

# INFANT TODDLER NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2016 LONGWOOD MEDICAL CHILD CARE CENTER

---

## Environments of the Infants and Toddlers

Much of the day in Infant and Toddler Classrooms are spent exploring the physical environment.

The teachers in our Infant and Toddler program pay close attention to the environment of the classrooms. The atmosphere of the rooms are planned with the intent of providing safe, nurturing and interesting areas to explore while meeting various educational needs.

## Infant Rooms

The Young Infants have been adjusting to the classroom environment and are paying close attention to the people and movements in their classroom. Many of the young babies are now old enough to get a new perspective of the classroom by spending some time in the exersaucers using their large muscles as they bounce and fine motor as they reach and grasp for toys. The young babies are also getting plenty of tummy time as they are positioned on the floor, strengthening their core, pushing, kicking and reaching for manipulatives.



The Older Infants are on the move. They are scooting, crawling, pulling up and walking. The teachers have been challenging them by providing opportunities to cruise around and tunnels for crawling. While at the playground and at Movement class the Infants have been exploring the slides, tunnels, and ramps.



The Infants have also been exploring many sensory activities in their classroom as well. They have been participating in water play, painting, music, and sand.



**Stranger Anxiety:** We do have a few new faces visiting the Infant room including part time assistant teachers as well as Wayne the “music man.” You may have observed or heard from the classroom teachers that upon seeing a new person some infants have experienced stranger anxiety. This is not unusual and varies in time and length depending on the child. It can actually be a sign of healthy emotional development and attachment.

Here are some tips for making it a bit easier for your baby:

- **At home, have a new sitter come early.** This will allow you to play together and give your baby time to warm up to the caregiver before you have to leave.
- **Be friendly.** Your baby will watch you for cues, so show her that you like and trust the new person.
- **Don’t draw out your departure.** While your baby will likely cry when you leave to persuade you to stay, prolonging your goodbye will only make her more upset. It is best to say goodbye with a smile and a hug and check in later with the caregiver.
- **Don’t give up.** Remember, it may take your baby a while to adjust to a new childcare setting. On average any transition can take upwards of thirteen weeks.

## Mixed Room

**The children of the Mixed have been learning about classroom expectations, transitions, and self- help skills as well as entering into play with new friends.**

The Teachers are also supporting learning in the environment by establishing expectations and creating and refining daily routines determined by the children’s needs. You may have noticed that the children in the mixed room are eating lunch and resting earlier in the day. This schedule adjustment has allowed the teachers to support the needs of the children. We can anticipate as the year progresses that the schedule will continue to be tweaked with the potential of delaying lunch a little longer and allowing children extra “work “time.

The children are actively developing self-help skills. The teachers are offering guidance and encouragement with hand washing, using utensils and removing their clothing to assist with diaper changes.

Many transitions happen on an average day in the Mixed classroom. This may be a child's first experience with being asked to stop what they are doing and move with a group to a new area or activity. This can be a hard adjustment for some children. The teachers try to prepare the children for transitions by using reminders, developing routines (like touching the wall while waiting for the elevator) and singing songs. The teachers observe the children closely to see if any child may need a little extra help during these times and stay close for support and to offer verbal reassurances.



The classroom environment is arranged to create a comfortable flow and easy access to the materials in the centers. The children have been participating in various types of sensory play with water, shredded paper and sand. They have also enjoyed painting, drawing on large pieces of paper on the floor and using sticky paper for several projects.

#### Reminders

- Please label your children's clothing. It is amazing how often we have duplicates of the same outfit!
- Mixed classroom opens at 7:15. If you arrive earlier your child will need to be in Infants or Toddlers depending on their age.

## Toddler Classroom

The children continue to use boxes in their play in the classroom. These have become a great area of interest as the children extend their play and use their imagination as the boxes are transformed into houses, cars, buses and airplanes.



## Sensational Sensory!

The Toddlers love to explore new Sensory materials. Recently the children have been experimenting with goop, soil, sand, water and shredded paper. The children are learning through early exploration of the senses and are acquiring skills with problem solving, language development, cooperative and collaborative play as well as eye hand coordination.



With the arrival of Fall the children have also been exploring colors and characteristics of the season. They have created various forms of art depicting fall colors and representing objects most often identified with the fall. Additionally, some of the children have been sharing information about their family trips to the orchard.

***If you have any pictures of a family trip to the Orchard please bring them in to share with us!***

*Stay tuned for more fall fun...*

- Arriving soon in the Dramatic Play area of the classroom will be an apple stand! The children will be sorting apples and other produce by color and size. The teachers will also set up cash registers and bags for purchasing the goods at the farm stand. We will be sorting, counting and talking about the fall colors and food products.
- Apply cooking activities! The details and dates for these yummy activities will be announced shortly.
- The children will be exploring the feel, smell and texture of hay in the sensory table. We may even find hidden objects in the hay!
- We will be going on nature walks to collect acorns and colorful leaves.

**Self- help Skills:** The teachers are working with the children to practice the “Flip Trick” which enables children to put their coats on independently. The children are also learning to pick up toys and to assist the teachers in the bathroom with their diaper change.

**Reminder:** Please remember to stock your child’s cubby for the changing weather conditions. We will be walking to Movement and going to the playground whenever possible.

*Rebecca Moser*

Infant/Toddler Coordinator