



## **PROGRAM CONTENT & CURRICULUM**

### **OVERVIEW**

We provide a safe, nurturing, loving and warm environment for each child. Our goal is to achieve security, stimulation, basic trust and to meet the developmental needs of the young child. Your child's happiness and well being is our utmost concern.

Our programs offer complete care along with educational activities appropriate to each child's age and interests. We strive to continually create programs which foster optimal growth and development through opportunities for the exploration of individual interests and the stimulation of curiosity to motivate the desire to learn. Activities are directed towards the full, well-rounded development of the young child.

We provide six separate quality programs tailored for children aged six weeks to five-years-old. We are open from 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M., twelve months a year, closed only for major holidays.

### **INFANT (six weeks - 9 to 12 months)**

Emphasis is placed on providing a completely safe, secure, healthy environment where your child will receive appropriate stimulation along with quality care from loving and conscientious care givers. Activities will include texture play, exercise, music, finger plays, story time, and many more age appropriate activities. Our infant program is very flexible to meet the needs of the individual child.

The Center provides infants with cribs, carriages, swings, and carriers. Parents must provide the Center with diapers, bottles, food, formula, wipes and any topical ointments or powders which must be applied. Happy Tots maintains a daily chart of food consumption, diaper changes (including bowel movements), naps (quantity and duration) and our daily observation of your child's general behavior, personality and physical development.

### **INFANT I (9-12 months to 18 months)**

A continuation of the Infant program emphasizing basic trust and independence. Age-appropriate activities will be introduced to help promote large and small motor skills such as water and textures play, use of large crayons, rolling balls, dancing, soft climbing area, etc. Children also participate in a weekly session of music and movement with our visiting instructor.

Cribs, carriages, swings, and other equipment important to their daily routine is provided by Happy Tots. Parents must provide diapers, bottles, food, formula, wipes and any topical ointments or powders. As the child reaches the age of 12 months or older, the introduction of school lunch is optional. Happy Tots maintains a daily chart of food consumption, diaper changes, naps and our daily observation of your child's general behavior, personality and physical development.



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### **TODDLERS & PRE-TOTS (*18 months to 24 months*)**

Emphasis is placed on developing basic trust between the child and care giver while early social skills are developed. Activities include painting, coloring, water and sand play, musical games, exercise, story time, ball play, name recognition, block play, puppet play, texture play, verbal stimulation and more. In addition, our staff works with all Pre-Tots to teach and encourage basic hygiene including washing of hands and face before and after meals and brushing teeth after meals.

The Center provides Toddlers and/or Pre-Tots with cribs or cots, carriages, walkers, and all toys, snacks and drinks. Parents must provide the Center with diapers, bottles, lunch (or request the Center to provide lunch for a nominal fee), wipes and any topical ointments or powders which must be applied by the Center. Happy Tots will chart on a daily basis food consumption, diaper changes (including bowel movements), naps (quantity and duration) and our daily observation of your child's general behavior, personality and physical development, including gross and fine motor skills.

### **TOTS PROGRAM (*two- to three-years old*)**

Emphasis is placed on enhancing social skills, verbalization and communication while allowing time for the exploration of individual interests and motivating curiosity. Activities include circle time, arts and crafts, story time, musical games, dramatic and puppet play, exercise and movement games and many other activities which will help enhance small and gross motor skills. In addition our staff will work with all Tots to teach and encourage basic hygiene including washing of hands and face before and after meals and brushing teeth after meals.

The Center will provide Tots with mats for naps, all toys, snacks and drinks. Parents must provide the Center with diapers (if needed), bottles (if needed), wipes (if needed), lunch (or request the Center to provide lunch for a nominal fee) and any topical ointments or powders which must be applied by the Center. Happy Tots will chart on a daily basis food consumption, diaper changes (if still required), naps, progress in toilet training and our daily observation of your child's behavior, personality, emotional development, including peer interaction and child/care giver trust; and physical development, including gross and fine motor skills. Tots will also be introduced to the computer with age-appropriate activities.

### **PRE-KINDER TOTS PROGRAM (*three- to four-years-old*)**

Emphasis is placed on enhancing the development of the physical, intellectual, emotional and social growth of each individual child. Activities include learning centers, circle time, arts and crafts, computer activities, music, creative movement, story time and many other activities which will help enhance fine and gross motor skills.

The Center will provide Pre-Kinder Tots with mats for naps, all toys and learning equipment, snacks and drinks. Parents must provide the Center with lunch (or request the Center to provide lunch for a nominal fee), change of clothing, smock, sun screen for warm weather and blanket or sheet for nap time. In order to be accepted in the Pre-Kinder Tots program children must be potty trained.



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### KINDER TOTS (four- to five-years-old)

Emphasis is placed on school readiness through learning activities developed to enhance writing, alphabet recognition, shapes, colors, and patterns. Each child is provided with their own container which includes writing instruments, notebook, scissors, and glue which they maintain to help develop their individual responsibility. Activities include learning centers, circle time, arts and crafts, computers, and outside and indoor gym activities to develop large motor skills.

The Center will provide Kinder-Tots with mats for naps, all toys and learning equipments, snacks and drinks. Parents must provide the Center with lunch (or request the Center to provide lunch for a nominal fee), change of clothing, smock, sun screen for warm weather and blanket or sheet for rest time.

### SPECIAL PROGRAMS

**Campers (summer only):** An extension of our regular program, Campers are former Happy Tots graduates or siblings. The summer program places emphasis on fun while learning in a relaxed environment. Water play takes center stage along with trips to the local library and other businesses for "field trips."

**Before/After School Kindergarten:** Children who have graduated from Happy Tots and now attend half-day kindergarten in Croton are eligible to participate in our before and after school kindergarten program. A school district bus picks up and drops off the children at our facility. Our educational goals include sequencing, writing, problem solving, lower and upper case letter identification, and number identification. Our social goals include learning the classroom routine and its limits, participation and cooperation in a group setting, listening to peers and adults, and decision making skills (how to make independent decisions and choices). Children will receive a morning or afternoon snack, depending on the school schedule, and lunch may be brought from home or purchased from Happy Tots for a nominal fee.