Welcome to the Monkey Room

Welcome to the two year old classroom, where your child will explore a wide variety of activities designed to implement learning through personal experience, trial and error, repetition and imitation. Our teachers facilitate this period of dramatic growth through patient guidance. As we satisfy your two-year old's boundless strive for independence and self-help, we introduce small and large group activities, providing ample opportunities to practice social skills and team work.

As you prepare for your child’s first day, these are some of the supplies that you will need:

- 1 large package of diapers
- 1 container of diaper wipes
- Diaper Cream and/or ointment as needed
- Two complete changes of clothing (be sure to include clothing for warmer and cooler days)
- A lightweight blanket
- An extra hat and mittens since we do play outside all year
- Family pictures

If your two-year old is potty training, you will need these supplies as well:

- 5 complete changes of clothing (pants, shirt, underwear & socks)
- Extra shoes
- We strongly discourage the use of pull-ups as they tend to slow down potty-training.

(IT IS IMPORTANT TO LABEL ALL OF YOUR CHILD'S BELONGINGS)

Now that your child is two (and achieving new developmental milestones), here are some things that will change:

- Your child will begin to use a regular cup.
- We encourage the use of forks, spoons, and napkins as we help develop proper table manners.
- Your two year old is now allowed to sleep with a pillow if provided from home. Parents will still provide blankets on Mondays and take them home to be washed on Fridays.
- Our naptime in the two year old room is from 1:00 to 3:00.
- Playground Time! Your child will go to the playground twice a day as weather permits. Now that they are big two year olds, the children will walk to the playground. Each child holds hands with a partner, and teachers walk in front and behind the entire group.
- Twos follow a set schedule of activities.
- Activities begin to be more complex as two year olds are introduced to a wide variety of new materials and tools.
- Throughout the day, teachers will provide opportunities for your child to work in small and large groups as they participate in theme based lessons.
Consistency remains important as your two year old continues to grow. We help your child balance her control over the environment with clear boundaries and expectations.

- We continue to encourage children to use their words and incorporate activities that increase your two year old’s vocabulary.
- Please remember, at this age it is okay, and necessary, for a child to use the words no, mine, stop, help…. These words will help your young talker solve problems.
- Learning about how to be a friend takes time. More and more, your two year old will begin to play with other friends instead of next to other friends. As they are learning how, keep in mind that a friendship depends on the day. Two children may play very well today, and tomorrow have a skirmish. Positive role-modeling and role-play from parents as well as teachers is a good way to help two year olds observe appropriate interactions.

Frequent and positive communication is essential as we grow our relationship with your family.

- As you drop-off your two year old each day, be sure to complete the top portion of the daily log. This information helps us to be aware of any special circumstances they may affect your child’s interactions, as well as provide you with information when you come to pick up.
- We encourage you to call anytime you have a question or concern.
- To capture the moments that we enjoy each day, we have created a private Shutterfly account for the toddler classroom. Please provide your email address, and we will enter your family as a member. As a member you will have access to any pictures that we publish of your child.
- Daily emails are distributed to each family that has provided us with email contacts. Your daily email will be a short description of the day’s organized activities along with any observations and reactions made by the children in your two year old’s classroom.
- Monthly newsletters are distributed to each family. This tool allows your family to take a closer look at the activities and experiences your child has while with us. In addition, we provide you with information on upcoming special events; and suggestions for activities, songs, and fingerplays to try at home.

Our foremost responsibility is to provide a safe and secure environment for your child. You can help us by:

- Signing in and out on the clipboard each day.
- Notifying us of any attendance changes.
- As you drop off your child, informing us of anything that may affect how we care for your toddler is very important. This includes letting us know about bumps and bruises that have happen at home, changes in your child’s temperament, alternate pick-ups or pick up times....

We would like to reiterate our center’s open door policy. Please know that you are always welcome, and free to visit our classroom at any time. In fact, there are many times when you can be of great help.