Welcome to the Toddler Room!

Holy Nativity Christian Child Care Center

Welcome! Meet Your Teachers!

Congratulations on becoming a Toddler! The transition from the Infant Room to the Toddler Room is the hardest transition, both for the children and the parents. We want you to feel very comfortable when making this transition, so we have prepared this information to give you some insight to the changes you will experience now that your child is a toddler. Please read through this booklet before your child begins his/her transition. If you have any questions, please stop by and talk with the Toddler teachers or the Director Brittany Anderson. We can also be reached via phone at 763.591.0681 or email at holynativitycccc @gmail.com.

Toddler Room Staff

Amy Laite:

Amy is a full time Toddler Teacher and has worked for us since May of 2006. She has the equivalent of an AA in Early Childhood Education. She resides in New Hope with her husband, Josh, and is the mother of two biological children, Robbie and Lauren, and two step -children, Morgan and Dalton.

Morgan Franz:

Morgan is a part time Toddler Teacher and has worked for us since September of 2016. She has her AA in Early Childhood Education and an AA in Biblical Studies. She lives in Elk River with her husband, Adam, and their children, Ryan and Natalie.

Jade Hardecopf:

Jade is a full time Assistant Toddler Teacher and has worked for us since May 2024. She is currently pursuing her CDA in Infants and Toddlers. She lives in New Hope with her partner, Max.

Ellen Dalager:

Elle is a part time Floating Assistant Teacher and has worked for us since April 2024. She has a diploma in Biblical Studies and is a Christian ministry intern in Minneapolis, where she lives.

Ava Talley:

Ava is a part time Aide and has worked for us since September 2024. She is currently a second-year student at FLBC and hails from Illinois.

September 2024

Toddler Room Welcome Packet

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Special points of interest:

- Who are my teachers?
- What will my new schedule look like?
- What will I be learning every day?
- What about my nap schedule?
- What more do I get to do as a Toddler?

Changes from the Infant Room to the Toddler Room

There are numerous changes that your child will be experiencing as they move to the Toddler Room. These changes are often difficult and will require a lot of work on the teachers' and parents' part. These changes will include:

- Naps taken on a cot
- Pacifiers (until age 2) and blankets only available during nap
- Meals eaten on chairs at a table
- Only table foods are eaten
- Drinks offered in sippy cups; then regular cups
- No bottles are served
- Hard-soled shoes are worn
- Outside play twice daily
- 1:7 ratio
- More structured schedule
- Thematic learning approach

Please feel free to discuss any concerns with the Infant Teachers, Toddler Teachers, or the Director. We make every effort to make it as easy as possible.

Daily Schedule

As a toddler, your child will experience a more structured schedule than they had in the Infant Room. The Infant teachers have done their best to prepare your child for the transition from on-demand scheduling to a more rigid schedule, but there are bound to be areas that need further work. The following is a sample of the daily schedule your toddler will follow:

700-730 A.M.: Combined Free Play

730-800 A.M.: Toddler Free Exploration

800-820 A.M.: Circle Time

820-845 A.M.: Breakfast

845-1000 A.M.: Music & Movement, Free Play, Diapering

915-945 (T): Dancercise

1000-1030 (Th): Growing with Music

1000-1030 A.M.: Art/Math/Sensory

1030-1100 A.M.: Outside

1100-1130 A.M.: Large Muscle

1115-1130 (W): Chapel

1130 A.M.-1215 P.M.: Lunch

1215-1245 P.M.: Quiet Activities, Diapering

1245-300 P.M.: Naptime

300-315 P.M.: Jesus Time

315-345 P.M.: Snack

345-430 P.M.: Free Exploration, Art, Diapering

430-530 P.M.: Outdoor/Large Muscle

530-600 P.M.: Combined Free Play

Since your child will have scheduled meal and naptimes, it is most helpful for your child if your child follows a similar schedule on non-daycare days as well.

Curriculum and Enrichment Activities

As your infant transitions to a toddler, they become more curious about the world around them and are ready for more structured learning to take place. As a toddler, your child will experience many opportunities to tap into their curious and creative sides. Every day in the Toddler Room, your child will experience the following:

Circle and Story Time: reinforcing language and communication development through stories, songs, fingerplays, numbers, the alphabet, and theme activities

Jesus Time: we use the *Play-n-Worship: Play Along Stories for Toddlers and Twos* curriculum from Group Publishing, and the *Frolic* curriculum from Sparkhouse publishing.

Art: self-expression through structured and free art

Sensory: activities to ignite their senses and sense of discovery

Outdoor Time/Large Muscle: building physical skills twice a day

While the Toddler Room lends itself to a more scheduled day, it is still flexible enough to allow for all of the changes that take place at this age. The toddler teachers thrive on the toddlers' sense of curiosity and thoroughly enjoy giving them new experiences to partake in. Daily group activities foster a sense of community and group identity.

The Toddlers partake in three special enrichment activities each week: Dancercise, Chapel, and Growing with Music. Dancercise is on Tuesdays during the school year with Miss Tessa.

Dancercise Kids is a **positive, non-competitive, comprehensive program of fitness, dance, movement and education** for pre-school kids and beyond! (www.dancercisekids.com)

Chapel with Pastor Jason is on Wednesdays. Pastor leads us in kid-friendly worship and Bible lessons, with the goal of promoting a healthy spiritual life.

Our Growing with Music teacher is Michelle and she is here on Thursdays. Growing with Music's primary objective is to "encourage and develop the young child's natural creativity and interest in music, while respecting their individual needs." Their goal "is to develop the child's socialization, communication, motor, and academic skills through the use of age appropriate vocalization, movement, and instrumental activities".

Parent-Teacher Communication

Each morning the parent is responsible for filling out their child's daily note and signing their child in. The sign in sheet is located outside of the Toddler Room on the Parent Communication Center, along with the daily notes and each child's "mailbox". We ask that the parent fill out the top portion of the daily note and place it in their child's mailbox. Throughout the day, Toddler staff will fill out the lower portion to let you know how your child's day was. Please remember to take them home at the end of the day to learn about your child's day at school. We want to maintain open communication at all times with the parents of our enrolled children. We encourage you to give us feedback on our program and planned activities. At all times we hope you will feel free to speak with any of us about a concern or complaint. Please speak to the teachers directly in order to settle a situation or grievance. If you cannot find resolution at this point, please speak to the Director. We wish to serve you in the best way possible. Your input and needs are important to us as we try to provide the best possible care of your child. If at any time you wish to visit the Center to see your child, please feel that you are always welcome. Please feel free to call or email at any time to speak with the Director or your child's teacher. We will make every effort to notify you via phone, email, or written communication whenever a situation arises that we feel you should be aware of.

Mealtimes

Breakfast is served around 9:00 A.M. and is provided by HNCCCC. Breakfast consists of a cereal or grain, hormone-free whole or 1% milk, and fresh or canned fruit. Lunch is served around 12:00 P.M. and is provided by our catering company, Catering with Care. According to nutritional guidelines, the children's lunch must have the following: protein (meat/meat alternate), a grain, a fruit, a vegetable, and milk.

Snack is served around 3:15 P.M. and is provided by HNCCCC. It includes milk and a nutritional snack that varies daily.

According to MN DHS, at least one whole grain item must be served every day. Those items are denoted as "WG/R" on the menu. Menus are sent out in advance of the month, along with the monthly newsletter.

HNCCCC is a peanut and tree nut free center, including items that are processed on equipment that processes nuts.

If you have any concerns about mealtimes or if your child has a food allergy, please let us know.

Naptime

Toddlers take only one nap a day, scheduled from around 12:45 P.M. to 3:00 P.M. The toddlers sleep in the toddler room on cots, with quiet music playing and faint light illuminating the room. The Toddler Teachers will pat or rub the children's backs until they fall asleep. We ask that parents provide a blanket for their child and/or stuffed animal that will help their child rest easier. Most of the toddlers will sleep the full length of the naptime, however, some do wake earlier. In that case, we will attempt to put them back to sleep, but if they do not fall back to sleep, quiet table activities or Muscle Room time will be provided for the children.

The transition from sleeping in a crib to sleeping on a cot can be difficult at first, but be assured your child will get the hang of it within a few weeks and every effort will be made to make them as comfortable as possible. They are generally so tired during their first weeks as a toddler that they fall asleep earlier than most!

Toilet Training

Toilet training is part of the toddler program. The toddler teachers will be a tremendous help to you while going through potty training. Talk to them about the signs of readiness and also ask for suggestions that will help you train your child. Teachers will watch for the "window of opportunity" in readiness and will suggest training when signs are given. At this time, you will have a discussion with the toddler teachers about beginning the potty training process. The process will be a success only if it is a joint effort. Continued contact between parents and staff is essential. The Center staff feel strongly that children who are toilet training should wear underwear or panties. Once the potty-training process is going smoothly and the child has grasped the idea of toileting, children must be brought to the Center in underwear or the staff will not help train them. Parents are asked to send three or more complete changes of clothing for the child in case of accidents, including at least one pair of extra shoes. We will not hold a child back from moving up to the Preschool Room if they are not potty trained, but we do expect that a reasonable attempt has been made at home. Some children are physically not ready to be trained before three. We will work with you every step of the way to help not only the child, but the parent as well. Until a Preschool child is fully potty-trained (including during naptime), the family will continue to pay the Toddler tuition rate. Diapers and diaper ointment are provided by the parents. We provide a supply of wipes.

Cubbies

Your Toddler will have two labeled cubbies: one in the Toddler Room and one in the Muscle Room. Items needed in the classroom (blankets, extra clothes, etc.) are to be stored in their classroom cubby. Items needed for outdoor play (snowpants, jackets, boots, mittens, hats, etc.) are to be kept in the Muscle Room cubby. We ask that ALL of your child's items be labeled with your child's first and last names to prevent items from being lost here at HNCCCC. We ask that parents clean out their child's cubbies as necessary to prevent an overflow of unnecessary items. Also, please be sure to keep the cubby stocked with extra clothes that are of the appropriate size and season. Toddlers will get very messy with food, art and outdoor play, so there needs to be adequate extra clothing.

We like to display your child's artwork in the classroom, so your child's mailbox will store your child's artwork after it has been prominently displayed in the Toddler Room and they are ready to take home. These can be found outside the Toddler Room in the Parent Communication Center.

Holy Nativity Christian
Child Care Center

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A Christian Learning Center

Check us out!

www.hncccc.org

Mission Statement

This Center is the ministry of the church, a way of meeting the needs of children and their families, including sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Through the Center, the church commits itself to the social, physical, emotional, spiritual, and intellectual well-being of children. All the work of the Center is rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, whose name is proclaimed with love. The Center commits itself to an inclusive ministry serving people regardless of their race, language, ethnicity, gender, social, or economic background. The Center commits itself to fair and equitable employment practices, including non-discriminatory hiring, just compensation, and affirmative action. The Center commits itself to strive toward the highest standards of excellence in this ministry.

"Let the little children come to me...."

MATTHEW 19:14

What Do I Need To Bring?

- At least THREE complete changes of season and size appropriate clothing (pants, shirts, socks, underwear, one pair shoes)
- A blanket and/or stuffed animal for naptime
- Diapers and ointment (we provide wipes)
- Winter gear, as seasonally appropriate (snowpants, winter jacket, boots, mittens, hat, etc.)
- Sunscreen and sun hat from May to September
- Family picture for our board
- Reusable bag for dirty clothes (recommended: Alva Baby or Bumkins)
- Reusable water bottle

Program Objectives

- To provide a warm, nurturing environment that encourages the development of the whole child
- To provide an environment that is based on successful experiences, which encourage all children to develop a healthy self-concept and positive self-esteem
- To offer an environment that encourages children to develop their capabilities and interests at their own pace and according to their individual needs
- To offer a program that recognizes the uniqueness of each and every child and provides positive encouragement for the child's continued growth
- To create an environment that provides the child with the opportunity to learn by doing and moving from hands-on experiences to more abstract concept development
- To provide opportunities for a lifetime of creative living and learning