**New Horizons Preschool**

Welcome to the Infant Room! Our babies are loved, nurtured, and receive the best care possible. Our children start at eight weeks old and transition to the Betweenie Room when they are showing signs of readiness. This is often around their first birthday. We love our babies and work hard together to create a happy and stimulating environment.

The expectations and developmentally appropriate milestones that will be reached in our care include: tummy time for head control, rolling, sitting, crawling, pulling up, and standing. They will eventually hold their own bottles, grasp toys, and develop eye/hand coordinated movements. Sensory activities include the use of sight, sound, touch, taste, and smells. Research shows that children’s brains develop the most during the early years. We strive to talk, read, and sing as much as possible throughout their learning days with us.

New Horizons Child Care is a literacy-based center; we concentrate on one phonetical sound per week. Age appropriate music from multiple genres is played daily. Lesson plans for our infants are broken down per your child’s current developmental level in these learning domains: Social-Emotional, Cognitive, Language, and Motor skills. Small movements are classified as “fine motor” while large movements are “gross motor.”

There will be assessments done on your child; these are developmental checklists that will let us know where your child is excelling, and areas we can help them strengthen. These assessments are stored in a portfolio with art samples from their time with us. When your child moves up to the next classroom, the art is sent home and the portfolio is passed to the next classroom to continue the process.

Your baby will sleep in their own crib that is sanitized daily. Infants are always placed on their back to sleep; their wellbeing and positioning is checked every 15 minutes. We provide sleep sacks for your child to use while in our care. Blankets and lovies are not permitted in the child’s sleep environment, only pacifiers with no attachments.

In our classroom we have a soft play area, blocks, musical instruments, tummy time mat, puppets, soft books, soft dolls, as well as play food for your child to explore. We go outside daily when the weather permits.

When dropping your child off, please knock on the door and a teacher will assist you. Daily reports will be sent home at the beginning of each week. We ask that you fill them out before you come in each day. All bottles must be prepared and labeled with your child’s name and the current date (must be written on bottle and cap). Bottles must be plastic; glass is not allowed in the classroom. You may not add bottle stoppers or medication of any kind to your child’s bottles while they are in our care. Please fill out the daily sheet starting with the last time you fed and changed your child’s diaper. Please help us by feeding your child their first bottle of the day at home before arrival. The daily sheets will be used all day to document each diaper change, feeding, naps, and other information about their day. Breast feeding families are welcomed and encouraged to come and feed here in the classroom at any time. We also have cozy areas in the upper building for privacy if needed.

Please bring diapers, wipes, several changes of clothing to store in your child’s cubby, and baby food (no glass jars). If you would like to bring diaper cream or sunscreen, we will need you to complete an ointment waiver form giving us permission before leaving it. Your child can have a pacifier; we suggest bringing in three to four that are kept here. Please label them with permanent marker or with a label that can withstand being sanitized multiple times a day. Pacifier clips or attachments of any kind are not permitted.

Please complete a feeding schedule. This form is for your child’s first day with us so that we know what we need to do to meet your child’s needs. This form will stay at New Horizons until your child transitions completely to table foods. Write small because *any* change you make to your child’s schedule must be documented on this same form.

We are happy to answer any questions you may have about the Infant room or any of the information we have shared with you in this letter.

Looking forward to caring for your little one!

Sincerely,

The Infant Room Teachers