



Welcome to
The Two-Year-Old Room at
The Children's School at St. John's



Two-Year-Old Room Parent Packet for 2022- 2023

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the two-year-old room! We are very excited for the new school year to begin. The teachers in the room this year will be Miss Amy, Miss Megan, and Miss Angela. This year we will explore the concepts of colors and shapes as well as increase our fundamental knowledge of the alphabet and numbers. We will also encourage a greater degree of independence throughout the year! This is the year that the children typically become potty-trained, they learn to complete simple tasks such as putting on jackets and shoes, and they also enjoy being big helpers to the teachers in the classroom. It is very exciting to see the children mature so much throughout this year! We are thrilled to have your child in our class and are looking forward to a wonderful and fun-filled year! We want to make this experience a great one for you and your child so please feel free to come to us with any questions and concerns you might have!

Sincerely,

Miss Amy, Miss Megan, and Miss Angela

Meet the Teachers!!

Miss Amy: Hi everyone, my name is Amy Gershman. In the spring of 2012, I completed my student teaching at Cynwyd Elementary in the Kindergarten Classroom and graduated with honors with a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from West Chester University. In May of 2012 I began working at The Children's School as an assistant teacher in the two-year-old room. The following year I was given the wonderful opportunity to become the lead teacher in the two-year-old room and have been here ever since. I have a lot of experience working with children. Prior to working at the Children's School, I worked at the Ridley YMCA teaching child/youth classes, being a camp counselor for 5-6-year-olds, and hosting family events and birthday parties. I also worked in a church nursery taking care of children ages 1-7 while their parents attended church. When I'm not busy at work I am busy at home. I live in Limerick, PA with my husband, my 14-year-old son named Caiden (9th grade), my 7-year-old daughter named Peyton (2nd grade), and my son Bentley who will turn 6 in November (In Kindergarten at The Children's School). I look forward to getting to know your children and planning lots of fun and engaging activities with them throughout the year. If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions please feel free to contact me anytime.

Miss Megan: Hi everyone, my name is Megan Sheridan. I am going on my seventh year here at The Children's School as an assistant teacher in the two-year-old room and I enjoy every minute of my day. I have completed my CDA and attend trainings often. I have two boys, Nicholas who is eighteen years old and Sean who is twelve years old. I look forward to getting to know each and every one of your children and planning fun activities for them to enjoy. I am excited for the upcoming school year; it is going to be a great one.

Miss Angela: Hi, everyone, my name is Angela Thomas. I completed my college studies in the spring of 1996, with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Illustration from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. I have had many different work experiences through the years, which include, working administratively with cardiologists, court reporters and with talent buyers at Electric Factory Concerts. I have three children, Jack who is 22, Lydia who is 21, and Joe who will be turning 16 in October. Prior to working at the Children's School, my experience with teaching was in the area of exercise. I worked primarily at the Roxborough YMCA with adults as a group fitness instructor for almost ten years; these classes included step aerobics, weightlifting and mixed martial arts. I had the pleasure of leading an art club for children during my time there, and developed a curriculum using painting, bookbinding, mask-making, and learning about spatial relationships with objects in creating landscapes. Briefly, I worked in construction and learned to refinish hardwood floors before arriving here. I will be continuing my studies in pursuit of a graduate degree in the area of art education for pre-K through 12th grade. The most fulfilling times in my life were when my children were young, and I am looking forward to a rewarding year spending time with your children.

Tentative Shift Schedule:

Miss Angela- 7-4

Miss Amy:8-5

Miss Megan:9-6

Items Needed for the Two-Year-Old Room

1. 2 or 3 changes of seasonally appropriate clothing in case of spills or accidents
2. Diapers or Pull-Ups (we prefer pull-ups that open on the side like target brand or huggies)– as needed
3. Wipes – Full-time children- 2 **re-sealable** packages monthly and 1 package after potty training
- Part-time children- 1 **re-sealable** package monthly
4. Diaper rash ointment (if desired)
5. Lunch Box labeled with child's name (Bentgo boxes are great!)
6. One filled water cup labeled with child's name
 - You may also bring one with juice or milk at lunch (optional; just water is fine)
7. A nap-mat for nap time (see examples below)
8. Medications labeled with your child's name (prescription medicines must have original label from pharmacy and we will have you fill out a form)
9. Face Masks if desired (if your child will be wearing a mask make sure they have extras because they can get wet or snotty)
10. 4x6 or 5x7 Family picture to hang in the classroom.

Please label all personal items with your child's name or initials! Thank You!



Daily Schedule

7:00 – 9:30	Drop Off and Free Play (Block Center, Transportation, Reading Center, Art Center, Manipulatives and Puzzles, etc.)
9:30 – 10:00	Diapers, Potty, and Clean-Up
10:00 – 10:15	Wash Hands, Morning Snack
10:15 – 10:30	Circle Time
10:30 – 11:00	Daily Activity/ Centers
11:00 – 11:45	Free Play on Playground (if weather permits) (Jungle Gym, Blocks, Sandbox, Balls)
11:45 – 12:00	Transition inside and wash hands
12:00 – 12:40	Lunch
12:40– 1:00	Quiet Book Time and Potty/diapers
1:00– 3:00	Nap Time
3:00 – 3:30	Diapers, Potty, Wash Hands
3:30 – 3:45	Afternoon Snack
3:45 – 4:15	Clean-up, transition to outside
4:15 - 5:00	Playground or Free Play (Jungle Gym, Blocks, Sandbox, Balls)
5:00 – 6:00	Indoor Free Play (Block Center, Transportation, Reading Center, Art Center, Manipulatives and Puzzles)

Special Activities

Mondays at 10:30 – Music with Mr. David

Tuesdays at 10- Spanish

Thursday at 9:45- Tumble Tots

Fridays (Fall only) at 11- Soccer Shots

*This is a flexible schedule and may be subject to change. *

Important Information

Drop Off

Please have your child to school by 9:30. When children arrive after 9:30 we find that they have a hard time transitioning to school and miss out on some of our fun activities. Upon arrival in the classroom please can help your child hang up their jackets and backpacks on their hook, put their lunches in the refrigerator on the bottom shelf and cup(s) on the middle shelf. Please then help your child wash their hands. Finally, we will help your child find a center/toy to play with or have them say goodbye at the window. This may be a difficult transition for some children, but we will be there offering comfort, hugs, and different opportunities for play to help distract them. While it is understandably difficult to leave your child when they are crying, we find that they most of the time they calm down within minutes and you can always call or email to check up on them.

Hand Washing

Hand washing is the best way to prevent the spread of infection. It is strongly recommended with the Montgomery County Department of Health and Keystones Stars that hand washing starts the moment we enter a classroom. Each morning, as you enter the classroom, we as that you help your child to go over to the sink and wash their hands. We will also wash our hands often throughout the day. We will wash their hands before and after snack and lunch, when transitioning inside from being outside, and anytime they put their hands in their mouth, cough, sneeze, or wipe their nose.

Free Play

This is when the children independently choose what activities to do in the classroom. It is an opportunity to socialize and interact with the other students, while playing with their favorite toys and games. It is a good opportunity for children to develop social and communication skills, such as accepting compromises and sharing during activities. The teachers will be supervising and engaging the children as they play. Afterwards, the children all help clean up their respective centers which encourages a sense of responsibility.

Diapers and Potty Training

Diapers will be kept under or above the changing table in a bin labeled with your child's name. Wipes will be kept in the bathroom and used as a class supply (unless your child has sensitivity). A teacher will let you know if the supply in your child's bin is running low. When you bring in a new pack of diapers or wipes please have your child's name clearly labeled and leave them on the diaper changer and we will take care of putting them away for you.

When you feel that your child is ready to move from diapers to the potty, please let the teachers know and the teachers will also let you know if your child expresses any desire to begin the potty-training process. Children are curious by nature so when they see other children going to the bathroom it is likely that they will want to try using the potty as well. Please understand that each child is different and will use the potty when they are ready. There is no pressure to

start potty training by any certain time. We do ask that when the potty training does get underway that we stay consistent by practicing and trying the potty at both home and school. We do also have a 3 accident rule where if the child has 3 accidents in one day we will then put a pull-up on them and they can try underwear again the next day. If you use pull-ups we prefer the kind that open on the sides so we don't have to remove pants/shoes to change them but diapers can also be worn during potty training instead as teachers will just remove the diaper for the child. Some parents also like to just go straight to underwear. If you prefer this method we recommend that you take a long weekend to try it at home first. Some children may do very well at home and have accidents at school. This is because there is a lot more distractions at school and often the children do not want to stop playing to try the potty or they may have to wait a couple minutes if another child is using the potty.

Circle Time

Circle time is about a 10-15 minute period in the morning where we will introduce concepts and discuss what we are doing for the day. We will begin by welcoming each other and sing a "Good Morning" song. Next, we will assign "jobs" for the day. Afterwards we move on to the calendar and identify the month, count the days, and then we will sing our "Days of the Week" song to figure out the day of the week. We then have our "weather helper" tell us what the weather is like and our "weather predictor" guess what tomorrow's weather will be like. After this consistent beginning, the teachers will introduce the concept of the day. A variety of activities relating to the theme and concept, such as games or songs, will be included in circle time. Every day we will also be reading a book that relates to the theme of the week. Besides learning about colors and shapes, we will also discuss math, through counting and number recognition, science, through games such as "Sink or Float", and community, through discussions of different occupations. In addition, any art activities for the day will be discussed and demonstrated, so that everyone will know the directions to follow and see an example of the finished project. This is an important part of our day where the children are introduced to new concepts and old concepts are reinforced.

Snack and Lunch

In the morning when your child arrives, lunches will be placed in our refrigerator on the bottom shelf and Thermos/warm food will be placed on the shelf next to the refrigerator. Also, please be sure to **label all containers in your child's lunch as they can get mixed up**. Bento boxes work great! The teachers will be sitting with the students to assist them and encourage them to eat their healthy foods first and save their snacks and special treats for last. Towards the end of the year, children will become more independent and re-pack empty containers and unfinished food into lunchboxes and throw away their own trash. The Children's School provides morning snacks, such as cereal, fruit, pancakes, yogurt, etc. as well as an afternoon snack, which consists of items like cookies, crackers, veggie chips, etc. A list of snacks for the month is hung up on the fridge however they are subject to change. If your child has a food allergy or otherwise should not participate in our snack items, please alert your teachers.

Nap Time / Quiet Time

Nap time is scheduled from 1 to 3 pm. Each child will have their own labeled cot. Each day, before naptime, the children are given quiet time to sit on their cots and read books independently. This gives the children a chance to transition from lunchtime to quiet time. To help each child rest and relax during nap, please send in a nap mat for their cot. These will be sent home weekly to be washed. A small stuffed animal may also be sent in. Let us know if it is to stay at school for the week or go home daily.

Medicine Log

If, for any reason, your child needs to take medicine at school, you are required to fill out the medication form for your child. You will be asked to fill out the name of the medicine, when it should be administered, the amount to be administered, and your signature. Medications must be labeled with your child's name and placed in the medicine bin, which is located on our emergency shelf. If it is a prescription medicine (i.e. inhaler or Epipen) it must also have the prescription label with your child's name on it. If your child has an allergy or has asthma, we also need an action plan on file for your child.

Evaluations / Assessments

The children will be formally evaluated on their progress twice during the school year. The first evaluation period occurs in November and consists of a developmental checklist and brief summary that describes your child's progress up to that point. In May, a second assessment will be sent out for each child. This includes an updated developmental checklist and a short summary describing your child's growth, strengths, and weaknesses. You may request a conference if you have any questions about what is written on the evaluation. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's progress throughout the school year, please feel free to talk with us at any time.

Communication

We believe it is highly important to keep the lines of communication open with the parents. We will send out a weekly email to all parents that lets you know what the theme for the week will be as well as any activities and special events that may be occurring that week. There will also be an email sent out with a link to a google photo album where we will upload pictures that we have taken from the week so that you can also see the children enjoying the activities at school. We also have "Mailboxes" located on the outside of the classroom door where we will put any of the children's projects that are ready to go home as well as their **Daily Reports**. Please remember to check your child's mailbox daily. The Daily Reports include diapering and potty info, naptime information, lunch, activities, moods etc. Daily Reports will be sent home every day until the end of December. In January, we will switch over to using the whiteboard on the door to the classroom which will have a brief review of the day's happenings as well as verbal communication from the teachers. If there are any specific details that you would like a teacher to make note of throughout the day concerning your child, we are more than happy to accommodate.

Getting to Know You Meeting

We will be offering a 45 day "Getting to Know You Meeting." Around the 45 day mark of being in the two-year-old room, we will ask you if you would like to take some time to sit down and chat about how your child is doing in the classroom thus far. This is an informal and optional meeting. As it gets closer to this time, we will be sending out letters about this conference.

Mask Wearing

Children are no longer required to wear their masks while inside the classroom. If you would like your child to wear a mask please let the teachers know. Please make sure your child has 3-4 clean masks daily (they often get wet or snotty) if they are going to wear a mask. Masks are to be washed or replaced (if disposable) daily.

Early Dismissals

The following are dates in which the school will be closing at 4:30 PROMPTLY for staff meetings. As a NAEYC accredited school, we are required to have regular staff meetings throughout the year. Staff meetings are utilized to help keep the staff informed of all upcoming events and to communicate and share with one another about different activities or lessons that have worked well for classrooms. This will also give Miss Jennifer and Miss Amy, our two mentor teachers for the school, the opportunity to offer suggestions and guidance on child development milestones for the different ages and reinforce the importance of positive communication amongst the children and parents.

Monday, October 9th -closing at 4:30

Wednesday, November 23rd -closing at 3:00

Friday, December 16th-closing at 4:30

Monday, January 16th- closing at 4:30

Monday, March 6th- closing at 4:30

Music

Every Monday Mr. David, musician and caricature artist, is scheduled to come and sing silly songs with the two-year-old class. The children love singing and dancing along with him and he creates a special drawing related to a song that we sang that we will be able to color!

Spanish

This year we will be having Spanish. Children will learn color, animal, and other simple Spanish words. Different songs and activities will be incorporated to help them learn Spanish.

Tumble Tots

Tumble tots is a gymnastics program where the children will learn to balance on balance beams, roll, do somersaults, jump on a trampoline, and do other things to increase their gross motor and balance skills. The children will also stretch to different songs before completing the obstacle course.

Dates to Remember

September 6, 2022- School visitation day
October 10, 2022- Early dismissal at 4:30pm
October 31, 2022- Halloween parade- 4pm
November 23, 2022-Thanksgiving feast at 12 (close at 3pm)
(School is closed on Thanksgiving and day after- Nov. 24th and 25th)
December 16, 2022- Holiday show at 4pm- School closes following
the show
(School is closed December 26th to January 2nd)
January 16, 2023- Early dismissal at 4:30pm
March 6, 2023- Early dismissal at 4:30pm
April 7, 2023- Spring break (No School)
April 18, 2023- Parent Breakfast 7-9am
April 19, 2023- Grandparents Day- 10am
May 12, 2023- Mother's Day Tea- 4pm
May 26, 2023- Staff development (No School)
May 29, 2023- Memorial Day (No School)
June 15, 2023- Happy Hour with Dad- 4pm
June 12, 2023-August 29, 2023- Summer Camp
July 3- July 4, 2023- Independence Day (No School)
August 30 -September 1, 2023- Cleaning Days (No School)
September 4, 2023- Labor Day (No School)
September 5, 2023- School Visitation Day

****Tentative: Subject to change****

We look forward to working with you and your child and having a wonderful and exciting year in the Two-Year-Old Room!