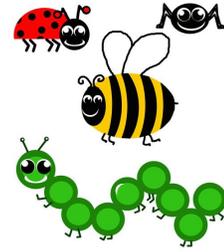




## Welcome to the Tigers and Bugs Classrooms



Your child is ready to begin the transition process from the Turtle Tots class to the Tigers or Bugs class. The Turtle Tots Teachers and the Director have observed positive developmental changes in your child and we are confident that he or she will be successful in the next classroom. There is a tuition change from the Turtle Tots classroom to the Tigers or Bugs class. Check with the office and/or on the Center website for new tuition rates.

### **How will the transition process work?**

The transition process typically lasts for one week with the goal of having your child adjusted to his or her new teachers, setting, routines, schedule, and the ways things are done before beginning full days in the new class. This goal is achieved by having your child spend a portion of his or her day in the new setting. The children are dropped off in the Turtle Tots classroom and have breakfast there. Typically, the Tigers' and Bugs' teachers transition their older tots into their classroom between 9:30 am and 12:30 pm. The transitioning times are flexible depending upon the needs of the children and the center. The main idea is children spend time each day in their new classroom to become acclimated to all aspects of the new environment.

### **A Brief Introduction to the Tigers and Bugs Classroom**

Our Tigers and Bugs classrooms are each an environment designed to guide the young child's smooth transition from toddlerhood to preschool age. Children around the age of two are active and require a lot of attention since they are working on becoming potty trained and learning many new things about their world daily. The classroom typically is staffed one teacher for every five children during the bulk of the day. During the early morning hours and late afternoon hours (during drop off and pick up), the ratio may drop to the State mandated ratio of eight children to each teacher. Most of the children in this classroom communicate effectively with their peers and teachers, ready to transition from wearing diapers to underwear, and can follow simple directions. Their capacity to sit and pay attention during circle time or in an organized activity is increasing. The Tigers and Bugs teachers aim to foster communication between children and their teachers and peers and to encourage positive learning experiences as part of their inclusive curriculum. Over the course of a day, the children engage in circle time, story time, center time, gross and fine motor and outdoor activities in small and large groups in

addition to free time for guided exploration. The children participate in Music for Life classes as well as STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math), Spanish, and Physical Education activities weekly. Children in this classroom also enjoy Soccer classes in the Spring and Fall.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Q: Will my child start using the potty in the Tigers and Bugs classrooms?**

A: Potty training begins when the child recognizes and indicates she needs to use the potty. Potty training must be child initiated. Your child may start to notice soiled diapers, and the teachers can help him or her to identify and become aware of his or her body and its functions. This process includes reading books about the potty and talking about the potty. When he or she is ready, the teachers will coordinate the potty training process with you.

### **Q: I am observing many younger children coming into my child's classroom and many of my child's friends have moved to the next classroom. Should I be concerned about this? When is my child going to move?**

A: Although new children coming into the classroom may be younger, the classroom's learning program will continue to benefit your child's development. At Bright Start, our teachers are required to take daily observations of the children in their classroom to ensure their lesson plans and teacher instruction is always developmentally appropriate and based on the children's stage of development and interests/preferences. Therefore, if your child's teachers believe your child is at a different stage of development from the rest of his or her classmates, they will accommodate your child with the necessary curriculum and instruction modifications. This is one of the many benefits of our status of being a play based center--allowing children to have some control of their learning gives their teachers the opportunity to intervene extend learning on the spot or in the lesson planning process. Your child will always receive the learning opportunities needed to perform at his or her best. As directors, we also work side by side with your child's teachers to ensure he or she continues to benefit from his or her classroom program. At Bright Start Learning Center we also believe in the triadic communication approach where the teacher, child, and parent work together to create an optimal learning environment through consistent and balanced communicative efforts from all parties. If it seems as though your child's prior classmates have transitioned over to the next class and not him or her, it is likely that we are just waiting for a space to open up to begin his or her transition process. Please trust that we are making every accommodation necessary to meet the individual needs of your child.

## **What to Bring on the First Day**

- ✓ At least two changes of clothing, including socks and an extra pair of shoes
- ✓ Sunscreen (only if you wish to not use BSLC)
- ✓ A small photo of your child (for his or her cubby)
- ✓ A family photo
- ✓ A special toy or stuffed animal (to help your child feel comfortable), which will be allowed for his or her first few weeks
- ✓ A nap mat and lovey with which to sleep

# General Daily Schedule

7:00- 8:30	Drop off, Small Centers and Breakfast
8:45- 9:15	Potty/diapers
9:15: -10:00	Circle Time and Art Activities
10:00-10:30	Potty/diapers
10:30-11:30	Outside Play / Gross Motor
11:30 –12:00	Potty/diapers
12:00-12:30	Lunch
12:30 – 2:30	Nap Time
2:30 – 3:00	Wake Up; Potty/diapers
3:00- 3:30	Afternoon Snack and Afternoon Circle Time
3:30- 4:15	Outside Play / Gross Motor
4:15- 5:00	Kids' Choice/Centers
5:00- 5:30	Afternoon Snack and Potty/diapers
5:30 – 6:30	Music and Goodbye Time

# MUSIC for LIFE



Music for Life enhances a child's inherent ability to create, express and problem solve through music.

Music for Life was founded in 2004 to address the importance of music education in the development of children from Infants - School age. Study after study shows the undeniable correlation between music and higher brain function in mathematics, self-esteem, spatial and temporal reasoning, etc. Our curriculum specifically targets all aspects of these developmental keystones while teaching students all about music in a fun and age appropriate manner. We make it easy to get the developmental benefits of music by bringing Music for Life to you.

**Music for Life comes to Bright Start every Friday!**



At Bright Start, we are focused on providing your child with not only high quality child care, but with valuable learning experiences that will positively impact your child's future performance in school. As part of our efforts to establishing a great rapport with our parents and ensuring your child's success in our center, we hold two parent teacher conferences a year, fall and spring. In the parent teacher conference, teachers will inform parents about their child's social, emotional, physical, and cognitive development. The purpose of the conference is for teachers to share information about the child's strengths and core areas the child is excelling in. Of course, if a teacher has a concern it will be communicated and the two together, parent and teacher, will discuss the steps that have been taken or will be taken to help the child in the specific developmental domain or skill area. This is also an opportunity for parents to raise concerns or ask whatever questions they may have.

## **Bright Start Policy Reminders**

It is important that our parents are always mindful of key policies. Therefore, review the ones below at this time.

### **Food Allergy Safe Policy:**

To protect all children at the Center, we do not allow homemade food to be served to children other than your own. In addition, all food brought to the center must comply with our food allergy policy, even if it will only be eaten by your own child. In accordance with our policy, food must be labeled "school-safe" or it must be on our approved list of snacks and treats. Specifically,

- **Food labels that say "May contain peanuts or tree nuts" are NOT OK.**
- **Food labels that say "Made on equipment that also processes peanuts or tree nuts" are NOT OK.**
- **Food labels that say "Made in a facility that also processes peanuts or tree nuts" are NOT OK.**

Our safe snack list is available on our website. Please print it and have it as a ready resource. If you are sending food in of any kind, you **MUST** give it to the lead teacher and she will check it. **DO NOT** put food in your child's cubby or leave in his or her backpack. **DO NOT** allow your child to come into school with partially-eaten food in his or her hand.

### **Hand Washing.**

It is also important that your child wash his or her hands immediately upon arrival. Not only is this a good step to help prevent the spread of germs, it helps minimize the risk of cross contamination if your child has been in contact with foods that may be allergens for other children.

### **Illness Notifications**

If your child is diagnosed with a contagious illness, you must notify the office by phone call or email as soon as possible. It is not enough to notify the classroom via Brightwheel. We are required by our licensing regulations to post notices of such illnesses so that other parents are aware. To do this, we must have accurate and timely information from you. Also, please be mindful that your child must be fever free for at least 24 hours (without medication) before he or she can return to school. This minimizes the spread of contagious illnesses.

### **Late Pick Ups**

Bright Start closes at 6:30 pm. An on-time pick-up means you have exited the building with your child by 6:30 not running in the door at 6:30 or lingering in the classrooms or Center beyond 6:30. Late pick-ups cause hardships for the staff that are not able to leave on time, and for the children, who have had a long day at school. While many parents believe an occasional late

pick-up is acceptable, one must remember we have over 100 families enrolled. Late pick-ups are not acceptable, and Bright Start must enforce a strict policy to discourage such behavior. Accordingly, in addition to a late fee, if you (i) pick your child up more than 15 minutes late or (ii) if you have picked your child up late more than one time in a calendar year (even if late by less than 15 minutes), you will lose care for the day immediately following the respective late pick-up. Continuing issues with on time pickups will be addressed on a case-by-case basis. Solutions will include adjusting the family's required pickup time to no later than 6:00 permanently or disenrollment.



**Child's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Class:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please take a few minutes to answer the following questions about your child. Your answers will help us get to know you and your family a little better.

1. What would you most like us to know about your child? Please include any special concerns we should know about as we care for your child.
  
2. How is your child comforted best?
  
3. Please provide any information that you can with regard to your child's eating and sleeping habits. (i.e. How does your child like to be put to sleep? Does your child have any special dietary needs?)
  
4. What do you most want your child to learn in our class?
  
5. What does your child enjoy doing at home?
  
6. Are there any special traditions, celebrations, stories or songs that are especially important to your family and your child?
  
7. If there is anything else you would like us to know?