Room Transitions

As your child grows and becomes of age to move into the next age group, you and your child will experience some changes. Although we try to make this experience as pleasant as possible, sometimes we wind up with very teary eyes.

Transitions are done over a week or two before the actual start date. Your child's teacher will take your child into the new room for a visit, then they will leave your child for small periods of time or for as long as your child wishes to stay. Sometime during the second week, we will ask you to try dropping your child off into that room. If your child is uncomfortable or chooses not to stay, don't force the issue and drop off in their regular room.

Every transition is different and we're here to help with this process. If you have any questions during this process, please don't be shy.

The following lists are classroom differences and some ideas on what to expect during a change. We hope we've covered the major differences to make this process smoother for all involved.

(Keep in mind that some transitions may not be able to take place due to the child's readiness, enrollment in any given class, or age of child.)

Transition from Infant A to Infant/Toddler B: (approximately 10 months-20 months)

Ratio changes 1 to 3 or 2 to 9

a. Weaning from the bottle continues
b. Weaning from pacifier begins
c. Transition from high chair to table and chairs
d. Begin feeding finger foods
e. Transition from 1 nap per day begins
f. Transition from crib to mat begins
g. Daily information form stays the same
h. Children experience more independent play
i. Children participate in circle time (songs, finger plays, stories)
j. Art activities are facilitated
k. Your child's individual feeding time may change
l. Children experience outdoor play in our playgrounds or buggy rides
m. Snacks change- school provides a.m. and p.m. snack
n. At 15 months the rate will change to a toddler rate

Transition from Infant/Toddler to Toddler:

a. No bottles are used. Supply sippy cups- one per snack or meal
b. No cribs are used. Children sleep on mats
c. No high chairs. Children sit at a table in chairs
d. Children feed themselves
e. 1 nap per day after lunch time
f. Ratio changes- 2 to 9
g. Daily information form changes slightly
h. Potty training starts when signs of readiness are seen
i. May experience biting issues
j. Outdoor play on playground for both a.m. and p.m.
k. Children's labeled lunches are placed in "lunch bucket" and teacher will refrigerate
l. Toddler rate applies

Transition from Toddler to Preschool Transition: 2.9 months

a. Ratio changes from 1 to 9
b. Sippy cups are omitted, we will supply small cups for snack. Drink boxes are acceptable for lunch time.
c. Individualized daily information forms are omitted. Classroom "What we did today" is posted outside of classroom or on parent board.
d. Children become more self-sufficient
e. Program time becomes more involved. Re: calendar, weather, circle time, colors, numbers, letters, etc.
f. Naptime becomes shorter
g. Buggy rides and walks are part of outdoor play.
h. Bikes and playground equipment are larger and more challenging. Feel free to send in a helmet for your child if you prefer.
i. Potty training continues and/or is mastered
j. Rate changes to preschool rate at 2 years, 9 months

Transition from Preschool Transition to Young Preschool

a. Ratio changes to 2 to 18
b. Physical size of classroom is larger
c. Potty training is mastered
d. Children to continue to become more independent
e. Lunches are placed in a lunch box in the refrigerator
f. Program time incorporates more Pre-Kindergarten activities, letter of the week activities and pre-writing activities
g. Children will learn how to use a computer
h. Cubbies are located outside of the room
i. Preschool rate remains

Young Preschool to Older Preschool: 3.9 to 4 years

a. Ratio changes to 2 to 19
b. Writing skills are explored (letters, numbers & names)
c. More mathematical activities are implemented
d. Self-help skills are mastered
e. Group time involves open-ended discussions that foster creativity
f. Preschool rate remains

Older Preschool to Kindergarten: 5 years

a. Field trips begin during the summer months
b. Children learn to tie shoes
c. Naptime is only 45 minutes. Blanket & pillow only. No toys.
d. Tooth loss may be experienced
e. Transition of other children coming and leaving the program for public school
f. Ratio changes to 1 to 15 or 2 to 20
g. Bathrooms are located outside of the room
h. Lesson time becomes more involved
i. Children are encouraged to be self-sufficient
j. Preschool rate remains
k. Year-end expectations are to know all numbers, letters, sounds, small words, well-developed writing skills and math skills include addition, subtraction, money and time