

Infant Program Details

Infant Program Summary

This infant program is structured around the needs and development of individual infants. Although I do have a general daycare schedule, every infant's eating, sleeping and playing habits are different. If an infant needs to nap, be fed or changed, this will be done, regardless of the schedule. Infants 12 months and older will be fed at standard set meal/snack times.

State regulations allow me to care for up to 4 infants as well as other children. An infant is 17 months and younger. I am required to have special training on SIDS, shaken baby syndrome and infant brain development annually. I am certified in infant, child and adult CPR as well as first aid.

As a professional, I am continually updating by training in all core areas through Smart Start for Teachers, daycare associations and other avenues including self-study.

Daily Routines and Activities

During the course of the day, I play music for the children (good for mental development as well as stimulation and relaxation); I play with the children to help development of skills (mental and physical development and motor skills); They are held, rocked and talked to (showing lots of love and attention, stimulating those valuable brain connections); I read to the children (good for language development--early literacy); and we go outside.

Infants are encouraged to learn through exploration. A variety of learning mediums are used throughout the day including, but not limited to: sensory toys, puppets, mirrors, manipulative play, food, videos, music, pillows and wide-open spaces.

Diapering is generally done every 2 hours and as needed in between times.

Parent Communication & Involvement

Each day, you will receive a verbal report of how your child did. Younger infants will get a written report of what and how much he/she ate, drank, how long they slept, when and any other comments. Please keep the lines of communication open, keeping me informed of changes, and doctor recommendations.

Keep your appointments for baby's well-child exams. This is not only for immunizations but for the doctors to make sure your child is developing correctly and at the right pace.

Feeding

Provider will abide by individual parents wishes regarding bottles and pacifiers, as long as we are consistent and daycare and at home. Bottles are never propped up. Babies are held and rocked while they are fed. Older infants are either held or placed in a high chair or reclining seat. They are never allowed to roam with a bottle/cup. Babies

are never given a bottle in their bed, as this is bad for their teeth (even when they are still in the gums) and bad for their little ears.

Provider must have on file an infant feeding instruction sheet for any infant not yet ready for regular table food. As the parent introduces a new food, generally one at a time to check for allergies, we will begin serving the same foods. Daycare will provide jarred infant food, 100 % juices and iron-fortified infant cereal.

Please note: this daycare serves foods according to USDA recommendations. Any variance from these recommendations will need a doctor's notice (i.e. whole milk to infant younger than 1 year, low iron formula, cereal to infant younger than 4 months, etc.)

If you have chosen to supply your child's food, please note and accept that the provider is not responsible for the nutritional value of the food, nor the effects it may have on your child's health.

Health and Safety

Infants do not share teething toys, rattles, etc. Infant toys are exclusively used by one child at a time and are washed and sanitized before use by another child. Floor blankets are also single-child. They are washed in HOT water to eliminate germs. Each baby has his or her own bottles and pacifiers and, although washed and sanitized, are not shared. Bowls, plates and utensils are washed and sanitized after each use eliminating the need for parents to provide dishes outside of bottles.

Supplies

Parents of infants are to provide diapers, wipes, at least 2 changes of clothes, shoes for walking infants, 2 bottles, a pacifier (if used), formula or breast milk, one lightweight blanket from home (familiar smells give comfort).

Medication

Any medications that will be administered according to the permission form are to be clearly labeled with the child's name. Medication should always be stored in the original container. IF you wish diaper ointments or teething meds to be applied, you must fill out a permission form.

Miscellaneous

Occasionally, I will be sending home useful information on topics related to infants. Please take time to review since there is valuable information inside.