

MACDONALD MONTESSORI SCHOOL – INFANT CARE INFORMATION PACKET

Ages – 6 weeks – 15 months

Hours – 7:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Staff Ratio - 1:4

***Relaxed, home-like atmosphere**

***Cheerful, nurturing staff**

***Environment and materials to foster:**

Social Interaction

Individual, developmental learning

Active movement and exploration

Acceptance and nurturing

Individualized schedules and naptimes

Encouragement to gain autonomy and independence

MACDONALD MONTESSORI SCHOOL HEALTH AND SAFETY PROCEDURES

- 1. Infants have increased susceptibility to infectious disease. Therefore, we are very diligent in hygiene procedures in our infant room.**
- 2. Sensitive to the fact that infants have immature urinary systems and lose water through immature respiratory skin and digestive systems and can become dehydrated very quickly. We keep accurate and systematic records of the amount of feedings and number of times of spitting up, urination, and stools. We also pay attention to fevers of any kind.**
- 3. Staff are alert to signs of illness of infants, which are more subtle than older children (e.g. not eating vigorously, eating less, different cry, paleness, rapid breathing, restlessness, etc.) For infants with colds or respiratory virus infections bulb syringes are used to clear infant nasal passages, especially before feedings, so that they can breathe well during their feedings.**

- 4. We do not prop bottles but we hold each baby for feedings to make this a relaxed time for both the staff and the infant.**
- 5. Infants sleep on their backs and only on a firm surface as a preventive measure for Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.**
- 6. Pacifiers are not kept on strings and they are washed when they fall on the floor. All toys and teethingers are washed whenever they are put into an infant's mouth, which is very often. We are making every attempt to keep all toys and equipment clean and germ free.**
- 7. All surfaces and mats are disinfected daily to help keep the room germ free. The windows are opened often in all weather to exchange fresh air daily to help keep the room germ free.**
- 8. We follow fastidious diapering techniques and clean and disinfect the diapering area between each changing. We bag and enclose each diaper to prevent contamination and odor in the room. Infants may not use cloth diapers as we do not want to handle or store dirty diapers.**
- 9. FOOD AND FORMULA – Parents provide food and formula or breast milk for their infant. Parents should send at least four bottles of formula or breast milk each day. We will send home any unused food at the end of the day so that the parent can see what their infant has eaten that day. We do not save opened food for the next day.**
- 10. Each bottle needs to be labeled (with permanent marker) with your child's first and last name. If they are not labeled, we will mark them when they come in.**

Formula/breast milk is refrigerated immediately and should also be transported to MacDonald Montessori School in insulated carriers to be sure that there is no chance of spoilage from sitting in a hot car. For older children: we will keep crackers and fresh fruit here at MacDonald Montessori School to serve at snack time.

Please send only plastic bottles (no GLASS juice bottles)

We encourage breast feeding – the health advantages are considerable. We will work with each breast feeding mom to ensure flexibility and consistency.

We are required by the Public Health Department to wear rubber gloves while handling and feeding breast milk.

Linda Lindeke Ph.D. R.N., C.P.N.P. – she is our nurse consultant, a three time mom, a former MacDonald Montessori School parent and a professor at the University of Minnesota School of Nursing. Linda makes a monthly visit and check up on our infant rooms procedures.

All other MacDonald Montessori School parent policies apply to our infants as well. Please see your policy book for more information.

PICK UP AND DROP OFF TIMES

Due to licensing rules, infants cannot be mixed in with other age groups before 7:30 a.m. or after 5:30 p.m. in our gym area. Therefore our infants are picked up and dropped off in their classrooms. Hours are 7:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Our MacDonald Montessori School regular late fee policy applies to late pick up, any time after 6:00 p.m. there is a \$25 late fee and an additional \$25 for every fifteen minutes.

SLEEP PROCEDURES AND SCHEDULES

Please fill out a schedule that your infant typically follows at home so we can follow it and be sensitive to your infant’s natural baby rhythm. It is very difficult if a baby is used to being rocked to sleep. We TRY to put them in their cribs while still awake and let them settle themselves to sleep. Then they don’t get into the habit of needing a care giver as part of the “going to sleep” process and if they awaken they can settle themselves to sleep. If your infant falls to sleep while feeding and being cuddled – great, but we want them to gradually get used to putting themselves to sleep.

We make lots of “normal noise” – so the infants learn to sleep through the play and activities of other babies. Infants are very capable of sleeping through lots of activity. We also have a “dark” sleeping room that is used for our older infants when needed.

When your infant is 15 months old you may bring them during our regular hours 6:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Most infant programs are more expensive because they provide formula and diapers. We chose to keep our price lower and have the parents provide these items. You are responsible for sending bottles of formula or breast milk until your infant moves to our toddler program.

We would be glad to help you transition your infant to tippee cups as they get closer to moving to toddlers. Because this is a group care situation and they see all of the others being given bottles, we will give them a bottle when their sanity or ours is at stake.

We are excited about the wonderful environment and our caring, fun staff. I am proud of this program.

Let us know if there is anything that you need.....

**Thank You
Beth MacDonald & the MacDonald Montessori
School Staff**