

WELCOME TO THE INFANT ROOM

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome your family to the infant room at Stepping Stones Children's Center. Since many of us are parents as well as early childhood professionals, we understand how difficult it can be to choose the right program for your infant. We truly appreciate the opportunity to demonstrate that your choice will provide a lasting benefit for your child and your family. In order to familiarize you with the program, the following is an overview of the room.

STAFFING

This room is licensed to accommodate 8 children and maintains a staff of 2 teachers at any time there are more than 4 infants present.

HEALTH & SAFETY

The infant room is equipped with a changing table that has a built-in sink to ensure that proper diaper changing practices are made easy for those caring for the infants. All equipment and toys were thoughtfully chosen with the safety and developmental needs of the infants in mind. Parents should also be aware that the center participates as a group in infant/child CPR on a yearly basis and first aid bi-annually.

A daily record of each infant's feedings, behaviors & bodily functions is kept so that parents will have a clear understanding of what their child's day has been like. Any time that an infant displays a definite change of behavior lasting for more than just a brief period of time, the parent will be notified. If at any time during the day you would like to call and check on your baby, please feel free to do so. We strongly feel that nurturing strong links of communication between family and center is of utmost importance to ensure quality care for our smallest charges.

PERSONAL ITEMS / FOOD

Each child is provided with a cubby in which diapers, wipes, and a change of clothes is stored. It is the parent's responsibility to make sure that all of these

extremely important items are on hand every day. All items of clothing should be labeled with a laundry marker – this makes everyone’s life a little simpler. Each child also has his/her own cabinet space where food items and bottles that have been brought from home are stored. Once your child is starting any new food, including the change from formula to milk, please inform the teachers so that we can carry through with the introduction of the same foods while in our care.

NURSING MOTHERS

If you choose to nurse your baby after returning to the workplace, the center will do whatever it can to provide a quiet comfortable place to share time with your infant. A rocking chair is provided on the napping side of the room for this purpose. We are also happy to refrigerate expressed milk to offer to your infant while you are at work.

EVEN THE YOUNGEST BABIES ENJOY GOING OUTSIDE

For the infant each day is filled with new discoveries about the world they live in, and outside play should be an important part of their day. While both Mattoon & Charleston have separate play yards for their infants and toddlers, the Mattoon center also takes the infants out for stroller rides and has a sheltered screened-in porch to utilize when weather may be less than perfect. Please make sure that your child has the appropriate outside clothing so that he/she will be able to enjoy this part of the program.

YOUR BABY’S DEVELOPMENT

More and more studies show that what a child is exposed to during the first three years of life dramatically influences development throughout childhood. At Stepping Stones we make every effort to provide a loving and nurturing environment for your baby, as well as the stimulation and experiences that are a mainstay of healthy development.