

Infants and Young Toddlers and Seedlings Academy FAQ

Q: What is the difference between the Infant and toddler rooms?

A: There are several differences between the infant age and toddler age. Infants are cared for on a responsive schedule. This allows teachers to care for children based on the child's need and the parent's preferences. Around the time a child is 10 months old, teachers will begin to introduce the toddler schedule to the infant. This allows more than 2 months for the infant and their parents to adjust to the schedule that all toddlers follow. Toddler children follow a slightly more rigid schedule, which allows for snacks, most diapers, lunch, and naps to happen at designated times throughout the day.

Q: What is the toddler schedule?

A: The Toddler schedule is a flexible schedule that allows for play and exploration with only some scheduled tasks. Typically, the scheduled items are as follows: morning snack at 8:30; lunch at 11:30; nap after lunch until about 2:30, and afternoon snack at 3:00. All other times are flexible to include the items of: circle time, reading, singing, art, sensory experiences, free play, and outdoor time.

Q: When do you switch to the toddler schedule?

A: We begin introducing the toddler schedule to infants at 10 months, but do not officially move them to this schedule until after their first birthday.

Q: How much interaction does each child have with a teacher?

A: Interaction is constant in all classrooms at Seedlings. Teachers constantly communicate with the children in their care with eye contact, talking, holding, and interactions. Daily care routines, like feedings, diapers, and putting children to sleep, are used intentionally to give the children plenty of interaction times. Teachers also spend time playing, singing, reading, and interacting on the floor, at the child's eye level, throughout the day. They also take time to move immobile children around the room to maximize the child's ability to interact with the classroom.

Q: Do you administer medications?

A: We only administer life-saving medications (epi-pen, inhaler, etc.) to children in our care.

Q: Do you allow for formula and breastmilk?

A: Yes, we encourage parents to bring whatever they use at home. We have capabilities to provide formula or breastmilk. Formula can be brought to the center already prepared or the teachers can prepare as needed. For breastmilk, you can bring it fresh or frozen and our Crock Pot will heat it to the desired temperature. At the time of enrollment, you will complete an infant schedule that allows you to communicate exactly the times, amounts, and temperatures of your child's bottles. This is based on DHS standard 3270.166.1.

Q: How long do you save breastmilk?

A: Once a bottle has been heated to drinking temperature and a baby has only drunk some of the bottle, it will not be placed back in the refrigerator and will be discarded after 1 hour. This is based on recommendation of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Ways to reduce waste include 1) sending more bottles/freezer bags with fewer ounces per container 2) send one larger container full of milk/formula and several clean empty bottles for teachers to heat up only as much as is needed 3) know how much your child is eating per feeding and send exactly that amount per bottle.

Q: How do you heat a bottle?

A: We heat bottles in a Crock Pot with hot water. The water stays hot all day long for easy bottle warming. There is water for breast milk and for formula. We never heat infant formula or breast milk in a microwave. This is based on DHS standard 3270.166.7.

Q: How old are children before you don't give them bottles anymore?

A: We will continue to give a bottle as long as parents desire, however we encourage children to start using a sippy cup as soon as possible and to be using it as their primary source of drink just after their first birthday. If children do continue to use a bottle after this time, we ask that the child is able and willing to feed themselves with the bottle at the feeding tables and only at snack and lunch times.

Q: Do you wash bottles?

A: Once a bottle has been finished, or is too old to offer again, we rinse the bottles and send them home at the end of the day. We ask that parents to bring clean, name-labeled bottles (full to be placed in the fridge or empty and ready to be prepared by teachers) each day. This allows parents to clean and sanitize bottles in their own methods at home and is based on DHS code 3270.166.3. If bottles do not come labeled with the child's first and last name, the teachers will label all bottle parts with a permanent marker.

Q: Do you feed infants solid food?

A: As infants begin solid foods at home, we encourage parents to bring the same options to be used at Seedlings. By state law, Seedlings cannot offer food not already offered at home, as per DHS code 3270.166. We welcome the opportunity to encourage eating solid foods at meal times to coincide with home meal times. We require that parents communicate with teachers the types, amounts, and times food is to be given. Finger foods, such as puffs or cereals, are also welcome. Seedlings will not provide meals or snacks to children until their first birthday.

Q: Do you serve infants snacks?

A: We strongly encourage families to bring snack items, such as puffs, cheerios, etc that the child has already eaten at home to eat at snack times, or to help supplement meals. Seedlings will not provide snacks or meals to children before their first birthday. When a child turns one, they will have the option to eat the snacks provided by Seedlings. Also once a child turns one, they have the option to eat the meals provided by Seedlings through our caterer, PreK Gourmet.

Q: What is allowed with my infant in the crib?

A: We place children on their backs to sleep in the cribs. The only things that will be in cribs are the baby, a lightweight blanket or sleepsack, and a pacifier, if needed. No pacifier straps, "Wubbanubs," sound machines, stuffed animals, "lovies" with small stuffed animals attached, bibs, etc. This is based on DHS standard 3270.106j.

Q: Do you swaddle?

A: We do not swaddle infants; however we do allow parents to bring sleep sacks or lightweight blankets for children to feel secure during their naps.

Q: When does my infant start sleeping on a cot?

A: Teachers usually begin the process to transition to a cot around the age of 10 months, after communications with parents. This allows the child an opportunity to get used to the cot, before the official move to sleeping on a cot full time, right around their first birthday.

Q: Your toddler schedule only allows for one nap in the afternoon, what if my child still needs 2 naps?

A: We do everything we can to work with the schedule you set at home, so we can work with you in this area as well. We have our toddler schedule very flexible that allows for toddler morning naps if they need them. We also utilize a buggy (a stroller with many seats) to go on morning walks, where some children will catch a short nap to get them through until the longer afternoon nap.