

❄️ Center Wide Winter Newsletter ❄️

A Message from the Executive Director



Hello Families,

My name is Nancy Hummel, mom to Harrison and Nora, and thrilled to be joining the team here at the daycare and after-school programs. I bring with me 15 years of experience as a child and adolescent therapist, where I have had the privilege of supporting children in their growth and development.

I am excited to work alongside both the wonderful staff at the school and at the center to create safe, nurturing, and welcoming environments for all the children. My goal is to ensure that each child has a space where they feel comfortable, supported, and engaged in activities that are not only enriching but also full of fun and play.

I am eager to learn more about each of the programs and, most importantly, to get to know each of your families. I believe in the power of collaboration and communication, and I am here to work with you to ensure that your child has the best possible experience in our care. Whether it's providing guidance, support, or simply being a resource, I am always available to meet with families if needed.

I look forward to getting to know your children and supporting them in their development while working with all of you to make their time here as positive and enriching as possible.

Warmly,

Nancy Hummel

A Message from the Program Director



Dear Families,

As the seasons change, I'm thrilled to share some news, I have transitioned from Assistant Director to Program Director here at My Place! Along with this new role, I've taken on some additional responsibilities to ensure our program continues to thrive and meet the needs of our children, families, and staff. It's an honor to continue serving our community in this new role, and I look forward to building even stronger connections with you and your children.

With winter weather here, we kindly remind families to send your child to school with warm attire, including coats, hats, mittens, and boots. Per New York State regulations, we go outside every day (weather permitting) as fresh air and outdoor play are essential for your child's growth and development.

Open communication is key to ensuring your child's success and happiness. Our ProCare app is a great tool for staying informed about your child's day and connecting with us. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or updates—we value our partnership with you!

I would like to highlight the importance of early literacy in fostering lifelong learning. Our lending library, located in the lobby, is a wonderful resource to support your child's reading journey. Feel free to borrow books and share the joy of reading together at home.

Thank you for entrusting us with your child's care and education. We're excited for the season ahead and all the growth and joy it will bring.

Happy 2025,
Noel Wheaton

A Message from the Infant Team



Miss Mattie - Lead Teacher
Miss Abbi - Assistant Teacher
Miss Sierra - Teacher Aide

In the Infant room, we focus on reaching milestones! We spend lots of time on the floor learning to hold our heads up, roll over, sit up, crawl, cruise, and one day even walk! Every day your baby is learning a new skill. Sensory exposure includes tummy time on different textured mats including a water mat, splashing in a sensory bin, and painting our fingers and toes making the cutest little arts and crafts. We spend as much time outside as possible, going on long buggy rides seeing many new sights, hearing many new sounds, and taking in the fresh air. This leaves your baby feeling refreshed and relaxed ready for a good nap. Throughout the day and especially at mealtimes we love to teach baby ASL. Helping us communicate with your baby and most importantly teaching them how to communicate with us. Here is a helpful website [Baby Sign Language - Communicate With Your baby](#)

Throughout winter this far we have had a blast celebrating all the holidays! Listening to holiday music, dressing up for spirit weeks, making the cutest crafts, and talking about our families are just some of the fun things we've been enjoying! We are very excited to welcome the New Year and continue to enjoy so many 1sts.



A Message from the Waddler Team



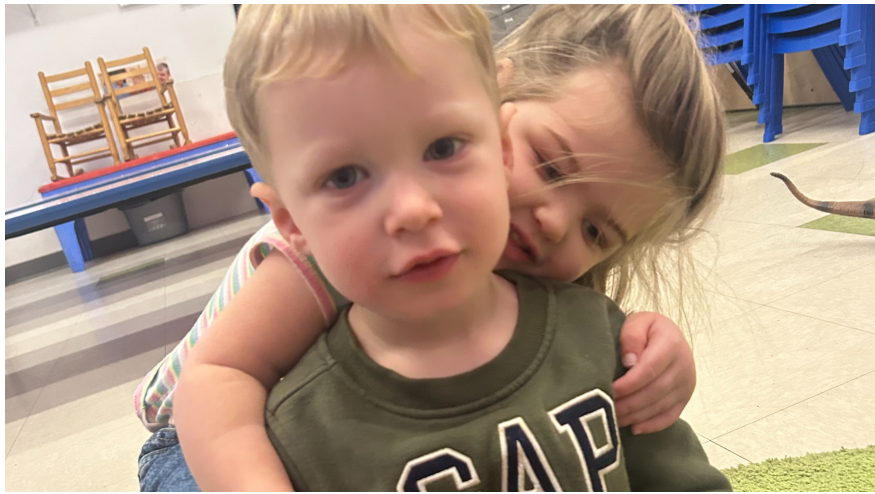
Miss Mady & Miss Ashley - Assistant Teachers
Miss Tammy - Teacher Aide

In our Waddler classroom, we're focusing on kindness! We're learning how to share toys, use gentle touches, and care for our friends. During mealtimes, children are practicing using utensils to eat independently, fostering both fine motor skills and self-care. Our creative child-led art activities are a big hit, as the children explore their imagination and express themselves through hands-on experiences. It's a wonderful time of growth and discovery as we nurture kindness, independence, and creativity together!

We are very excited to welcome in the New Year for many opportunities to learn and grow as a classroom. Miss Ashley and Miss Tammy will remain in the Waddler room. Miss Mady will be going back up to Preschool. We hope all families have a happy and healthy holiday season!



A Message from the Toddler Teams



Miss Hannah - Lead Teacher
Miss Bre, Miss Bria & Miss Mya - Assistant Teacher's
Miss Taegen - Teacher Aide

In our Tiny Tots and Toddler rooms, we focus on learning kindness and learning through creativity. We focus on sharing toys, being kind to one another through gentle hands and feet, and working together! Through our music and movement, arts and crafts, and building with magnet tiles and blocks, our kiddos are able to express themselves in their own ways and we can really see their personalities shine! We have been really working on recognizing emotions of ourselves and others around us, helping build empathy for friends as well as knowing how they feel and build skills to handle those emotions. One thing about our rooms is we are always trying to have fun and learn through making positive and happy memories here at school!

If you haven't already, please send in winter clothes for the kiddos for when we go outside. We look forward to this upcoming new year for more learning and fun!!



A Message from the Preschool Team



Miss Tee - Lead Teacher
Miss Mikayla & Miss Maddy - Assistant Teachers

We hope you enjoy the holiday season!

In our preschool classroom, learning happens through play! Every day, your child is building important skills while having fun with their friends. Whether they're sharing toys, practicing scissor skills, or exploring their emotions, each moment is a chance to grow. Through cooperative play, they are learning to work together, communicate, and form lasting friendships. We also focus on understanding and expressing feelings, helping the children develop emotional awareness and empathy. The creative projects they dive into help them develop fine motor skills and imagination. Each day is a chance to make memories, and we're so excited to share this joyful journey of learning with you! Please remember to send in appropriate attire for the weather! We love to get outside every chance we can get!

The teachers moving forward in the preschool classroom are Miss Tee, Miss Maddy, Miss Mady, and Miss Mikayla! Our main communication is always through ProCare messaging, never hesitate to reach out!



A message from the School Age Program



Miss Cass - Program Director
Miss Maggie, Miss Alexis, Miss Kiersten, Miss Anna, Miss Kate, Miss Nikita, Mr. Zach & Mr. Aiden

As we approach the end of 2024, we're excited to share the incredible progress and joy we've experienced during the first four months of the 2024/2025 school year. Your continued support makes our program a thriving and enriching environment for all our students!

Highlights from Our Year So Far

- **STEM Cart Adventures:** The introduction of our STEM cart has sparked creativity and exploration among students. From hands-on projects to engaging challenges, STEM has quickly become a favorite activity.
- **OPEN PE Games:** Incorporating the OPEN PE curriculum has added fun, teamwork, and active play to our days. These games are a hit with students and staff alike!

Exciting Plans Ahead

Thanks to the evolving LEAPS grant, we're excited to enhance our program with:

- **Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) Curriculum:** New tools to help students develop emotional resilience and strong relationships.
- **Community Engagement Opportunities:** Partnerships and activities that connect students with our local community.

Looking Forward to 2025

As our program grows in size and quality, we're thrilled about the opportunities ahead. With new initiatives, dedicated staff, and enthusiastic students, we're ready to make 2025 a year to remember. Thank you for being an integral part of the My Place After School Program. We look forward to continuing this journey together!



A message from Miss Kris and her new boss, Wesley



Pyramid Model Tip: Supporting Positive Behaviors

Young children often use behaviors to express their needs, emotions, or frustrations, especially when they lack the words to communicate effectively. As caregivers, we can support positive behaviors by teaching and modeling appropriate ways to express feelings.

Try this at home:

It's just like to take a moment to thank all the families and staff that have prepared me for my greatest adventure yet, grandma! You will still see around from time to time but for the next year, I will be focusing on this little guy and coaching other families during their newborn stage, so they can transition into quality care centers like ours. I will forever be grateful for all I've learned through my tenure at My Place.

- **Acknowledge emotions:** When your child is upset, validate their feelings by saying, "I see that you're feeling frustrated. Let's figure out how we can solve this together."
- **Provide alternatives:** If your child engages in challenging behavior, calmly show them a positive alternative, such as saying, "If you need my attention, you can tap my arm instead of yelling."
- **Praise positive behavior:** When your child uses kind words or actions, offer specific praise like, "Great job using your words to tell me how you feel!"

For more tips and strategies, check out **The National Center for Pyramid Model Innovations (NCPMI)** at www.challengingbehavior.org. They offer a variety of family-friendly resources to support positive behavior at home.

By partnering together, we can create a consistent and supportive environment that helps the children thrive!