

Welcome to
The Children's School at St. John's
2 - 3 Year Old Classroom



Parent Packet for 2025-2026 School year

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2/3-year-old classroom! We are very excited for the new school year to begin. The teachers in the room this year will be Miss Amy, Miss Megan, and Miss Yuki. This year we will focus on different weekly themes, continue to work on color and shape recognition, introduce the alphabet and the sounds the letters make, and continue working on counting with 1-1 correspondence and number recognition.

This is a big year for the children's social and emotional development as well. Throughout the year we will encourage a greater degree of independence! This is the year that the children typically become potty-trained, learn to complete simple tasks such as putting on jackets and shoes, cleaning up their lunch and snacks, and they enjoy being big helpers to the teachers in the classroom. Socially, children begin to play more cooperative games with their friends and begin to learn problem solving skills. We will work with the children on learning to use their words to solve disagreements/frustrations, teach them how to take turns, and work on calm-down strategies when they are feeling upset.

We are excited to have your child in our class and are looking forward to a wonderful and fun-filled year! We want to make this experience a great one for you and your child so please feel free to reach out to us at any time with any questions or concerns you might have.

Meet the Teachers!

Miss Amy: Hi everyone, my name is Amy Gershman and I am the lead teacher in the classroom this year. In May of 2012, I graduated with honors with a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education (K-6) from West Chester University and received my teacher's certification. I began working at The Children's School in May of 2012 in the two-year-old room as an assistant and then became the lead teacher the following year and have remained as so since! The twos are my favorite class to work with as they make every day an exciting adventure! Prior to working at the Children's School, I worked at the Ridley YMCA where I taught youth art and sports classes, helped to plan and run family events and birthday parties, and was a camp counselor during the summer months for 5–6-year-olds. I also previously worked in a church nursery taking care of children ages 1-7 while their parents attended church. When I'm not busy at work I am busy at home. I live in Limerick, PA (yes, I drive that far every day!) with my husband, my son Caiden (12th grade), my daughter Peyton (5th grade), and my son Bentley (3rd grade). I look forward to getting to know your children and planning fun and engaging activities to do with them throughout the year. If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions please feel free to contact me anytime!

Miss Megan: Hi everyone, my name is Megan Sheridan. I am going into my tenth year here at The Children's School as an assistant teacher in the two-year-old room and I enjoy every minute of my day. I have completed my CDA and attend trainings often to learn new and exciting ways to engage the children in activities. I have two boys, Nicholas, who is 21 years old and Sean who is 15 years old. I look forward to getting to know more about your children and helping to plan fun activities for them to enjoy. I am excited for the upcoming school year; it is going to be a great one!

Miss Yuki: Hi everyone, my name is Yongqi Li and you can call me Yuki. I'm from China. I am so excited to join The Children's School as a teaching assistant this year! I graduated from Saint Joseph's University with a master's degree in Elementary Education and Teaching. I enjoy working with children and look forward to supporting them in their learning and growth. I believe every child has unique strengths, and I am passionate about helping them build confidence. Children amaze me every day! The things they say always surprise me and make me think in new ways. I really believe each of them has so much potential, and being around them reminds me to stay curious and enjoy the little wonders in life. In my free time I enjoy singing and traveling. I look forward to getting to know all of you and making a fun and wonderful year!

Tentative Shift Schedule:

Miss Megan: 7-4

Miss Yuki: 8-5

Miss Amy- 9:30-6

Items Needed for the Two-Year-Old Room

1. 2 or 3 changes of seasonally appropriate clothing in case of spills or accidents (shirts, shorts/pants, socks, and underwear (if applicable)) A change of shoes are also good for children who are newly potty trained. You may also want to keep a sweatshirt here just in case
2. Diapers or Pull-Ups if applicable (If using pull-ups we prefer the ones that open on the side for easier changing)
3. Wipes – 2 packs per month for those in diapers.
1 pack per month for those who are potty trained
4. Diaper rash ointment (if needed)
5. Lunch Box labeled with child's name (Bento style works great!)
6. Filled water cup labeled with your child's name (sent home daily for washing)
 - Feel free to also pack a filled milk or juice cup for lunchtime if desired
7. A nap-mat for nap time (see examples below)
8. Any medication your child may need while at school (epi-pen, inhaler, etc.) Please make sure it has the prescription label on it and we will have you fill out a form (let us know if you have any questions)
9. 1 Family picture (size 4x6 or 5x7) to hang in the room (you can also email it to me (crawford4688@yahoo.com) and I can print it out for you if that is easier)
10. Backpack for your child's belongings (we prefer standard size over toddler sized)
11. Sunscreen/Bug Spray for warmer months

Please label all personal items with your child's name or initials!

Nap Mat Examples:



Daily Schedule (Tentative)

7:00 – 9:30	Drop Off and Free Play (Block Center, Transportation, Reading Center, Art Center, Manipulatives and Puzzles, etc.)
9:30 – 10:00	Diapers, Potty, and Clean-Up
10:00 – 10:15	Wash Hands, Morning Snack
10:15 – 10:30	Circle Time
10:30 – 11:00	Daily Activity/ Centers
11:00 – 11:45	Free Play on Playground (if weather permits) (Jungle Gym, Blocks, Sandbox, Balls)
11:45 – 12:00	Transition inside and wash hands
12:00 – 12:40	Lunch
12:40– 1:00	Quiet Book Time and Potty/diapers
1:00– 3:00	Nap Time
3:00 – 3:30	Diapers, Potty, Wash Hands
3:30 – 3:45	Afternoon Snack
3:45 - 5:15	Playground or Free Play (Jungle Gym, Blocks, Sandbox, Balls)
5:15 – 6:00	Indoor Free Play (Block Center, Transportation, Reading Center, Art Center, Manipulatives and Puzzles)

Special Activities

Mondays at 10:30 – Music with Mr. David
Thursdays at 9:45- Tumble Tots

Important Information

Drop Off

Please try to have your child to school by 9:30. When children arrive after 9:30 we find that they have a hard time transitioning to school and miss out on some of our fun activities. (If you have to schedule an appointment for your child we find it best if the appointment is later in the day so it doesn't disrupt their routine as much.)

Upon arrival in the classroom please can help your child hang up their jackets and backpacks on their hook, put their lunches in the refrigerator on the bottom shelf and cup(s) on the middle shelf and then help them wash their hands. We will then help your child find a center/toy to play with. This may be a difficult transition for some children, but we will be there to offer comfort, hugs, and different opportunities for play to help distract them. While it is understandably difficult to leave your child when they are crying, most of the time they calm down within minutes and you can always call or email to check up on them for peace of mind!

Hand Washing

Hand washing is the best way to prevent the spread of infection. It is strongly recommended with the Montgomery County Department of Health and Keystones Stars that hand washing starts the moment we enter a classroom. Each morning, as we enter the classroom, the teachers will guide your child to go over to the sink and wash their hands. We will also wash our hands often throughout the day. We will wash before and after snack and lunch, when transitioning inside from being outside, and anytime we put our hands in our mouth, cough, sneeze, or wipe our nose.

Free Play

Free Play is when the children independently choose what activities to do in the classroom. It is an opportunity to socialize and interact with the other students while playing with their favorite toys and games. It is a good opportunity for children to develop social and communication skills, such as accepting compromises and sharing during activities. The teachers will be supervising and engaging the children as they play. Afterwards, the children all clean up their respective centers encouraging a sense of responsibility.

Diapers and Potty Training

Diapers will be kept under or above the changing table in an area labeled with your child's name. Wipes will be kept in the bathroom and used as a class supply (unless your child has sensitivity). A teacher will let you know if the supply in your child's bin is running low. When you bring in a new pack of diapers or wipes, please have your child's name clearly labeled and leave them on the diaper changer and we will take care of putting them away for you.

When you feel that your child is ready to move from diapers to the potty, please let the teachers know and the teachers will also let you know if your child expresses any desire the potty-training process. Children are curious by nature, when they see other children going to the bathroom it is likely that they will want to try using the toilet. However, we do realize that each child is different and will take to using the toilet when they desire. There is no pressure to start potty training by any certain time. We do ask that when the potty training does get underway that we stay consistent by practicing and trying the potty at both home and school. We do also have a 3-accident rule where if the child has 3 accidents in one day, we will then put a pull-up on

them, and they can try underwear again the next day. **If you use pull-ups, we prefer the kind that open on the sides so we don't have to fully remove pants/shoes to change them.**

Circle Time

Circle time is about a 10–15-minute period in the morning where we will introduce concepts and discuss what we are doing for the day. We will begin by doing a physical activity or song, such as “Shaking our Sillies Out”, before sitting in chairs around the circle rug. Then, we will welcome each other and sing a “Good Morning” song. Next, we will assign “jobs” for the day. Afterwards we move on to the calendar and identify the month, day, and then we will sing our “Days of the Week” song to figure out the day of the week. We then have our “weather helper” tell us what the weather is like and our “weather predictor” guess what tomorrow’s weather will be like. After this consistent beginning, the teachers will introduce the concept of the day. A variety of activities relating to the theme and concept, such as games or songs, will be included in circle time. Every day we will also be reading a book that relates to the theme of the week. Besides learning about colors and shapes, we will also discuss math, through counting and number recognition, science, through games such as “Sink or Float”, and community, through discussions of different occupations. In addition, any art activities for the day will be discussed and demonstrated, so that everyone will know the directions to follow and see an example of the finished project. This is an important part of our day where the children are introduced to new concepts and old concepts are reinforced.

Snack and Lunch Time

In the morning when your child arrives, please place items in our refrigerator on the bottom shelf and Thermos/warm foods will be placed on the shelf next to the refrigerator. Also, please be sure to **label lunchboxes, containers, and cups with your child's name/initials.** The teachers will be sitting with the students to assist them and encourage them to eat their healthy foods first and save their snacks and special treats for last. Towards the end of the year, children will become more independent and re-pack empty containers and unfinished food into lunchboxes and throw away their own trash.

The Children's School provides morning snacks, such as cereal, fruit or yogurt, and an afternoon snack, which consists of items like cookies, crackers, or veggie chips. A list of snacks for the month can be provided for you if desired however they are subject to change. If your child suffers from a food allergy or otherwise should not participate in our snack items, please bring in an alternative and alert your teachers.

Nap Time / Quiet Time

Nap time is scheduled from 1 to 3 pm. Each child will have their own labeled cot. Please send in a nap mat or blanket for their cot. These will be sent home weekly to be washed.

Medicine Log

If, for any reason, your child needs to take medicine at school, you are required to fill out the medicine log located in the teacher's binder. You will be asked to fill out the name of the medicine, when it should be administered, the amount, and your signature. If you wish to leave any medication at school, it must be labeled with your child's name and placed in the medicine bin, which is located on our emergency shelf. If it is a prescription medicine (i.e. inhaler or EpiPen) it must also have the prescription label with your child's name on it. If your child has an allergy or asthma, we also need an action plan on file for your child.

Evaluations / Assessments

The children will be formally evaluated on their progress twice during the school year. The first evaluation period occurs in November and consists of a developmental checklist and a summary paragraph that describes your child's progress up to that point. In May, a second assessment will be sent out for each child. This includes an updated developmental checklist and a summary describing your child's growth, strengths, and weaknesses and goals. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's progress during the school year, please feel free to talk with us at any time.

Communication

We at the Children's School feel it is of great importance to keep the lines of communication open with the parents. Every Sunday I will send out a weekly email to all parents that will communicate the theme for the week, activities and special events that will be occurring that week, and any upcoming events/days off that you should be aware of. There will also be an email sent home with a link to a google photo album where we will periodically upload pictures of the children enjoying the activities at school. Please let us know if you do not want your child pictured. Outside of the classroom we have "Mailboxes" labeled with the children's names. Please check these daily as we will send home any projects and daily reports this way.

Daily reports are written reports that let you know how your child's day went. They include diapering and potty info, naptime, lunch, activities, moods etc. We will also utilize a whiteboard on the inside of the door to the classroom which will have a brief review of the day's activities. At pick up time you will also receive a verbal report from one of the teachers about your child's day. If there are any specific details that you would like a teacher to make note of throughout the day concerning your child, we are more than happy to accommodate. There is also a parent information bulletin board and resource shelves located on the first floor. The purpose of the board and shelves is providing valuable resources on child development and milestones, community events, and upcoming events. Special events are also posted on the glass by the sign-in sheets.

Getting to Know You Meeting

Every year we offer a 45 day "Getting to Know You Meeting." Around the 45-day mark of being in the two-year-old room (around November), we will ask you if you would like to take some time to sit down and chat about how your child is doing in the classroom thus far. This is an informal and optional meeting. As it gets closer to this time, we will be sending out letters about this conference.

Weekly Specials

Music

Every Monday, musician and caricature artist Mr. David, will come to perform silly songs and teach the children about different instruments. The children love singing and dancing with him and afterwards everyone gets to enjoy helping to color a special picture that he has drawn just for the class.

Tumble Tots

We are very excited to welcome Tumble Tots with Coach Dana back again this year every Thursday! Tumble Tots is a gymnastics program where the children will complete an obstacle course filled with different activities to increase their gross motor and balancing skills. They will learn to use a balance beam, roll, and do somersaults on a cheese mat, and jump on a trampoline among other activities. The children will also stretch to different songs before completing the obstacle course.

Early Dismissals

The following are dates on which the school will be closing at 4:30 PROMPTLY for staff meetings. As a NAEYC accredited school, we are required to have regular staff meetings throughout the year. Staff meetings are utilized to help keep the staff informed of all upcoming events and to communicate and share with one another about different activities or lessons that have worked well for classrooms. This will also give Miss Jennifer and Miss Amy, our two mentor teachers for the school, the opportunity to offer suggestions and guidance on child development milestones for the different ages and reinforce the importance of positive communication amongst the children and parents.

Monday, October 13th-closing at 4:30
Friday, October 31st- Closing after Halloween Parade/trunk or treat
Wednesday, November 26th -closing at 1:00
Friday, December 19th- closing after holiday show
Monday, January 19th- closing at 4:30
Monday, March 9th-closing at 4:30
Wednesday, April 1st- closing at 1:00
Thursday, June 12th- closing at 4:00 for end of year celebration

Calendar of Events

- September 2nd**- Classroom Visitation Day 9-11am (Optional)
September 3rd - First day of school
October 3rd - Yom Kippur (No School)
October 13th- Early dismissal at 4:30pm
October 31st- Halloween Parade/Trunk or Treat at 3pm outside (school closes following)
November 26th- Thanksgiving Feast at 11:30am (School closes at 1pm)
(**Nov. 27th and 28th**)
December 19th- Holiday Show at 4pm at the church. School closes following the show at 4:30
December 24th -January 2nd- Winter Break (No School)
January 19th- Early dismissal at 4:30pm
February 16th- Presidents' Day (No School)
March 9th- Early dismissal at 4:30pm
April 1st- Early dismissal at 1:00pm
April 2nd -April 3rd- Spring break (No School)
April 6th- Parent Breakfast from 7-9am downstairs (come any time during)
April 8th- Grandparents Day from 10-11 in individual classrooms
May 8th- Mother's Day Tea at 4pm outside
May 22nd- Staff Development Day (No School)
May 25th- Memorial Day (No School)
June 11th- End of the year party at 4pm (school closes at 4)
June 12th- Summer Break (No School)
June 15th - August 28th- Summer Program
June 18th- Happy hour with dad at 4pm (Outside)
July 3rd - Independence Day (No School)
August 31st -September 4th - Cleaning Days (No School)
September 7th- Labor Day (No School)

Tentative Schedule- Events Subject to change