



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY CHILD CARE PROGRAM INFANT CLASSROOM INFORMATION

Infant rooms provide a safe, nurturing and stimulating environment for infants to explore throughout their day. Experiences with teachers, peers, language, movement, music, books, water, sand, art and dramatic play materials enhance children's growth and development. Teachers design experiences based on children's developmental needs and individual interests. These experiences are documented for families on the classroom Possibilities Plan.

The infant room environment is planned to be safe and stimulating for all children in the group. One way we keep the room clean and safe for crawling infants is by maintaining a "shoeless" environment. We ask that all adults entering the room remove their shoes or use shoe covers provided by the program.

While infants have many materials and experiences provided for them in the classroom, it is also important that some materials come from home. Please bring the following items for your child:

- diapers
- diaper wipes
- a blanket, if desired
- two changes of clothing
- a pacifier or small "lovey" object, if desired
- bottles
- formula, breast milk, baby food (if not using program-provided food)
- appropriate outerwear for each season

Infant feeding is both a physical and social-emotional process. All infants are held when bottle-feeding to facilitate contact with a nurturing adult. Infant feeding is individualized, incorporating the child's changing developmental needs and individual cues, as well as family preferences. As infants grow older, they are encouraged to be as independent as possible when eating; plastic bibs are provided for them as this process can often be messy. Monthly menus are provided so that families can indicate those foods that they would like older infants to eat at mealtimes.

Sleeping is also both a physical and social-emotional process that requires teachers to observe carefully for children's cues. We may help infants fall asleep by holding, rocking, singing, rubbing backs or gently rocking a crib. Infants are permitted to sleep only in cribs.

We look forward to developing relationships with children and their families. Please take some time at arrival each day to tell us about your child's evening and morning at home so that we can more effectively meet their needs. When you return, we will tell you about your child's day with us. In addition, we will provide you with a "daily chart" indicating your child's feeding, napping, diapering and play activities.

~Child Care Program Staff