First Day of School

Checklist

- Formula and 2 sanitized, plastic bottles (if on homo milk, omit formula)
- Lunch and 2 snacks, labelled with all ingredients, if child is younger than 1 year
- Small fleece blankets are provided for each child's sleep time and laundered by the centre. Sorry, but **no** additional items are allowed in your child's bed.
- 2 complete sets of extra clothes, socks included, in a large Ziplock bag - to be replenished as your child soils them.
- Indoor classroom-only shoes
- Diapers (not pull-ups), wipes, and rash cream in original container, if necessary
- Pacifier, if needed, with clip, to be left at the centre
- Snowsuit, boots, neck-warmer, mittens, and hat for the winter
- Sun hat and outdoor shoes for the summer
- Sunscreen to be left at the centre in season
- 1 family photo
- All completed registration forms.

Please label your child's belongings!

We use Lillio!

Lillio (formerly HiMama) is an online communication tool where a child's milestones and activities are recorded by our educators to document activities and updates of your child's day. Everything from naps to snacks, it will provide you with a complete history of your child's experience in our program with photos stored safely and securely in a journal format.

You will receive updates on your child's activities to your email and smartphone **at the end of each day**.

Meeting Your Child's

Teachers

Your child's teachers will rotate between three different shifts, and their names are:

Miss Sophie

Miss Shamini

Miss Nancy

McNicoll Avenue Child Care Program

Located in the former
McNicoll Avenue Public School
155 McNicoll Avenue
North York, ON
M2H 2C1

Phone: 416-499-9743

Fax: 416-913-9743

Infant room Email:
infantroom@mcnicollchildcare.com

While staff make every effort to respond to your email concerns, please recognize that their classrooms and routines are not set up for frequent email check-in and that email responses are limited. If you have an urgent concern, please call or email Lynn directly at

Director's email :
lynnlewis@mcnicollchildcare.com

Preparing Your Infant for

Child Care

~ Learning to Play, Playing to Learn ~

Welcome to McNicoll Avenue Child Care Program!
We are excited that you have decided to become a part of our growing family.
At McNicoll, we use a play-based, child-directed curriculum to promote a love of learning in all its forms!

Please feel free to contact us at:

416-499-9743

Infant Room

Program

Ages and Ratios

Infants in this class range from birth to 18 months of age. Children may graduate to the Toddler program between 16-18 months depending on their maturity and space availability.
The ratio in the classroom is 1:3 with a full class size of 10. All staff are qualified educators and frequently update their knowledge by attending courses or professional development workshops. Our educators work with you to further your child's development and well-being.

In the infant room, you can expect to see:

- Daily notifications through Lillio, with meaningful documentation of classroom activities to show you what your child is learning in our classroom.
- Regularly updated developmental assessment tools that record your child's progress.
- Bi-annual Progress Reports
- An online portfolio updated with your child's photos, artwork, and weekly observations.

Activities and

Developmental Basis

As an emergent centre, we believe that learning occurs best when children feel a sense of belonging, well-being, engagement, and are encouraged to express themselves. Children learn through play, and by observing and documenting children's interests, we can build stimulating learning opportunities to further their social, emotional, linguistic, cognitive, and physical development. We honour the diversity present in our community and reflect it in our planned activities, materials, events, and displays. We also recognize our responsibility to take care of the Earth and provide our children with many opportunities to enjoy and tend to the natural world.

Our Program and Facility Include:

- A large, accessible, and fully stocked classroom to invite children to explore.
- 3 separate areas for play, diapering, and rest.
- A fenced, age-appropriate outdoor play area with natural elements.
- Daily playground use/neighbourhood walks when weather permits, and scheduled gym use on inclement weather days.
- Our own on-site chef for meal preparation for children 12 months and older.
- Daily communication through a secure online app (Lillio).

How to Help Your Child

Transition to Child Care

We know that leaving your baby at childcare can be a hard adjustment for families. To ease the transition, we ask parents to come for up to five 1-hour outdoor/classroom visits the week before your child starts care. During these visits, one parent stays with the child in the classroom so that your child can get used to their new friends and teachers.

Some Helpful Tips:

- Leave your child with a familiar caregiver before they begin daycare - this will get them used to you leaving and coming back.
- Say a happy and firm goodbye and then leave - coming and going will only increase their anxiety and yours!
- Remember that their discomfort at being separated from you is evidence of strong attachment, and that's a good thing!
- Be calm and consistent - eventually, they will remember that you are coming back, and these memories will be all the comfort they need!
- Begin with shorter stays of time their first week (if possible) and gradually lengthen their time at the centre.