

# Your Infant/Waddler's Experience at Noah's Ark



## Classroom and Staffing

All classroom staff will develop warm, nurturing relationships with each child. Although your child will interact with all classroom staff to ensure that your child bonds and trusts each staff member, your child will have a Primary Caregiver. Your child's Primary Caregiver may either be the Head Teacher or Assistant Teacher. Your child's Primary Caregiver will ensure that all of your child's individual needs are being met, as well as assisting your child continue to progress along the developmental continuum.

Your child's classroom is comprised of infants—3 months old to Waddlers—2 years old. The classroom is set up for infant and toddler play, as well as a quiet resting area for sleeping infants. When you enter the classroom, you will notice how the space is arranged. We want our environment to be welcoming, comfortable, and as interesting as possible! Our space for young infants has comfortable places where we can sit with them, hold them, soft areas for the infants to lie on and crawl over, and places where they can safely watch the older children in action. Because we know infants are learning all the time we provide them with age appropriate materials for them to watch and to explore!

Our mobile infants are eager to pull up on anything available and begin to climb around, so we ensure that all of our furniture is sturdy. Because they are interested in things that remind them of home, please send in a family photo that we can display on our walls at their eye level!

Our waddlers, as you know, are constantly on the move. Therefore, we've arranged the space so they can explore freely and safely. You will see lots of toys and materials that will stimulate their social, physical, cognitive, and language development!

No matter what age your child is, your child will feel most comfortable in an environment that feels familiar. We ask families to help us build a connection between home and the classroom. Here are some suggestions to consider:

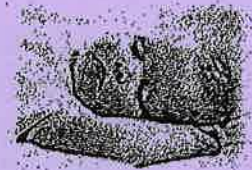
# Infant/Waddler Curriculum

We understand how critical the first years of your child's life are for brain and language development. We are here to provide your child with a loving, nurturing environment in which they can safely explore and investigate their environment.

Noah's Ark follows the Creative Curriculum. Everything we do throughout each day is part of our curriculum—from the minute you enter the classroom to diapering, meal times, singing, physical movement and play, free play, and more! Every experience is a learning opportunity.

In addition to the individual daily routine moments, Noah's Ark Staff plan for more organized activities that will support your child's development. Some of the organized activities may include (but are not limited to the following):

- Physical Development will include both fine and large motor activities such as reaching, grasping, crawling, standing, walking, climbing, throwing, etc.
- Language Development where the children will explore music, songs, sounds, reading, puppet play, and other creative art and movement activities.
- Cognitive Development where the children will be introduced to spatial relations, object permanence, collecting, sorting, and cause/effect. This also includes sensory exploration where the children will be exposed to different textures, colors, patterns, shapes, scents, tastes, and sounds.
- Social Development will be encouraged as staff develops supportive, loving relationships with each child. Staff will lead small group activities that may include 2-4 children and encourage their positive interactions with one another.

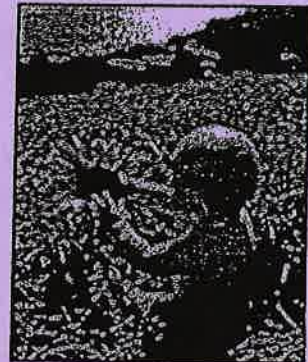


## Your Child's Physical Needs

Your infant will nap according to their own schedules. Infants will be placed on their backs to sleep in a crib in accordance with DYFS guidelines. Our cribs each have a firm, tight fitting mattress to meet current safety standards. To ensure your child's safety, we will not use pillows, quilts, bumpers, comforters or stuffed toys. We will place the crib sheet and crib blankets/receiving blankets on your child that you provide. The crib sheets will be sent home each Friday or more

As your child is transitioned into our preschool program, bottles and food from home will not be permitted as we will be providing your child with all meals. Our preschool meal program correlates with the New Jersey Department of Agriculture Guidelines.

Noah's Ark does participate in the NJ Department of Agriculture Child and Adult Food Program. We do not provide formula, breast milk, or solid food for infants. However, we do need you to complete the Infant Meal Notification Letter that gives you information about the CACFP, as well as provides you with the minimum food requirements and components needed for infant meal patterns. Once we have your physician's decision in writing to introduce your child to table food and cow's milk we will begin providing your child with his/her meals that correlate with the toddler-adult state food program. At this time, no food from home will be permitted. The only exception to this policy is if your child has food allergies or follows a restricted diet (IE: Kosher diet/Vegan). If your child has food allergies or follows a restricted diet, you will be permitted to continue providing your child with all meals, snacks, and drinks. We do then require you to complete a form stating why you are not participating in our food program.



## Outdoor Time/Play

Your child will be going outside daily throughout the year. Please ensure that you provide your child with appropriate outdoor wear for each season. (Hat's should be provided both in winter and summer) You may wish to keep a hat and light jacket with your child's belongings at all times in case it is chilly outside. If you wish to have sunscreen applied to your child, you must provide a sunscreen permission slip. Infants under 6 months old must have a permission slip and doctor's note for sunscreen.

We do have a buggy (multi-child stroller) that we will be placing your young infant/waddler in. While in the buggy your child will explore the area surrounding our school and neighborhood. Please ensure that you have signed your child's walk permission slip so they can participate in this educational learning experience.