



## **Infant Room to Toddler Room Transitions**

Transitioning from babyhood to toddlerhood is such an exhilarating time for both parents and children alike. Transitioning to the next classroom at The Pillars marks an important milestone for your baby, bringing about some significant changes in their day-to-day care. Here are some key points to be aware of:

### **Developmental Focus**

The activities and interactions in the new classroom will be tailored to meet the developmental needs of your growing child. This includes a structured curriculum and daily schedule, and more outside time on the playground each day. All these activities are designed to encourage socialization and independence. As a reminder, your toddler will go outside each day, this is an opportunity to explore but does require hard-bottom, closed-toe shoes, and breathable clothing.

### **Routine Adjustments**

There may be adjustments to the daily routine, including nap times, feeding schedules, and playtimes. These changes are designed to support your child's growing independence and developmental milestones. Your toddler will be introduced to our school menu, eating table foods for each meal service, and we will begin supporting weaning back off the bottle. And they will begin taking one scheduled nap. Your school director will begin communicating with you about naptime routines, nap mats, and blankets that are permissible to bring to school.

### **Social Interaction**

Your child will have more opportunities to interact with peers, fostering social skills such as sharing, cooperation, and communication. As your child's budding personality comes out, it's important to remember that they are still learning to communicate, so new behaviors will emerge that you have not seen when they were a baby – this is normal. Your toddler is learning to communicate their needs and wants through physical or verbal communication, our job is to continue to be patient and work with them together when we see a behavior that is concerning.

### **Temperament**

As your toddler starts school each morning, it's natural for their emotions to fluctuate between excitement or clinginess; during these times, please be patient and reassure them before handing them over to their teacher. Sometimes staying in the room to console can cause emotions to escalate. Rest assured our teachers are trained to help children transition each morning back into class. You're welcome to enjoy a coffee in the lobby while peeking into the classroom to ensure they're settling in comfortably, as we recognize how challenging it can be to leave them when they're upset.

### **Communication**

We encourage and value in-depth conversations with our teachers. To ensure dedicated time when your teacher can fully focus on your needs, we kindly request scheduling these discussions with the Director. This

allows us to arrange for uninterrupted time outside of class hours, prioritizing the safety and attention of all children under our care.

By understanding and embracing these changes, you can help support your child's smooth transition to the next classroom at The Pillars. Together with the caregivers, you play a vital role in nurturing your child's growth and development during this exciting phase of their early education journey.

### **Toddler Room Personal Belonging Reminders**

- Children should wear closed-toe, hard-bottom shoes, and breathable clothing daily to facilitate outdoor play.
- Please provide a labeled sippy cup for water each day.
- Your child's naptime supplies, including mat and blanket, should go home every Friday for cleaning. Please take home all bottles, pacifiers, and sippy cups as well.
- To prevent mix-ups, please label your child's clothing with their first and last name, especially items like jackets which can easily be mistaken and taken home by another parent.
- If your toddler is still drinking a bottle each day, you must pre-make the contents and label the bottle with 5 points (First and last name, ounces, indicate formula or breast milk, and date the bottle was prepared).