

## **Meadow Montessori School Infant Program**

Meadow Montessori School welcomes you and your child to the new school year. The Nest is designed to meet the needs of infants between the ages of six weeks to eighteen months. We are committed to providing loving and respectful care for your infant. We have created a peaceful environment that fosters physical, social, and psychological development for your infant.

Constant observation, followed by appropriate responses to your infant's needs, insures that we will establish a trusting relationship between the staff and infants, as well as the staff and parents.

### *Drop off*

The Directress arranges times for drop off to be arranged individually with each family. For infants who are not yet sitting, parents may bring their infant directly inside the door and wait quietly for the Directress or Assistant to greet them. For infants who are sitting, please have them sit in the chair inside the door and remove their shoes—assist only as needed. Infants may come inside barefoot, or wearing socks with gripper bottoms. Please allow infants who are walking to walk to the chair and follow the procedure above. Remove coats, hats, and mittens once inside.

### *Good-byes*

Please make your good-byes as happy as possible. A hug, a kiss, and a smiling face saying "I love you and I will be back for you later," is very assuring. Please trust in the staff to give further comfort.

### *Pick-Up*

Please approach the door quietly; this gives you a chance to observe your infant and the others as well. We believe concentration begins at this young age and respect for not interrupting is important. Also, there may be sleeping infants. Please wait for the staff to acknowledge your presence, and we will invite you in. If there is a change in the person who will be picking up your infant, please let us know or phone the office. This person must be listed on the infant's information card. If this person is unknown to the staff, we will ask to see identification.

### *Sick Days*

If your infant will not be at school, please contact me at home (243-9325) the evening before or call the school office. Your infant must be free of fever, vomiting, and diarrhea for 24 hours prior to the next school day. If your infant exhibits any of these symptoms at school, we will call you to take him/her home.

### *Medicines*

Medication will be given at school when requested by parents as authorized by a physician. Parent permission and physician instruction forms are required, and you can find these forms in your Parent Handbook. Please notify the school of all medications a child is taking; even those that are not administered during school hours.

### *Clothing, Diapers and Bedding*

- Clothing
  - Two full changes
  - Jacket with hood or hat,
  - Mittens, snow pants, boots as needed per weather
- Bedding
  - Two crib-sized sheets and a sleep sack for infants 6 weeks through 11 months
  - A blanket for infants 12 months and above may be used.
  - Mattress pad
- Diapers
  - Enough for one week (approximately 25)

### *Meals*

- Bottles
  - Daily-pre-filled with breast milk, extra may be kept frozen
  - Daily-pre-filled with water in a thermos type lunch bag
  - Powdered formula-replenish as needed
- Cereal
  - Daily--dry infant cereal or a box--replenish as needed
  - Cheerios will be provided
- Milk:
  - Whole milk will be provided
- Water
  - Purified water will be provided
- Juice
  - May be sent in daily or weekly
- Food
  - Healthy lunches and snacks should be packed daily in a thermos lunch bag (**low** sugar/salt/food coloring/preservatives)

### *Other objects*

Please do not send in toys, hair bows, barrettes, or other personal items/possessions.

Thank you for the privilege of assisting you and your infant.

Ms. Becky

# Meadow Montessori School

## Infant Program Key Concepts & Practices

The American Montessori Society and Meadow Montessori School are committed to promoting quality Montessori infant care for children from ages six weeks to eighteen months, based on these key concepts:

- The aim of Montessori infant programs is to foster the development of basic trust and to assist in the normal development of the personality.
- Basic trust develops in an environment where people respond appropriately to the infant's communication of needs to be loved, respected and accepted.
- An infant learns through his/her senses. He/she learns by watching and moving freely. Freedom to move is essential to the development of the infant's potential.
- The infant is considered as a whole person and is affected by the quality of holding and feeding, as well as the quality of physical care.
- Learning, which leads to independence, occurs when infants participate in their daily routines of care.
- We speak clearly to infants in both English and Spanish. The Nest is a Spanish Immersion Program.

The Montessori infant specialist is educated in these areas:

- Self-knowledge as preparation.
- Human growth and development.
- Observational skills to assist the development of each child.
- Preparing responsive environments to meet the infant's developmental needs.
- Respecting daily routines and incorporating them into the infant's curriculum.
- Both verbal and non-verbal communication skills.
- Respecting the infant as a person.
- Respecting the environment as a resource for the infant's development.
- Taking responsibility to assist and protect the infant's development.
- Nurturing infants.

A Montessori infant environment must have these basic characteristics:

- Adults educated in the Montessori philosophy and methodology appropriate for infants.
- A partnership established with the family. The family is considered an integral part of the individual's total development.
- A variety of interesting objects to look at, explore and experience, which are designed to meet the developmental stages and sensitive periods of infants.
- A flexible sequence of routines and activities that reinforce the rhythmic patterns of activities of individual infants – not a rigid schedule.
- An atmosphere that communicates unconditional love and acceptance.