

## ***Infant and Toddler Program (6 week olds – 2 year olds)***

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Each child is unique and will be cared for in a warm, caring environment on his/her own schedule developed in conjunction with the parents. Activities such as playtime, feeding, diapering, and toileting shall be used as opportunities for language development and other learning experiences.

### ***Infant and Toddler Policies***

Grandma's House will individualize the care of each child by obtaining updates from parents via the Intake Form every three months on the child's growth and development. These updates will be used to assist in the quality care of each child.

Infants and Toddlers will be talked to and encouraged to respond. Books will be read and stories told to infants and toddlers on a daily basis. To encourage language, infants and toddlers will be spoken to at every opportunity. When diapered, the child will be talked to and exercised by moving legs, etc. A natural progression of sleeping and eating will be provided for each toddler. Developmentally appropriate toys will be provided for infants and toddlers. The teacher shall interact with the children by using toys, books, and music. Redirection will be used in the guidance of infants and toddlers.

Infants, up to twelve months old, will sleep in a Center provided crib. Cribs are arranged so that children can rest undisturbed. At, or around twelve months, your child will transition to a small cot for naptime. Teachers will assist children with this transition by rocking them or rubbing their backs while they lay on their cots until they have fallen asleep.

Infants and Toddlers are fed according to their own schedules. All bottles are labeled, dated and stored in the refrigerator. Leftover milk or formula is discarded one hour after each feeding, and bottles are rinsed. Children ages 6 weeks to 12 months are provided breast milk or formula. Children ages 12 – 24 months are provided grade A pasteurized vitamin D whole milk. Solid foods or juice are only introduced with parent permission, but not before 6 months of age. Teachers work with parents to ensure food given to infants meets their nutritional needs.

Opened commercial baby food containers will be covered, dated and placed in the refrigerator up to 36 hours. For children beginning table foods, all leftover foods prepared and provided by the center will be covered, dated and stored up to 36 hours. Foods not used in this time frame will be discarded.

Infants and toddlers are held or placed in a high chair or infant seat during feeding. Bottles are never propped. Children are encouraged to experiment with self-feeding. Children are not fed directly from commercial food containers.

Mothers are welcome to visit during the day to breastfeed. Please speak with the director if you are uncomfortable feeding in your child's classroom; we will make alternate arrangements. All breast milk bottles are heated in hot water and teachers are careful to mix, not shake, the human milk to preserve special infection fighting and nutritional components. Procedures for safely heating food in a microwave oven are posted near the microwave oven.

### ***Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) Policy***

The American Public Health Association and the American Academy of Pediatrics have written guidelines for child care centers called Caring for Our Children. These guidelines are related to the danger of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). In order to provide the best and safest care for our infants, Grandma's House follows a Back to Sleep policy. All infants will be placed on their backs to sleep while in our care. Parents will provide two receiving blankets and two crib sheets; a mobile is optional. These will be the only items allowed in cribs. Items such as stuffed animals, pillows, comforters and bumper pads will not be allowed in cribs. This policy will be strictly enforced.