

Dear Toddler parents or caregiver,

Welcome to Jesus Loves Me Learning Center – here are some reminders to help you be ready for your child’s day in a toddler aged room.

Your child is ready to explore many new areas. God has made them to grow and develop rapidly in the next year and a half in such awesome ways. Language builds and explodes, independence skills reach new levels and personalities become very defined. The staff here at JLMLC will work to make these toddler years the best they can be with God’s guidance. We plan to facilitate learning in many ways for both your child and you!

Language Development: Hearing language is so important at this stage so we talk a lot. We talk about feelings, what they are doing, seeing, hearing, touching, etc. Your child need to hear words many times before they start using them. Several books are read throughout the day.

Motor Development: Toddlers are learning about what their bodies can do. We set out equipment for them to experiment with such as scooters, climbers, rocking horses and balls. Weather permitting we go outside to our playground.

Sensory Table: Toddlers learn by using all of their senses so in our sensory table we use lots of things that are messy, cold, rough, crinkly, soft etc. The children are encouraged to manipulate materials, experiment and thus, learn about things in their world and how they can use them.

Art Experiences: Our focus for art is to give the toddlers exposure to art media. We use paint, brushes, water, chalk, play dough, silly putty, crayons, markers and anything that we can think of to give the child experience. If toddlers are still in the oral stage – we adjust media to meet those needs.

Fine Motor: These experiences encourage the children to use their hands to make things happen. Activities include blocks, pegs, puzzles, small balls and more. They often start by putting in and dumping out but later build towers and put together puzzles.

Circle Time and Bible Time: At one Group Time, we hear a short Bible lesson with connected songs, fingerplays and more, another we may read stories, do a flannel board, puppets, movement games, finger plays, sing songs or dance. We again work to give the experience of a group activity as the toddler is willing to choose to learn from a group activity.

Meal Times ; The children sit at tables and use appropriate meal items. All children wash their hands before and after meals. We also pray to thank God for our food. They are encouraged to use their spoon. Mealtime is a great time for conversations and even a beginning introduction to family style meals. All children are encouraged to try everything unless there are on restrictive diets. We ensure a balanced diet is offered.

Quiet Nap Time: The toddlers sleep on cots. The room is fairly dark and we have a fan going and may play soothing music. If they wish – we rub backs or cuddle them on our laps. Children can sleep when ready and get up when ready. Please communicate any special needs.

Redirection or short Breaks: Toddlers have a great sense of what is theirs. It all is! There are confrontations, because of this. Coupled with lack of language and problem solving skills, this leads to conflicts for most toddlers. We encourage children to solve their conflict by providing words and guiding interactions. We talk about taking turns instead of sharing, because sharing is not a toddler skill. Learning the words “ me next, mine, stop” and how they may give gentle touches are skills we work on. We do have doubles of toys so that we do not always have to take turns.

Separation: Toddlers often go through stages where parents' leaving is hard sometimes and easy sometimes. We will be glad to work with you on separation issues whenever you would like or need us to.

Potty Learning: This is a big skill that is usually learned in the toddler years. We treat it like learning to walk or talk. It is a process. We have books and information that will help us with this step when it comes.

JLMLC practices fire drills (outside near playground fence), tornado drills (big bathrooms near gym) and safety drills (room bathroom or corner) monthly (every other month in winter).

The staff in the Yellow Toddler Room is here to make your child's day the best it can be. If you have questions or need information – please let us know. Toddler-hood is a challenging time but a very special time to learn the love of Jesus. It will be exciting and rewarding for your child. We are looking forward to being part of that time with you and your child. If you have any concerns – please do not hesitate to approach your child's teacher. Lead teachers are here from about 8 – 5. You may also email to lingilm@hickorytech.net

Please bring the following labeled items for your child here at JLMLC.

1. Diapers and wipes
2. Labeled rest items: blanket, small pillow
3. Labeled extra clothes: please keep a seasonally appropriate change of clothes (pants or shorts, shirt, socks, shoes must have backs on them)
4. Labeled outside clothes when winter arrives: snow pants, boots, hats, mittens etc.
5. Bring your child in the morning with sunscreen applied when needed

Please check the following areas for notes and important information

1. Your email and/or bulletin board near entrance
2. Your child's locker
3. Daily Report Binder

Please call 507-508-2041 or write in Communication notebook near sign-in computer or email by 9 am when your child will be absent or with any questions that you have.

When you arrive with your child, please first wash hands.

Birthday treats are allowed but we do have peanut and gluten allergies here at JLMLC, so fruits and/or vegetables could be used or please consider a non-food birthday treat.

Outside Time is also important and we do go outside unless temperature (above 85 or below 15F) or wind chill do not permit it. Outside large muscle games, nature exploration, gardening, dramatic play, and art activities are available to the children.

Music Time gives children time and experiences with music.

JLMLC is now part of a program in the state of Minnesota called Parent Aware Quality Rating System. The staff has: volunteered to do more in-depth training; devoted ourselves to building strong, caring relationships with each child; adopted the latest approaches to keep children's learning on track; committed ourselves to daily activities and routines that help children learn and placed a focus on children's health and safety.

Sincerely with love for the Lord and your children,
Staff at Jesus Loves Me Learning Center