Welcome to our Infant Program

We have two Infant Rooms (Barnyard: infants aged 6 weeks to approximately 10 or 12 month; and Aquarium: infants aged 10 or 12 months to approximately 16 to 18 months) in our center. You will find experienced, nurturing caregivers who want nothing more than to make your and your baby’s daycare experience a comfortable one. When you arrive to drop off your child for the day, you will be asked to fill out the top of a daily sheet with the last time your child ate, was changed, their demeanor, if had medication today, etc. Throughout the day, the caregivers will write down everything they do for your child on this daily sheet, for you to take home at the end of the day. This will help maintain good communication between you, the caregivers, and your child. We are dedicated to creating a flexible schedule for your baby that caters to their individual needs. Our activities focus on creating relationships with other children and caregivers as they have their first experiences away from home.

When your infant starts at the center, you will need to fill out a “Welcome Little One” form. On this form, you will fill out the necessary information to introduce your baby to their new caregivers. You will let them know everything from brand of formula or breastfeeding to usual sleeping patterns and comfort items (blanket, pacifier, etc.).

Community Early Childhood Center follows “best practice” in the decisions that we make on setting policies. The Department of Human Services, the Department of Public Health, and the Child and Adult Care Food Program set regulations and recommendations for us to follow in order to offer the high-quality child care that we do.

We offer Enfamil formula to any families that want to use it. You will need to let the caregivers know if you will be bringing in breast milk (nursing), using the center’s formula, or bringing your own formula. Four bottles need to be brought and left at the center, so that the staff can sterilize them nightly and have them ready to prepare for the next day. Room temperature Nursery Water is used to prepare bottles. If needed, bottles/breastmilk will be warmed under running hot water or put in bowl of microwaved water. Bottles can be used up to an hour after they have been prepared, but must be dumped if not finished within that hour.

If your child requires a special formula because of medical reasons, we need to have the “Allergy/Food Exception Statement” form filled out by a doctor and returned into the center.

Breastfed babies are welcomed and encouraged at the center. Breastfeeding moms are welcome to come to the center to feed their babies or bring in the breast milk daily. All breast milk must be labeled with the first and last name of the child, as well as the date the milk was expressed. Breast milk that has just been expressed will be discarded after 48 hours in the refrigerator or after 3 months when frozen. Frozen breast milk will be thawed under running water or in the refrigerator. Once frozen breast milk is thawed, it must be discarded after 24 hours.

Infants will be held when they are fed and will not be left with propped-up bottles. They also will not be placed in their cribs with a bottle. Juice will not be offered to them until the child turns one year of age, and then they will only be offered 100% apple juice until they reach the Ocean room.

In each Infant Room there is an “Information Board” listing each child and some basic information for them. It will include: formula brand or breast milk, usual number of ounces per bottle, time between bottle, what (if any) foods they are eating. Usually babies should be fed every 2-4 hours when hungry or “on demand”. Once your child turns one year of age, we will need to switch them from formula to whole milk (unless otherwise approved by a doctor).

When your child is ready to start cereal, fruits, vegetables and other foods, we ask that you inform the caregiver. At this time, a sheet will be added to your child’s clipboard in order for you, along with the caregiver, to keep track of the foods they have tried. We offer each food for 5 days in a row to watch for any allergies or reactions. Solid foods offered at 6 months of age, should be introduced only if the infant is developmentally ready. If you feel your child is ready for solid foods before 6 months of age, you can bring in your own food for your baby. Once they are ready to eat table food, menus are available in advance for you to look over, and determine what they can try.

At CECC we follow “Safe Sleep” practices, infants 6 weeks to 18 months are placed on their backs to sleep. Children are never propped up in their crib. Blankets are not allowed to be placed in cribs of children under the age of one year. Sleep sacks are available here at the center and allowed as long as the child’s arms are free. Infants are not to be left sleeping in their car seats, swings, bouncy seats, etc. for more than 10 minutes. Children must be moved from activity to activity throughout the day, including tummy time. They will not be in the same infant “equipment” for more than 30 minutes at a time.

Caregivers wash their hands multiple times throughout the day. Examples of this would be every time they enter the classroom, after every diaper, before feeding a baby or medications, etc. You will be asked to wash your child’s hands as they arrive at the center. Your child’s teachers will wash their hands after every diaper change. Children’s hands must be washed with soap and water for 20 seconds, and the water must be turned off with the paper towel (see hand washing procedures posted at every sink). If there is only one sink available in a classroom, for food preparation and diapering, the sink must be washed and disinfected after every diaper changing use. When staff is changing diapers they are encouraged to wear gloves and still required to wash their hands. The use of baby powder is not recommended, because of the respiratory problems that can be caused if ingested. If you choose to have baby powder applied to your child, then a caregiver needs to apply it very sensitively and with the least amount of it in the “air” as possible. Also, no aerosol sprays (air fresheners) are to be used in the classrooms when children are present.

As you can tell there are many specific regulations and guidelines that we are expected to follow in the infant rooms. Community Early Childhood Center wants to make sure that you are comfortable with the policies we have to follow when caring for your children. Some of the policies we have may be altered because of doctor’s medical opinion or parent opinion, but some of them may not be. Feel free to come discuss any of them with a Director. Thank you!

 