



## **Welcome to the Infant Room**

Are you anxious about leaving your child for the first time? At Monkey See Monkey Do our small group size allows you the opportunity to develop trusting relationships with the teaching team. Your child's daily schedule is accommodated by the educators so we know exactly when your child needs to nap, eat and have quiet activity. We work closely with you to understand your child's unique schedule and needs. Daily written communications of your child's day helps keep you connected.

Our Infant program provides learning activities that are developmentally appropriate by stimulating the Infants through an enriched learning environment. The children are able to learn freely at their own pace through play and activities. Discovery is based on children's own experience and understandings. Infants are given opportunities to explore and discover with hands-on experiences through creative, fine motor and gross motor activities.

We also provide the following in our Infant classroom

- Separate sleep room
- Cleaning and safe environment
- outdoor play area
- Seasonal menus created by our Chef/ Home prepared meals optional
- Sign Language program
- Cooking lessons
- Music program
- A stimulating setting that encourages exploration and learning
- Interactive toys that develop gross motor skills
- Nurturing Educators support and encourage your child to explore their surroundings

Our Staff are Professionals in early childhood education who provide an age-appropriate and educational curriculum for the children. Our staff members are educated (Bachelor of Education and/or E.C.E.), dedicated, knowledgeable and caring individuals with extensive agency training and police reference checks. The teacher-to-child ratios are very low, beginning at 1:3 for infants

### **Group Time:**

Group time is a gathering where all the children take part in music and movement, story time, games, and cognitive development activities. We also include instruments, books, puppets and visuals that peek children interest.

This time is a daily opportunity for children and educators to group together and introduce materials or activities. Singing and moving with children at group time provides them opportunities to explore movement, to build a common repertoire of songs and rhymes and to experience a steady beat.

### **Sensory/Creative Activities:**

We recognize and encourage the importance of the creative potential in each child. They are inventive, original, and self-motivated to be creative individuals. Creative moments encourage children to communicate their feelings towards themselves and their environment. Creativity integrates physical, mental, social and emotional growth. It is encouraged to be free, flexible and accepted. The process is what is important, not the finished product!

### **Cooking Lesson:**

Every month our classroom participates in a cooking day! Together the children and teachers prepare a delicious snack or small meal for the children to sample. All products used are nut free and we also incorporate a variety of multi-cultural snacks and fun delicious treats within our cooking classes.

### **Mealtimes**

- Our mealtimes go beyond fulfilling a basic need for nourishing food.
- The younger infants are bottle fed in the comfort of the caregivers' arms; older infants are encouraged to sit in the high chair or at the low table in a small group.
- Infants are encouraged to eat as well as explore new tastes, smells and textures and encouraged to self-feed with fingers, spoon or a cup.
- Often children sit unassisted allowing them to have greater control of their arms and hands to easily put food in their mouths.
- You may also have a choice of providing your food from home or follow our delicious menu.

### **Outdoor Play**

- This area includes equipment that encourages movement, objects that flutter in the wind, a variety of crawling surfaces, water play materials and items that are visually stimulating.
- The educators provide loose materials for children's comfort and play. They ensure a variety of experiences for non-mobile infants.
- Nature is observed with the children.

### **Free Play**

- The infants are given an opportunity to investigate and explore materials and actions and interact with their educators and peers.
- Each child chooses what to engage in based on personal interests, inclinations and level of development.
- This time provides children with a virtually uninterrupted period of exploration and play.

### **Small Group**

- The educators create experiences that are specific to beginning language and literacy. A variety of props are utilized to create interest and participation (books, puppets, flannel stories).
- The classroom environments have designated areas where your child can participate in pretend play and interactions with peers and educators.
- A variety of art mediums are introduced to the children in a small group setting. Specific art materials are explored to encourage the children's development fine motor and of their five senses.

### **Sleep Time**

- This time occurs either on demand when the infants are tired or at a scheduled time in our day.
- Each child has their own individual crib in a separate sleep room, which protects the sleeping child and consistently provides each child with a personal, familiar sleeping place.

### **ELECT-Early Learning for Every Child Today:**

What is Early Learning for Every Child Today? *It is a Framework for Ontario's Early Childhood Settings* that describes how young children learn and develop. It provides a guide for curriculum in Ontario's early childhood settings, including child care centres. It is intended to complement, not replace, the *Ontario Day Nurseries Act*. The *Early Learning for Every Child Today* is based on an extensive review of early childhood curriculum and pedagogy in Canada and internationally, research findings, and the collective professional expertise of the Panel members.

The ELECT tool will allow us to help every child to become an international leader in achieving their social, intellectual, economic, physical and emotional potential to the max. The purpose of the *Early Learning for Every Child Today* is to guide and support curriculum's being used in childcare centres. It also provides direction for programs and features a continuum of developmental skills and a shared language that will support early childhood practitioners and caregivers as they work together across early childhood settings.

Infant program plans are based upon the ELECT approach. It is organized into five sections, including 1. Social 2. Emotional 3. Communication, Language and Literacy, 4.Cognitive and 5.

Physical. All Monkey See Monkey Do educators have ELECT training and implement the framework into our program plans.

**Other activities/events throughout the year:**

There are many other activities and events the children will take part in that are listed on the monthly calendars and parent boards such as ...

- Monthly events and family gathering such as Mothers day Tea, Father's Day Breakfast, Spring Concert
- In house Live animal shows, puppet shows, special guest visitors and much, much more!

**Reminders:**

- Our program starts at 9:00am which includes special curricular activities and creative arts. Arriving early will ensure that your child takes part in all classroom activities and avoid disruption to the programs taking place.
- Make sure that you provide extra clothing in your child's cubby at all times. Please label all of your children's belongings. This reduces the chance of items being lost. Please send inside shoes for your child during the winter months as they will need to change their boots for outdoor play. Don't forget to supply us with diapers, wipes and a sleep blanket in a storage bag. Sleep blanket will be sent home weekly to be washed.
- Please have your child come in with a bottle and Sippy cup each day that goes home each night to be washed☺.
- During the warmer seasons please bring sunscreen and a hat. In the winter time please bring in spare mittens, socks and snow pants and hat.
- Blanket for sleep time.

Above all, we are experienced, warm professionals who will give your children the absolute best care within the nurturing and stimulating environment that we have created. We look forward to helping your children grow into inquisitive and curious little people. Please let us know of any support that you would like to lend or information that you feel would benefit our program and your children's learning opportunities.

# Infant Daily Routine

7:00–9:30am

Morning drop off  
Free Play  
Hand washing for am snack  
Am snack  
Diaper Changes  
Music Circle / Book Circle  
First Nap

9:30 – 11:00

Walk / Outdoor Time  
Creative/ Sensory Activities  
Fine Motor & Gross Motor Activities  
Small Group Play  
Nap/ Rest Time  
Diaper Changes

11:00 – 3:30

Lunch  
Diapers  
Clean up  
Free Play during clean up  
Naps  
Free play for children who are not sleeping  
PM Snack

3:30 – 6:00

Diaper Changes  
Small and Large Group Play  
Outdoor Time  
Free Play  
Afternoon Pick Up



June 1, 2010

Dear Parents,

We are delighted to inform you that **Monkey See Monkey Do** is participating in **Quality First**. Quality First is an initiative within Halton that supports early childhood programs to further develop the level of quality care and education they offer to young children and their families.

Quality First is based on the following indicators of quality childcare:

- **Environment/Curriculum:** are appropriate learning materials and experiences available for children in a safe and caring environment?
- **Supervision/Administration:** does the Supervisor support the staff team?
- **Professionalism:** do teachers participate in professional activities and life-long learning?
- **Inclusion:** does the childcare have policies that support the inclusion of children with special needs? Does the childcare support diversity?
- **Adult/Child Interactions:** do teachers interact with children with sensitivity?
- **Support for Early Childhood Education Students:** does the centre accept Early Childhood Education students and support them as a field placement site?

Programs are supported through an ongoing process which includes: observation and evaluation of the program, self-evaluation and goal setting, staff professional development, resources and support from a consultant. Commitment to Quality is an ongoing process. By participating in Quality First, we have made a commitment to increase and maintain the quality of care and learning we provide to the children and families of **Monkey See Monkey Do**.

We encourage you to ask us more about Quality First and our progress and achievements. Please refer to the Quality First poster located in the hallway and the materials we have provided.

For more information and a list of Quality First Centres in Halton please visit [www.mcrc.on.ca/thrc/](http://www.mcrc.on.ca/thrc/) and click on Quality First. For inquires please contact:

Erin McAdam, Quality First Program Assistant

Phone: (905) 875-4600 ext. 141

Email: [erinm@thrc.ca](mailto:erinm@thrc.ca)

Sincerely, MSMD