

March 2026 Center Newsletter

Picture Day is coming!

Tuesday, March 24, 2026, will be Picture Day for all classrooms!

Pictures will be taken the morning of Tuesday, March 24 by Lifetouch Photography. Please ensure your child's picture form is filled out and returned by Monday, March 23.

We're excited to capture those sweet smiles!

Let us know if you have any questions.



New Faces ...

We're excited to share that we're expanding the Children's Center and will soon be opening a new room for our 2-year-olds. Many of our little friends are transitioning into new classrooms, and with these changes comes the need for additional staff. We're currently looking for new team members who will be a great fit for our Center family.

In March and/or April, we'll be welcoming a new staff to our Center. Be sure to give a warm hello when she arrives.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to get in touch.

Preventing the Spread of Illness ...



How is your child feeling?

Children should stay home from school if they're sick. At the Children's Center, we work hard to create a safe and healthy environment for everyone, but we need your support. If your child isn't feeling well or is showing symptoms of illness, including but not limited to:

Fever

Severe Pains including Headache, Body aches including ear, throat or teeth, and Stomachache

Vomiting

Diarrhea

Persistent cough

Constant sneeze

Runny unclear nose

Lethargy

Rash

or any contagious disease or infections, they should be kept home. When in doubt, reach out to your child's doctor and keep us informed about their progress. Children can return once they have a doctor's note.

What happens when your child is sick at school?

You'll be contacted through the ProCare emergency text message system. If there's no response within 5 minutes, you'll get a follow-up phone call for immediate pickup. Children should be picked up within an hour of being called. If a child isn't feeling their best and a parent can't be reached, the Center will contact an emergency contact to arrange pickup.

Please ensure your contact information is up to date, and your emergency contacts are current and available for pickups if necessary.

Scheduling ...



Mornings?

The Children's Center has a **9:30 Am cutoff policy**. While we understand that morning issues may come up, this cutoff helps maintain a structured schedule in our classrooms. At 9:30 Am, we take morning attendance, set the staff-to-child ratio for the day, and serve snacks. This is also when each classroom begins its morning learning activities, and late arrivals can cause distractions.

Children won't be accepted into the Center **after 9:30 Am** to minimize distractions, unless they have a doctor's appointment that the teacher was informed in advance and they arrive with a doctor's note.

Evenings?

The Children's Center **closes at 5:30 Pm** sharp, so be sure to plan your evening to arrive no later than that time for pickup.

If you're going to arrive after the evening cutoff, let the Center know your estimated arrival time. A late fee applies: \$25 after the first 5 minutes, plus \$1 for every additional minute. This fee is paid in cash, is not part of your tuition, and should be settled at pickup or before your child returns the next day. It goes to the staff member who stayed with your child past regular work hours.

Thank you for your understanding as we work toward creating a more structured approach to our students' daily learning and schedules.

Communication ...

You will hear more information soon about switching our communication system from ProCare to Brightwheel, so stay tuned. For now, please make sure you are using ProCare to its fullest, staying in communication with your classroom, and ensuring contact information is loaded and up to date so you can receive all information.

For any questions or concerns, contact your child's teacher during working hours through Procare or by calling 301-856-1680. Please avoid calling between 1:00 pm and 3:00 pm, as this is nap time and when staff are on their lunch breaks.



Infant/ Toddler Room - Ms. Amanda (7:00 Am - 4:00 Pm)
2-year-old Room - Ms. Kia (7:00 Am - 5:30 Pm)
3-year-old Room - Ms. Caprise (7:00 Am - 4:00 Pm)
3-year-old Room - Ms. Crystal (8:30 Am - 5:30 Pm)
4-year-old Room - Ms. Tonya (8:30 Am - 5:30 Pm)

In case of an emergency or if you cannot reach your child's teacher, feel free to contact Ms. Kia, director, via ProCare, phone call, or email at thechildrensctr@yahoo.com.

If any other information comes up during the month, I'll send messages through ProCare.