

JUMP Preschool Inc. Infants and Toddlers

Infants and Toddlers Parent Handbook

Diapers and Potty Learning:

Parents are responsible for providing diapers and wipes for their child. You may choose to bring a week supply or per day. Your child will have their own cubby where their personal belongings will be kept. Your child's teacher will communicate with you when your child's supplies are running low.

In the toddler class between the ages of 2 years and 2.5 years potty learning is encouraged. Once our child has shown an interest at school your child's teacher will communicate their success with you. If your child has shown interest at home we ask that you also share this with the teacher. Once it is agreed on by both the teacher and you as the parent that your child is ready for potty learning a consistent schedule will begin. We prefer that Pull Ups are avoided and instead training pants be worn. Over the years we have come to the understanding that the vast majority of children do not differentiate enough between diapers and Pull Ups. But if you choose to have your child use Pull Ups let your child's teacher know and we will honor your choice. The toddler /2's class has small potty chairs for potty learners.

No shoes in the infant Class:

Infants are often on the floor for much of the day as they explore the classroom. For this reason it is our policy that no shoes are worn in the infant classroom. Please remove your shoes before entering the infant classroom.

Meals:

All foods for our infants and toddlers are provided by parents. We find this is helpful and works best as you as the parents are introducing new foods as well as have an understanding of what foods your child prefers. Meal times are an important part of the day for children. They are a social time when many social skills are practiced. Special peer and teacher interactions happen when children are eating around a family style meal. We ask that only nutritional foods be provided for your child.

Teachers will assist with hand washing before all meals. Teachers will set up each child's lunch, opening anything that needs opening, etc. and feeding toddlers as needed. For the most part toddlers prefer to eat on their own, so we ask that as much as possible the foods that are sent are those that your toddler can eat on her/his own. Finger foods or foods cut small are best. Toddlers have a specific snack and lunch time each day.

Infants will be fed as needed throughout the day. Each infant has her own schedule for meals and naps to meet her/his own needs. Parents are required to label all bottles and foods brought to the center each and every day with your child's name and the date.

Bottles:

Bottles must also be labeled with the date and child's name.

Please prepare the first bottle of the day ready when you drop off each morning.

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Babies are held for bottle feedings until they are old enough to hold the bottle on their own and sit up at the table.

Bottles are warmed in a crock pot as needed through out the day.

Prepared bottles will be emptied if not consumed after 3 hours.

Teachers will wash bottles out only if time permits, never taking time away from interacting with the babies.

Most often bottles will be sent home to be washed.

Breast Milk:

If mothers wish to nurse in the classroom they are welcome to do so.

Bottles of breast milk must be clearly labeled with your infants name and the date.

Breast milk bottles will be stored for up to 24 hours. If you bring frozen milk it will be stored up to 1 month.

Unused or unclaimed will be discarded after these time frames.

Breast milk remaining in the bottle after 2 hours will be discarded.

Nap Time:

Infants are on their own nap schedule.

All infants are laid down to sleep on their backs. A doctor 's notice must be provided if any other sleeping method is requested.

Nothing is permitted inside of the crib; bedding, stuffed animals, bumper pads, other.

Walking babies sleep on nap mats.

Babies will have their own crib. Never two infants in the same crib at the same time.

Sheets are changed for each infant.

All children are supervised will napping.

Toddlers have a whole class nap time which is the same each day. (see class schedule). Each toddler has her/his own nap mat that we provide. Nap bedding is provided by the parents. Please make sure it fits inside of your child's cubby.

Bitting Toddlers and Twos

As much as care givers and parents wish it weren't true some young children typically ages 18 months -2.5 years old bite other children. It can happen on play dates, between siblings and in a group setting such as preschool or childcare.

When it happens it can be a frustrating time for the biters parents, care givers and for the child who was bit. It can be a stressful time as well. As adults it is our responsibility to understand that a child between these ages does not mean that there is reason to be concerned about ongoing aggressive behaviors. The vast majority of toddlers and 2's who bit will stop just as suddenly as they began. We must also never fail to remember that

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the child who has bit is a not “bad” child. It also doesn’t mean that the parents have not do their job correctly or that the caregivers are not adequately caring for the children in their care.

Biting is a sign of the developmental stage that they are in and all bitters *will* stop biting.

Why toddlers and 2’s bite, not all children bite for the same reasons, but these are some of common reasons:

1. Teething. Some babies just like the feeling of biting on their teeth, not understanding the pain the other child feels. Cognitively the understanding of cause and effect of their own body hasn’t developed yet, much less the ability to understand that their action is hurting another child.
2. Over active stage of OD. Oral development is a stage that every human goes through in early childhood.
3. Frustration with sharing. It is typically not the desire to hurt another child, but rather simply to have what they have.
4. For the reaction it has. Most of what toddlers and 2’s do is to find out what their environment does based on their interaction of it.
5. Extreme emotions. Young children have not developed the ability to understand and control their emotions (this is why they can often seem extreme in their reactions to things)

The teachers jobs in a biting situation; safety is always the first priority of an early childhood program, it is the top of our list of what we do each day. First and foremost the teacher will care for the child who has been bit. Once the child is feeling better she will speak to the child who bit and reinforcing the use of words for needs. Showing kindness and care to the child who was bit, demonstrating empathy and understanding on a level that the child can understand.

Teachers will examine the situation that was occurring at the time the child bit in order to take steps to prevent further similar situations.

If a child’s biting is more frequent than 1 time per week and for more than 2 month period the school will call a parent teacher meeting with the director to discuss options such as shadowing for a period of time, or moving the child to a different class. If after a period of time that has been agreed upon did not result in the child stopping the biting behavior the child may need to be dis-enrolled temporarily or permanently.

Communication for both the parents of the child who was bit and who has bit is a requirement of the teachers. Just as with any “Ochie Report” if you were not given an Ochie Report at pick up time explaining the injury please kindly let the office now. We strive to at all times communicated properly with parents.