

# Infant Program

## Sippy Cups

We prefer you provide Sippy cups for your child who is < 12 months. They will be rinsed and returned to you at the end of each day. We will stock our own in the case of necessity. They will be washed and sterilized overnight after use.

## Diaper Bags

Please be sure that there are no medications, ointments, lighters, creams, lotions, etc. left in the bag. If we find any of these items, we are required to lock them in our cabinet and we will give them to you when you come to pick up your child.

## Diapers/Wipes

Please provide diapers and wipes for your infant. We will not share diapers with other children in the room. You can bring in a large bag and we will let you know when your count gets low. If you choose to bring in daily, please make sure that you supply enough for your infant to be changed at least every two hours.

## CACFP Kitchen and Staff

Our kitchen is state qualified. We will provide formula and food for your child as instructed through the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). We provide Similac Advance formula and basic infant food to be given to all children. However, sometimes, parents prefer to bring their own formula, breast milk, and infant food each day until their child is 12 months of age and older. The prevalence of allergies occurring in children is on the rise and we want to be sure you provide the safest form of nourishment for your child. It is a mandatory requirement that certain forms are completed to allow you to provide your own food or to choose what we provide. We will assist with completion of the forms as needed.

## Medications and Topical Products

Medications and topical products such as diaper cream and ChapStick may not be stored in your child's diaper bag or cubby. **All medication and food supplements must be given directly to school office personnel for immediate safe storage. For all topical products a form JFS 012017 "Request for Administration of Medication" must be completed and on file in the school office.**

## Shoes on the Carpet

Street shoes are not allowed in the area where the infants are playing on the carpeted flooring.

## Older children in the Classroom

Similar to the street shoes, older children in the classroom can also be an unintentional hazard to our infants. For this reason, children over the age of 2 are not allowed in the area where the infants are playing.

## **Sleeping**

Each infant is assigned their own crib. All babies will be put to sleep on their back until at least 18 months of age. At about 16 months, with your permission on a signed form, we will move your child from a crib to a low cot. This helps your child become a more independent sleeper. Infants nap as needed or by parents requested schedule.

## **Curriculum for the Infant Program**

Our infant program uses the Creative Curriculum and ABC Jesus Loves Me for Infants, Toddlers & Two's as our roadmap. This is a comprehensive, developmentally appropriate curriculum that includes goals and objectives for children's learning in all areas of development: social/emotional, physical, cognitive, and language. We also use the Creative Curriculum Gold Standard Assessment System to help us identify and respond to children's changing interests and abilities.

### **The fundamental beliefs of both curricula are:**

- Building a trusting relationship with each child
- Providing responsive, individualized care
- Creating environments that support and encourage exploration
- Ensuring children's safety and health
- Developing partnerships with families
- Observing and documenting children's development in order to plan for each child and the group
- Recognizing the importance of social/emotional development
- Appreciating cultural, family, and individual differences
- Taking advantage of every opportunity to build a foundation for lifelong learning
- Supporting dual language learners
- Including children with disabilities in all aspects of the program

## **Breast Feeding Mothers**

It is very important that infants receive the nutrients they need each day. We are happy to provide a place for mothers to come and breast feed their child if they are able to do so during the day.

## **Breast Milk Bottles**

Parents must label bottles with the infant's name, date of expression and the date it was brought in to RiverTree, on both the bottle and cap. Parents may provide a doctor's note for us to continue to serve breast milk after the age of 12 months.

## **Using Formula Provided by RiverTree**

We provide Similac Advance Formula with Iron. If you choose to use our formula, please bring in enough bottles with nipples to leave at RiverTree for each feeding. Also, at 12 months of age, we transition infants from bottles and infant formula to whole milk. Parents may provide a doctor's note to continue formula after the age of 12 months.

### **Using Formula Provided by Parent/Guardians**

If you choose not to use the formula we provide, you will need to bring the bottles in, already prepared with the formula ready to use. The bottles and caps must be labeled with your infants name and the current date on the bottle. All remaining bottles will be sent home at the end of the day.

### **Bottle to Sippy Cup**

We will help with transitioning from the bottle to a sippy cup. This is usually done before the transition to milk. We provide whole milk.

### **Infant Cereal**

When it is time to introduce infant cereal to your baby, please let us know and we will be glad to add that to their diet. We provide iron-fortified rice cereal and iron-fortified oatmeal cereal. The next step in the food trail is the jar food. We want the family to be the first to introduce each new food in case there are any allergies. Most guidelines recommend you give each new food for 3 days before you move on to another new food. Please let the staff know when you have added a new food so that the feeding schedule can be updated with the new food. We will document what your child eats each day on their "Daily Report" so that you know how they are doing and what they are consuming.

### **Finger Foods**

Eventually your child is going to be ready for finger-foods. There are many different things you can try. Talk to the staff members and your pediatrician for guidance on when to try this and what to try. The staff takes great care in making sure that your infant is only given food that you have approved and they are developmentally ready for it. The food will be "smashed" or cut into tiny pieces to aid your child in chewing or gumming. This is a very exciting time for your child and can sometimes be very messy. Again, although we have infant food in supply, we prefer that you provide what you know will be non-allergenic and your child will be accustomed to.

We provide menus each month with a listing of the food items that are provided from our kitchen for each meal. We provide a morning snack, lunch and an afternoon snack for infants.

### **Receiving Blankets/Bibs/Binkies & Extra Clothes**

It's a good idea to provide extra of each. Especially changes of clothing. Please provide two, preferably three changes of clothing each day for your infant. Sleep sacks are encouraged for nap time safety.