

Orientation Policy

Toddler Program

According to Erikson, a theorist that specializes in child development, a child must feel a "sense of basic trust" to feel secure in their environment. For this reason, at the Family Centre we have developed an integration process that involves the family.

When a child enters a new childcare environment, everything is new to them: the physical space, the other children, the three teachers, as well as the daily routines and transitions. When the child spends time in an environment with someone they know and trust this helps the child to feel more comfortable and to build confidence in the environment around them. They need to feel confident in their new environment before they can accept comfort, food, and rest. Longer term, their ability to trust is important for the development of self-confidence and security.

The toddler program consists of a two week orientation that allows both the child and parent to develop a relationship with the program, teachers and other children. You will appreciate the positive effect of this orientation as you observe your child developing confidence, in addition you will have a clear understanding of how your child will be spending their day at the Family Centre.

Orientation Guide – Toddler Program

Week #1

Monday – short morning visit (no routines/transitions), 9:30 – 11:00 with parent for entire time in program

Tuesday – second morning visit, a little longer 9:30- 11:30, again with parent in program for entire duration of visit

Wednesday – morning visit 9:30- 12:15- extended to possibly include lunch with parent entire time in program

Thursday – morning visit arrival 9:30, with first short (15-30 minutes max) separation from parent during free play when child is settled in program. Parent must stay onsite during separation, return and have lunch & circle around 11:15

Friday – morning visit arrival at 9:30 with longer separation, based on the previous day's experience, possibly even through lunch & circle. Parent stays onsite. Returns to see sleep room and leave 12:15

Week #2

Monday – first day back from weekend arrival at 9:30 – Separation when child is settled in program. Attempt the same longer separation lunch and circle – at this time parent on site, working from staff room and available to return if needed. Parent to return and assist with sleep routine – if child goes to sleep, parent may grab quick lunch and return to classroom for the child’s wake-up. Home right after sleep when they wake

Tuesday – similar schedule to previous day 9:30 arrival, will depend on how orientation is going, stay for afternoon snack with parent and then home. Departure 3:00

Wednesday – similar schedule, perhaps a wake-up with parent on site but not in the classroom – depending on how that goes, to snack independently and have parent back after snack, short play and home. 9:30- 3:30 length of day max.

Thursday & Friday – will depend on progress earlier in week. 9:30- 3:30 length of day max.

Please keep in mind this is a guideline; we will work together and watch for child’s progress, security and comfort level throughout. Also important to note that we stress a gradual building up to longer days, in first few weeks we recommend shorter days to support child’s integration.