

# MEET THE DEVELOPMENTAL NEEDS OF THE CHILDREN

The staff at the childcare center plan and implement programs and activities based on the center's Philosophy and Mission Statement, which incorporate the following developmental needs of the children:

## ***Social Needs***

**It is important for children to learn to interact with peers and adults, function as group members, and develop appropriate social behavior. To facilitate this:**

- Children are grouped into small groups with consistent caregivers.
- They are encouraged to participate in group activities and be kind and considerate to one another.
- Staff help children resolve disagreements in a friendly and courteous manner.
- Proper manners, such as saying please, thank you, and excuse me, are taught.
- A variety of toys and activities are provided to encourage social development.

## ***Physical Needs***

**Developing a variety of physical skills and ensuring adequate nutrition, rest, health, and safety are essential. These needs are met by:**

- Providing a clean and bright center with ample sinks and toilets.
- Offering a nutritious menu and ensuring awareness of appropriate dress standards for various weather conditions.
- Keeping extra clothing on hand for children.
- Being aware of special diets, medical conditions, and allergies, and following parents' instructions regarding these needs.
- Providing individual cots for naptime for infants, toddlers, and children who nap.
- Offering a wide variety of toys and equipment to develop gross and fine motor skills.
- Ensuring the outside play space is well equipped and the indoor gym(s) are accessible throughout the day.
- Encouraging body awareness and movement abilities in all themes and daily activities.
- Including gross and fine motor activity sections in programming and ensuring daily physical activity time.
- Teaching and implementing personal hygiene skills.



- Carefully administering and properly storing medication according to the center's medication policies.

### ***Intellectual Needs***

**The childcare center provides opportunities for children to explore, observe, and understand objects and events in their environment. This includes:**

#### ***Contacting Supporting Agencies***

- *Offering a variety of books, puzzles, science activities, sensory activities, special programs, monthly themes, and letter and number recognition.*
- *Providing themes with corresponding books and props to build upon the theme, with a focus on interest-based planning and activities.*
- *Including a literacy center with books and puzzles and a music center to encourage the development of language and communication.*
- *Giving children opportunities throughout the day to learn new words, express feelings, and listen and follow directions.*
- *Facilitating the development of the five senses through both child-initiated and staff-initiated activities.*

### ***Creative Needs***

**Creative thinking is essential for generating new ideas and self-expression. To promote creativity:**

- A variety of materials for free art are provided, and children are encouraged to express themselves through art, drama, role-playing, and music.
- Toys and materials, from random odds and ends to special housekeeping sets, are available for creative growth.
- Staff encourage creativity while minimizing interference to allow children to respond naturally to the situations they create.

### ***Emotional Needs***

**Emotional needs are met through:**

- Occasionally discussing the children's families, emotions, and their expression during circle time.
- Caregivers being familiar with the information on the child's registration forms to understand and meet emotional needs.



- Promoting positive self-esteem and emotional growth by building close relationships through small group sizes and consistent caregivers.
- Using staff meetings to discuss individual children and ways of promoting affection and security. of the strategies. Follow-up meetings will also be held as necessary.

### ***Spiritual or Self-Concept Needs***

**Every child should feel valued as an individual, develop a sense of identity, have positive self-esteem, and feel accepted despite any differences. The childcare center promotes this by:**

- Encouraging children to acknowledge their unique difficulties and personal challenges and to celebrate their unique joys and successes.
- Implementing activities like show and tell, celebrating accomplishments, displaying artwork, and using family tree walls to support self-concept development.

**This policy ensures that the childcare center provides a comprehensive approach to meeting the developmental needs of all children, fostering their growth in a nurturing and supportive environment.**

