

Welcome to the Giraffe Room!

A cozy beginning for our youngest explorers

The Giraffe Room is thoughtfully designed to be a warm, nurturing, and loving environment where our youngest children can begin to discover the world around them. Here, your child will be surrounded by soft colors, gentle textures, and a peaceful atmosphere that fosters comfort, curiosity, and connection.

In this space, we embrace each moment of discovery. Through stories, songs, movement, and laughter, your child will experience daily interactions that build trust and joy. Our caring educators are deeply attuned to each infant's unique needs and rhythms, ensuring that every child feels secure and each family feels supported.

The Giraffe Room is equipped with a variety of age-appropriate learning materials that encourage exploration and support the development of essential skills. From balls and blocks to musical instruments, sensory bottles, shape sorters, and board books, each item is carefully chosen to inspire curiosity and promote hands-on learning. Every day is filled with opportunities to grow.

In the Giraffe Room, we focus on nurturing:



Cognitive Development

Encouraging early brain growth through sensory play, exploration, and simple cause-and-effect activities.



Social & Emotional Growth

Building strong, trusting relationships through responsive care, consistent routines, and nurturing interactions.



Creative Expression

Introducing colors, textures, sounds, and movement to stimulate curiosity and early creativity.



Fine & Gross Motor Skills

Supporting development through tummy time, reaching, grasping, rolling, and early mobility experiences.



Early Problem-Solving Abilities

Nurturing emerging thinking skills with age-appropriate toys, exploration, and opportunities for discovery.



A Safe & Loving Environment

Providing a calm, engaging space where infants feel secure, supported, and free to grow at their own pace.

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What to Bring for Your Baby

Schedule:

Please provide a written or typed schedule of your child's typical daily routine. Include important details such as: feeding times and amounts, nap schedule, tummy time or play routines, and any other notes that help us support your child's unique needs. We know that infant schedules change rapidly, so please be sure to update and share their schedule as it changes!

Baby Essentials:

Diapers, Wipes, and Diaper Cream

We recommend sending a sleeve of diapers, 1-2 packs of wipes, and a tube of cream (if used) to keep in your child's supply bins at school. Your child's teachers will send home notes when they begin to run low, so there is ample time to bring more in before they run out.

Seasonally Appropriate Extra Clothes:

Include 2-3 full changes of clothing to keep in your child's cubby, including socks. Be sure to check them and switch them out often as your baby outgrows clothing quickly in the first year!

Nap Time:

Crib Sized Fitted Sheet and Sleep Sack/Wearable Blanket (if desired)

Sheets and sleep sacks (if your baby uses a sleep sack) should be brought in each Monday and will be sent home on Fridays for laundering. Per state regulations, blankets, swaddles, and stuffed animals are not permitted in cribs. We recommend sending in an extra sheet that can be kept in your child's cubby, as well, so your child has a fresh, clean sheet in the event they have blowout while sleeping or spit up in their crib, etc.

Sunscreen and Hat:

Sunscreen is typically recommended by pediatricians for children over 6 months old. Sunscreen must be pump or stick only - *no aerosol or continuous spray sunscreen is allowed*. You may also send a hat to keep in your child's cubby for outside time.

Shoes:

Once your child is nearing one year old, please start sending them in shoes so they can begin to get used to wearing shoes at school. We will ask for them when they begin to transition to the one-year-old room, at the latest.

Bottles:

Bottles must be pre-made and labeled with your child's name. We cannot prepare powdered formula. All bottles will be stored in the refrigerator and warmed as needed for feedings. If a baby begins feeding from a bottle but does not finish it, any remaining milk or formula will be discarded an hour after it is warmed and first offered to baby. Please send enough prepared bottles to last the entire day. We cannot wash and reuse bottles at school throughout the day. We encourage parents to send in an extra empty bottle, ready-made formula (liquid), or frozen breast milk that we can keep on hand in case of emergencies. Glass bottles must have silicone sleeves for safety.

Feeding Supplies:

Bibs, Utensils, Food, Lunchbox

We are happy to work on solids and finger foods with your child when they are ready. Food should be sent in labeled containers. Please send any necessary utensils and a bib with your child's food each day. It is a good idea to get in the habit of using a lunchbox for your child's food, utensils, and bib each day. It is easier to make sure everything comes to school and goes home each day when it is all in one place.

Backpack or Diaper Bag:

Please send a backpack or diaper bag that can hold all of your child's belongings neatly inside. While it is nice to have the many pockets in a diaper bag, things can be difficult to find or unintentionally hidden and it is usually easier to have a simple backpack. Please begin sending a lunchbox, as well, for all feeding supplies once your child begins eating solids and finger foods.

Car Seats:

Infant carrier car seats can be left at school for the day, if desired. If you drop your child off in their car seat, we will put the seat on a labeled shelf right outside of the Giraffe Room for you to retrieve at pick up time. Once your child moves to the one-year-old room, we ask that carriers stay in the car.

Important Reminder

Always label every item (including clothing, bottles, bottle lids, food containers, utensils, etc.) with your child's full name to help us avoid any mix-ups. Many children have the same or similar items!

Thank you for helping us create a safe, consistent, and loving environment for your child. If you have any questions about what to bring or how to label items, don't hesitate to reach out!

Parents must provide a schedule for their child's day when they are in the Giraffe Room. A sample daily schedule is below:

Baby's Name Schedule
Birthday: 1/23/45

7:30-9:00 Welcome & Play

9:00 Diaper

9:00 Bottle & Breakfast

9:30 Nap

11:00 Diaper

11:05 Circle time & Activities (tummy time, sensory exploration, crafts etc.)

11:30 Lunch

12:00 Bottle

12:15 Learning & Play (tummy time, sensory exploration, etc.)

1:00 Diapers

1:30 Nap

2:45 Learning & Play Activities

3:00 Diapers

3:15 Bottles & Snack

3:30-6:00 Activity & Exploration Time

We will base your child's day on the schedule that you provide. We understand that there are always those "off" days where the routine may be slightly different, as well. Please remember to update your child's schedule as often as it changes.

You will receive a daily paper that denotes your child's feeding times, nap times, and diapers for the day.

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Milestone & Feeding Checklist (0-12 Months)

This list highlights some key developmental milestones that are emphasized in our Infant Room. Developing these skills prepares your little one to join the One-Year-Old Room confidently and safely, when the time comes.

Remember—teachers are your partners in this journey! Please do not hesitate to communicate openly with your child's teachers or directors often: share what you are working on with your child at home and check in with any suggestions, questions, or concerns you may have. This ensures that everyone is on the same page and makes transitions smoother for your child.

Every child develops at their own pace—enjoy every moment. Cheers to all of the wonderful firsts to come!

0-4 Months

Feeding: Focus on breast milk or formula exclusively, typically every 2-4 hours.

Play: Provide lots of tummy time to encourage motor development and start to build strong muscles.

Skills: Reflexive grasping and bringing hands to mouth.

4-6 Months

Feeding: Introduce solid foods as recommended by your pediatrician—start with simple purees (iron-fortified cereals, vegetables, fruits). Always supervise your child during feeding for safety and introduce new foods gradually to watch for allergies! Begin offering a small amount of water in a cup during mealtimes to encourage sipping. Continue breast milk or formula as the main source of nutrition.

Play: Encourage reaching and grasping toys to develop hand-eye coordination.

Skills: Start supported sitting with help. Begins rolling from tummy to back and back to tummy.

6-8 Months

Feeding: Introduce soft finger foods such as small pieces of banana, cooked carrots, avocado, or soft pasta. Encourage self-feeding with fingers to develop

fine motor skills. Offer a sippy cup with water during meals to continue to practice sipping.

Movement: Begin to explore crawling and sitting independently.

Naps: Most babies will transition to two naps during the day around this time.

Communication: Babbling and responding to sounds.

8-10 Months

Feeding: Expand variety of finger foods: soft fruits, small pieces of cheese, well-cooked vegetables, and soft meats. Encourage drinking from a sippy cup regularly.

Movement: Promote sitting, crawling, pulling to stand, and cruising along furniture.

Communication: Support early language skills by naming objects and responding to sounds.

10-12 Months

Feeding: Offer a wide range of finger foods to encourage independence at mealtimes. Transition from bottles to sippy cups if not already started and prepare to phase out bottles at school (bottles are not allowed in the one-year-old room).

Movement: Encourage cruising or walking with support or independently. Begin trying on shoes, which are required for safety in the one-year-old room. (Note: It is okay if your child is not walking yet, but it does help them get used to wearing shoes at school). While little sandals, flats, and crocs are adorable, please stick to closed toe, supportive, non-slip shoes for school.

Naps: As your baby grows, we'll be facilitating a transition from sleeping in a crib to sleeping on a mat during nap time at school. We'll also begin gradually moving toward a single daily nap, aligning with the one-year-old room's schedule for a smooth transition when they move up. This does not necessarily mean they will be sleeping less. Many babies transition from two shorter naps to one longer stretch of sleep at this time.

Communication: Continue to support language development with simple words and two-way communication.

Giraffe Room QR Code for Google Photos

Photos of the children and classroom activities are posted weekly for those that choose to allow photo permission in your child's enrollment paperwork. The photos are uploaded to a private Google Photos album for each classroom.

Scan the QR code below to access and join the Google Photos album for the Giraffe Room.

