

Small Blessings Christian Early Care & Preschool

A Ministry of First United Methodist Church

Welcome to the Infant room!

Here at Small Blessings we believe every life is a precious gift from God. We consider it a privilege to care for your child and strive to provide the highest quality care available. As a center it is not possible, and not the best practice, for infants to be held all day. Instead, their day is filled with activities that encourage them to self-soothe and grow in their independence, as well as lots of cuddles.

Our lead teacher, Meghan Cluckey, has been working in childcare for 3 years. She has worked with children from all ages and is currently finishing up Preschool CDA. She is also currently working to gain an additional Infant/Toddler CDA. She has an excellent understanding of developmental stages and works with each infant to ensure these key developmental stages are reached, providing extra activities as needed. She heads up a dedicated staff who absolutely love caring for infants.

As we are a licensed childcare, there are licensing rules and regulations that govern how we care for your infant. The following guidelines are in place to make sure your infant has a smooth transition to care and that all licensing rules and regulations are met.

- All bottles must be labeled with your child's name, the date, the amount, and whether it is breast milk or formula. Bottles are stored in a refrigerator in a spot labeled for your child. (Please label all bottle parts to make sure they are returned properly)
- Diapers are checked and changed, if needed, every hour. It is the parent's responsibility to provide diapers and wipes. Teachers will notify parents when the supply is running low. There is a \$5.00 diaper fee for each diaper the center provides.
- Infants are not allowed to have anything in their crib. Licensing requires all infants to sleep in a crib with only a non wrinkled sheet. The center does provide sheets, however, you may bring one from home if you prefer. It will be sent home each week to be laundered. Porta crib size sheets fit the mattresses we have at Small Blessings.
 - Age appropriate sleep sacks are permitted for warmth and comfort.
 - We are not allowed to swaddle an infant past 10 weeks.
- Medication can only be administered with written authorization from the parent. The medication must be in its original container. If it is prescription medication, it must have the prescription label. If it is an over the counter medication, it must have a dosage for your infant's age in order for us to administer it. A Medication Permission slip must be completed by a parent or guardian. *Please refer to the Parent Handbook for the complete Medication Policy.
- Each child should have at least one extra outfit.
- Please let us know if your child will be absent. While this does not change your tuition, as tuition is based on your child's scheduled days, it does help with scheduling which keeps the cost of tuition down.

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We are excited to partner with you as your infant grows and we encourage you to build relationships with the staff in order for us to be a support to your family.

Schedule

6:00-8:00	Greeting Choice Floor time Breakfast/Bottles
8:00-8:30	Welcome/Movement
8:30-9:00	Large/Fine Motor
9:00-9:30	Naps
9:30-10:00	Art/Sensory
10:00-10:30	Snack/Bottles
10:30-11:00	Outside/Walk
11:30	Lunch/Bottles/Oral care
12:00-2:00	Naps
2:00-3:00	Bottles/Snack
3:00-4:00	Choice Time
4:00-4:30	PM Group Time
4:30-5:00	Outside time/Walks
5:00-6:00	Departure/Choice time

*This schedule is just a framework as all babies' needs are met on demand.

*Diapers are checked/changed every hour.

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Small Blessings supports families' individual choices regarding feeding and diapering. Please talk with the Infant teacher about your infant's specific needs.

Formula

Parents who choose formula, should make sure that the bottles are premade and labeled properly. We are not allowed to prepare any bottles.

Breastfeeding

Mothers are welcome to breastfeed their babies in the Infant room. There are several comfortable chairs in the room. The Infant Nursery in the church is also available for nursing mothers who prefer more privacy.

As with formula, breastmilk should be labeled properly.

Please note that we are not allowed to give any bottles that contain medicine.

Baby food

Teachers will work with parents in regards to adding solid foods, however, teachers will not go against licensing recommendations regarding feeding.

Disposable diapers

We are required by licensing to change infants every hour. This is a lot of diapers. The First Congregational Church of Eaton Rapids hosts a Diaper Pantry every Wednesday 10 am-2 pm. There are no income requirements.

Cloth Diapers

If using cloth diapers, the soiled diapers will be kept in a diaper pail that is used just for your infant. All diapers are sent home with the contents of the diaper remaining in the diaper as we are not allowed to dump anything from the diaper. Cloth diapers must be taken home each day.

Teething Necklaces/bracelets

A new licensing rule going into effect this year prevents the use of teething necklaces/bracelets at child care facilities. Due to this rule change, we will no longer be able to have infants/toddlers wear teething necklaces.