



All About Preschool Routines

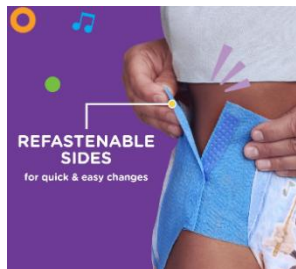
at Margaret's House

When your Toddler begins in a Preschool Classroom

Hopefully you have read about what emotional changes to expect in your child as they transition up into a preschool classroom, now we would like to focus on some of the details around the changes in routine that you can expect from a new and larger classroom – your child's new preschool classroom.

Here are some reminders and tips for a smooth preschool experience:

- All children in pull-ups need to be in pull-ups with **VELCRO / RESEALABLE SIDE TABS** to support the busy toilet time in preschool. Also, all children will need to wear either underwear, diapers, or pull-ups throughout each day, not just pants alone. Please review our **Toilet Learning** flyer for additional information.



Huggies, Pull-Ups, and Coterie make pull-ups with **resealable Velcro sides**, however, any brand with resealable sides work!



- All preschoolers are working on INDEPENDENCE and we require that they wear accessible functional clothing that allows them to independently undress and redress for toilet attempts. Snaps, buttons and zippers are NOT our friends – please make sure your child is wearing clothing with elastic that they can manage independently. Please put them in shoes that are able to be put on an off independently, velcro IS our friend! They are **BIG KIDS** now!
- More children mean more opportunities for items to get confused or misplaced, so please make sure everything is labeled: bags, food, extra clothes, EVERYTHING!
- **DROP-OFF'S** can change the game and start the day on a good note... or not. Here are some of the important parts of our transition tips flyer:
 - **DROP-OFF ROUTINE IS KEY!** Routine at drop off is crucial to your child's ability to manage that big change at the start of the day. Sticking around too long or sneaking out unnoticed may be tempting, however those strategies don't work. Long good-byes increase anxiety, and sneaky exits are anything but the predictability that your child needs. Create a predictable, short & sweet routine that feels comfortable to you. Make it a regular habit that is specific to your morning drop-off. **Stick to your routine, even if your child cries throughout.** Then follow through and head out that door. Once the teachers know that your good-bye is over and you are leaving, they can take over without worry that they are interrupting your special time.

- Please know that when parents linger at drop-off longer than 8-10 minutes, it tends to make it more difficult for their child to work through their transition to their new preschool classroom. **This is a fresh start, and the chance to start a new drop-off routine that will support pleasant drop-off's!!**
- **CURIOUS? CALL!** We understand that you may be wondering how your child is doing after a hard good-bye, and chances are they are having a good day which may have started moments after you left. Feel free to reach out for a check-in, we welcome Brightwheel questions and also calls or emails to the office. We will let you know how it is going, and you'll feel better that it is a good day.

- Your child must arrive and be settled into the classroom by **9:15am** in order to be offered **morning snack**. If you arrive after 9:15, the next time they will be offered food is at lunchtime, served at 12noon.
- Your child will have more friends! Higher numbers of children will be present in the classroom per teacher, which may mean less frequent updates on Brightwheel, as teachers have more children to supervise - safety and supervision is the teacher's first priority, updating Brightwheel is not. As always, please contact the office for time-sensitive matters.
- Our spacious and inviting preschool playground and outdoor play area will be available when weather permits!



- If your child has a sippy cup, they will need a water bottle. Water bottles need to be leak proof, have straws or a spout, and contain a larger amount of water – about 10-14 ounces. Sippy cups will not be used in preschool classrooms.
- Teachers will utilize preschool units and lessons from our Creative Curriculum collection, which may incorporate large group and small group learning as part of the "studies" offered by that program.
- There will be structure incorporated into free play in the interest of safety and comfort (certain areas/centers will be open to small groups of children at a time)
- "Table toys" --there will be times of day when children play with fine motor toys at the table.
- Teachers will encourage children to develop more independence in all areas, while still providing constant supervision and emotional support.
- More flexibility at naptime: Children may eventually start to outgrow a full 2-hour nap. Children phasing out of napping are usually asked to rest on their cot for a short period and then allowed to play quietly in another part of the classroom.
- Your new preschool teacher will support you as you sign your child in and out on Brightwheel.

We hope this information is helpful and look forward to partnering with you as your child grows within their new preschool classroom!