and promptly to each infant's needs for sleep, feeding, diapering, comfort, and connection, creating a secure environment where every child feels safe and valued.

Our infant environment is thoughtfully designed to encourage curiosity, discovery, and development at each child's individual pace. Opportunities for rolling, crawling, reaching, grasping, and walking support growing independence and physical development. Teachers provide meaningful sensory experiences and open-ended materials that invite infants to explore their surroundings using all their senses.

Guided by our Reggio-inspired philosophy and informed by the STREAMin³ curriculum, teachers observe infants closely, follow their interests and cues, and create opportunities for exploration through responsive interactions and play. We view infants as capable learners from the very beginning, communicating their ideas and needs through movement, sounds, expressions, and gestures. Close supervision and intentional classroom arrangements help ensure a safe environment for both mobile and non-mobile infants.

Our daily routines remain flexible and responsive to each infant's individual needs, recognizing that caregiving moments are also opportunities for connection and learning. Teachers partner with families to share observations, communicate about each child's development, and support continuity between home and the Center.

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

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

Breast milk (if applicable) - One day's supply labeled with the child's first and last name and that day's date

Baby food for each day - Baby food will be introduced in coordination with the family

Sleep sack to keep at the center (if applicable)

Pacifier to keep at the center (if applicable)

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 (if applicable) - Must sign a Written Medication Consent Form

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 seasonally 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

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.