

Welcome to the 2023/2024 school year in the Nido!

In *The Absorbent Mind*, Dr. Montessori says, “The greatness of the human personality begins at the hour of birth. From this almost mystic affirmation there comes what may seem a strange conclusion: that education must start from birth.” Development is so rapid in the first three years of life, and being able to prepare an environment and guide children during this time is a great privilege that I want to acknowledge. This is the tenth school year that I have had the honor to be a part of here at The Children’s House, and I’m happy to be returning from maternity leave to partner with the Nido families this year.

Car line/Drop off

Morning car line begins at 8:20 and ends at 8:40. If you miss car line, please bring your child to the front desk so they can call our classroom. One of the adults from the Nido will meet you at the front desk. This protects the cycle of activity in the classroom and keeps disruptions for all the children to a minimum. Thank you for your help with this.

Mid-day carline starts at 12:20 and ends at 12:30.

Afternoon pick-up begins at 3:20 and ends at 3:40.

Children can only be released to adults that are listed on your child’s information card; this card is created by you on The Children’s House Online Parent Portal. If a staff member is releasing any child to an adult they have not met, they will check this information and also ask for identification. Prior notice of a non-parent pick up is appreciated. If your family has children at other levels of Friends’ Club, we ask that you pick up children from the youngest to oldest.

Sleeping

Young infants nap on demand and will likely begin to transition to one afternoon nap sometime around or after their first birthday. Infants under one year will be placed in a crib to sleep. After the first year they will be offered a floor bed for sleeping.

Bottles/Food

During the course of your child’s time in the Nido their nutritional needs will change. There are very specific guidelines about how bottles need to be labeled. Per licensing guidelines, prepared bottles of milk and formula must come labeled with the child’s first and last name, date, and time of preparation; breast milk may be kept in the freezer for no more than 2 weeks.

As your child begins trying solid foods, they will be invited to join us at the table. As all families have different approaches to beginning solids, I will schedule a conference with you around the time we begin this transition.

School-provided snacks include fruits, vegetables, grains, and proteins such as yogurt, hummus, or cheese. The snack is served between 9:00 and 9:15 during the morning and around 3:00 in the afternoon. We eat family style, sitting together. Every child will be offered either an open cup or a straw cup to drink from when they begin to sit at the table for meals. The children are not allowed to move around the room with the food.

Illness/Medication

Please familiarize yourself with the school's illness policies. Your diligence in following these guidelines is greatly appreciated as it will help us to keep the whole community healthy throughout the year. Illnesses should be reported to Kim Gallagher via email (please cc me) so that other parents can be made aware and watch for symptoms in their own children.

Medications—even over the counter ones— can only be given at school if the medication form is filled out. Please contact Kim about medication forms, as doctors notes are frequently required even for over-the-counter medications for children under age two.

Conferences

Parent-Teacher conferences are scheduled prior to your child starting solid foods and then again sometime in the first months after your child's first birthday to discuss the transition to the Young Childrens' Community.

Observation

Parents are strongly encouraged to observe their children in the classroom as often as possible. Your child's educational experience will be greatly enhanced by your participation and collaboration with the school and staff. Guided observation forms are available; please email me in advance and I will have one set up in the observation room for you.

Supplies for School

- A tote or backpack for carrying supplies to and from school
- Diapers
- Three changes of extra, easy on and off play clothing
- Reusable wet bags for sending wet clothing home
- Flexible, rubber soled indoor shoes for children who are cruising and walking
- Weather appropriate outdoor clothing, including a rain suit
 - Winter gear should include a snowsuit, mittens, a hat, and snow boots if your child will be walking/ pulling to stand

Communication

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I will be at school every day, 8:00 to 4:00. I am not able to take calls while I am working with your child, but you can leave a message with the front desk or send me an email. If we need to have a longer conversation, I am happy to schedule a time for us to talk during the week.

E-mail: jeanette@traversechildrenshouse.org