

PROGRAM GOALS

Infant/Toddler Program

- An environment which provides materials and equipment appropriate to the ages of the children, including textural areas, cuddly toys, objects they can explore by mouthing, rolling, squeezing, pulling and pushing, sturdy picture books, unbreakable mirrors and sturdy furniture.
- Opportunities for outdoor play in an enclosed playground, or for taking walks, on days when the weather permits, at least once per day.
- A balance of quiet and active play activities.
- Breakfast, lunch and snack each day with the opportunity to self-feed at a tray-chair or table. A variety of nutritious foods, prepared in an inspected kitchen, will be served.
- Children will be helped to develop a positive self-image through opportunities to succeed at simple tasks and games, approval of desired behavior, and frequent interaction with staff.
- Children will learn trust through the regular schedule of daily activities and the regular attendance of staff.
- The child's health will be documented daily in a notebook.
- The children will have naps in a crib or cot each afternoon.
- Children will be read to every day, and staff will interact with all children so that language development will be enhanced.
- Tummy time will be given daily to children who are awake and alert, starting with a few minutes a day and working up to an hour a day, beginning at 3 or 4 months of age.
 - They will be encouraged to grasp and reach for objects placed in front of them.
 - They will be engaged by adults while in this position, requiring them to lift their heads up to engage the head, neck, and core muscles.
 - Benefits of tummy time will be seen as children learn to roll, sit up, crawl, and eventually walk.

Three Year Old Program:

- A safe, dependable and healthy environment which encourages creativity and independence, with activities designed to be appropriate to the ages and development of each child in the class.
- Each classroom will have specific areas where children can develop through active interaction with peers and adults. These areas shall be small motor, blocks, science, and art, quiet, and dramatic play.
- Appropriate rest and quiet periods will be provided, with a cot or mat for each child to rest on. Play activities during the day will alternate quiet and active play so that children will not become overtired, and so that children will have daily opportunities for active play.
- Children will play outdoors at least once per day, weather permitting. Fresh air and exercise are considered an important aspect of a child's day.
- The program will be designed to be multicultural and non-sexist by maximizing the strengths and unique experiences of each child's background.
- A written daily schedule of routines will be posted in each room, and will include meal and snack times, rest periods, indoor and outdoor play times, and large and small group activity times.
- Children will eat meals and snacks with their teachers. Mealtime is considered a learning time as well as a social time. Teachers will model proper table manners and an interest in trying a variety of nutritious foods, as well as interacting verbally with the children. Children will be encouraged, but not forced to try new foods.
- Learning how to get along with others is another goal of the program. Learning how to join in a group activity, how to make and keep friends and how to achieve self-control will be worked on through games, activities, stories, discussions, and modeling of behavior by staff.
- Learning by active manipulation of materials and by providing a wide variety of experiences is the prime goal at New Day. Instilling a love of books, rather than teaching the children to read, giving many opportunities to use paint, crayons, and glue instead of coloring books, playing counting games instead of giving worksheets, are some of the ways we shall achieve our goal for the children.

Four Year Old/Universal Pre-Kindergarten Program:

In an effort to prepare students for the demands of kindergarten, we:

- Create an atmosphere that fosters individual learning and exploration of the surrounding environment.
- Encourage independent thoughts and actions, i.e.: students make positive decisions and are responsible for dressing, feeding and cleaning themselves.
- Provide opportunities to develop and refine large and small motor skills:
 - dancing, running, hopping, skipping,
 - cutting, coloring, tearing, rolling, tracing, stenciling
- Embed ideas of friendship, courtesy, fair play and justice, i.e.: taking turns, thinking about consequences of actions
- Enrich students' thirst for knowledge by reinforcing math, science, social studies and ELA concepts.
 - concepts of self as a member of a larger community
 - counting
 - phonetic awareness
 - one to one correspondence
 - least, most, zero, none, equal, the same
 - letter and number recognition
- Support arts:
 - singing, dancing, dramatic play, finger plays, painting, drawing

School Age Program:

(Kindergarten to 10 years of age)

- Children will have a room of their own which they can furnish and decorate in a way to suit their needs.
- Children will be given opportunities to perform responsible jobs.
- Staff will encourage pro-social behaviors such as cooperation, helping, and talking to solve problems.
- Children will have opportunities to participate in group games or to play alone.
- Developmentally appropriate materials and equipment will be available, such as bats and balls for organized games, blocks, hobby supplies, art and science projects, materials for dramatics, cooking, books, board and card games.
- Cultural diversity will be recognized through cooking activities, celebrations, books, pictures, visitors and trips to museums and cultural resources.
- Outdoor play will be included every day the weather permits at a time the playground is not occupied with younger children.
- Children will be well supervised. They will be responsible for the care of materials and the room.
- Breakfast, lunch and snack will be provided. Children have the option to bring a bag lunch each day.
- Staff and parents will communicate about the child's day, activities they have been involved in, and any concerns. Parents are welcome visitors at anytime.