

Young Children's Community - Dandelion Room

Welcome to the 2025/2026 School Year!

Car line/Drop off

Morning carline begins at 8:20 and ends at 8:40. If you miss morning carline, please bring your child to the front desk so they can call the classroom. One of the adults from our room will come meet you. This protects the cycle of activity in the classroom and keeps disruptions to a minimum. All children need to be dropped off before 10:00am (with the exception of pre-arranged appointments) in order to give them the opportunity to have a work cycle before lunch and nap. We appreciate your understanding of this protocol.

Mid-day carline runs from 12:20-12:30.

Afternoon carline begins at 3:20 and ends at 3:40. Children will have had a snack and will have used the toilet or had a diaper change before coming out to meet you.

Snack/Lunch

Healthy snacks are provided such as fruits, vegetables, grains and sometimes proteins, like yogurt or cheese. Snacks are served around 9:15am and 2:50pm, after the children wake up from nap. We eat family style, sitting together with a formal table setting. Children are free to skip snack if they prefer or are not hungry. Snacks are designed to give the children the opportunity to explore food preparation and develop self-care, independence, and fine motor skills, while also being nutritious and exposing them to new textures and flavors when possible.

The process of getting ready to eat requires each child to wash their hands, sit down at the set table, and wait until we are ready to begin our meal. Children pour water from the small carafes into their cups. They also practice transferring food from serving bowls with tongs, spoons, and ladles. When the children are done eating, they clear their spot at the table, placing leftover food in the compost bucket and dirty dishes on the dish cart. The children are not allowed to walk around the room with food. They are always redirected to eat at the table.

Lunch begins around 11:30. Whole milk is served at lunchtime. Water is offered at each snack and lunch. If you're curious about the current lunch menu, you can find it [here](#) under Quick Links.

For children staying in Friends' Club, a late afternoon snack is provided around 4:40.

Birthday Celebrations

To honor your child's birthday, they will be invited to bake something special which we will enjoy together after lunch. Before our meal, we gather around a tea light, sing "Happy Birthday", and look at the baby pictures of the child whose birthday we are celebrating, reflecting on how much they have changed and grown. I will reach out about a week before to request a newborn photo and a photo from their first birthday.

Illness/Medication

Please familiarize yourself with the school's [Illness Policy](#). We promise to do our best to follow safety protocols to ensure the health and safety within our community. Both adults and children wash hands frequently throughout the day and the classroom is cleaned daily.

Still, we know that young children often get sick. Should your child become ill and is cleared by a physician to return to school, we can administer medications. Medications, even over-the-counter, can be administered at school if a medication permission form is filled out by both you and your child's physician.

Your diligence in following these guidelines is greatly appreciated as it will help us to keep the community, as a whole, healthy throughout the year. Any infections/illnesses should be reported to the main office so that other parents can be made aware and watch for symptoms in their own children (pink eye, strep, etc.).

Non-Parent Pick Up

Children can only be released to authorized adults whom you have listed on your child's Information Card. If a staff member is releasing any child to an adult they have not met, they will check the list of authorized adults in addition to asking for identification. Prior notice of a non-parent pick up is appreciated.

Conferences

Parent-Teacher conferences are held twice a year: in November and March. This is a great opportunity to talk about your child's progress, expectations for the future, and to discuss any questions that you may have. Check out Waypoints in mid-October and mid-March for the link to SignUp Genius.

Contact

If you have any questions or need to contact me, please do not hesitate. I will be at school every day, 8:00 to 4:00. At times, I am not able to take calls in the classroom. Feel free to leave a voicemail, or leave a message with someone at the Front Desk. I also check my email several times each day. My office hours are between 1:00 and 2:45 on Wednesdays and are a great time for prearranged conversations.

Phone: 231-929-9325 ext. #133

Email: emily@traversechildrenshouse.org

Daily Schedule

7:30 - 8:20	Early morning care, toileting, snack prep, early work cycle
8:20 - 8:40	Morning carline, unpack bags, toileting
8:45 - 9:00	Group - includes singing, dancing, movement, and instruments
9:00 - 10:30	Morning Work Cycle - uninterrupted work and exploration including individual presentations, group activities, and toileting
9:00 - 10:00	Snack is offered in small groups throughout the work cycle
10:30 - 11:30	Outdoor time, including time getting dressed/undressed
11:30 - 11:45	Toileting, washing hands
11:45 - 12:15	Family-style lunch
12:20 - 12:30	Mid-day carline
12:15 - 12:55	Gym or more outside time, depending on the weather
12:30 - 2:45	Naptime; time varies depending on the child
2:45 - 3:00	Children wake up from nap, toileting, washing hands
3:00 - 3:20	Afternoon all group snack
3:20 - 3:40	Afternoon carline
3:20 - 5:30	Friends' Club: outdoor and indoor play time, toileting, and snack included

- Children under the age of 18 months are provided meals and naptime upon demand.
- Toileting and diaper changes occur throughout the day, as needed.
- While the daily routine will remain the same day to day, the time of day or length of time devoted to each activity may change, without notice, depending on the unique needs of the children each day.