

HEY MOMS & DADS EXCELLENT CHILDCARE STARTS WITH YOU!

Do you realize *YOU PLAY A SIGNIFICANT ROLE* in ensuring your child's learning experience is a positive one? Your efforts to appreciate your child's teachers can make more of a difference than one might think! Our most powerfully impactful families are those that make a strong effort to communicate and participate in our classrooms and frequently recognize teachers' efforts. Our childcare families are an integral part of our success here at Crystal's Cuddle Bugs Childcare Center! And just as you are thankful for the best possible care, we are grateful for highly supportive families. *It really does take a village to raise a child!*



Most early childhood educators do what they do because they love children and enjoy making a difference. But our teachers often wish that parents knew a bit more about what they do here each day. Our Teachers:

- Typically work a 10-hour day
- Greet children, soothe tears, and possibly listen to and find solutions for a concerned or upset parent
- Maintain safety & constant supervision while also meeting the requirements of childcare licensing
- Feed, diaper and bathroom children, and nap them according to a wide variety of parent wishes
- Teach curriculum to groups with limited attention spans while meeting social, emotional, & physical standards
- Take children outdoors, weather permitting, but must plan for inadequately dressed or undersupplied children
- Communicate with parents via Brightwheel and in person
- Host conferences twice each year and observe children's growth and milestones
- Prepare newsletters
- Plan future curriculum and purchase classroom supplies within a budget
- Prepare for a substitute in case they are ill the next day
- Complete required documentation of items such as feeding, sleeping, diapering, and daily headcounts
- Document the cleaning and disinfecting of toys and equipment and ensure all are in working order
- Document injuries and inform parents when their child has hurt another
- Ensure first aid supplies & medicines are adequate and not expired
- Ensure other staff are trained on emergency medical procedures and special needs plans for enrolled children
- Maintain privacy of individuals
- Although they are not doctors or nurses, they must be prepared for medical emergencies
- Must know the responsibilities of being a mandated reporter and watch for signs of abuse or neglect
- Must be vigilant about allergy awareness and dietary needs and be prepared to use EpiPen if needed
- Must be informed about authorized/non-authorized pickups for a long and constantly changing list of families
- Balance varied skills and abilities of many children while teaching in one classroom
- Meet the needs of one child who requires a few extra hugs while simultaneously meeting the needs of another who may be displaying rude, unsafe, or even violent behaviors
- Balance expectations & priorities of families from different ethnic, religious, & economic backgrounds knowing some families place emphasis on curriculum while others place more emphasis on nutrition or sanitation
- Must encourage participation from some families that have little interest in classroom involvement or feedback
- Must be prepared for unscheduled fire/storm drills at any moment and in any weather condition
- Operate in a licensed occupation, therefore, must be prepared for inspection by the Department of Human Services, the Department Food and Safety, State and Local Fire inspectors, and a licensed health nurse
- Must take up to 40 hours continuing education each year, In addition to classroom work and on personal time
- Must maintain professional licenses

When families understand the challenges teachers face, it can prompt them to offer support and patience. We hope that all Cuddle Bug Families will consciously be on board with supporting our "Official Cuddlers" in their efforts, and to applaud them for the amazing work they are doing!

On the following page you can read inspiring examples of parental practices that have made our Cuddle Bugs staff feel appreciated and supported. Many of these positive examples are based on actual experiences with some of our highly supportive Cuddle Bug families that help us meet our mission of "Nourishing Young Minds and Bodies Through the Science of PLAY!" We hope you strive to be yet another highly supportive Cuddle Bug Family!

Opportunities for Cuddle Bug families to positively impact our childcare	Highly Supportive Parental Practices: This supportive example is a Cuddle Bug Family who understands that by empowering teachers they are helping their own family as well as others. This family is fully engaged and participative at events and their child is thriving and growing in childcare. Staff feels comfortable communicating concerns or fun memories with this family.
Drop-off & pick-up times	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child arrives well rested, tidy & ready to learn. • Parent chats, smiles, greets staff, puts child's correctly labeled things away • Although this parent communicated important pick up, medical, or feeding information in person; they also repeat information via Brightwheel message to ensure all staff can have an opportunity to read and review later • Seeks feedback about child's day and offers support at home
Preparedness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child prepared for the weather • Prepared with all needed items for the day • Belongings are all correctly labeled with first and last name • Frequently reviews classroom calendars & take-home folder • Willing to donate extras for families that may have forgotten
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reads & responds to Brightwheel messages daily • Comfortable addressing small or large concerns • If child receives behavior reminder or parent has a developmental question they address it by asking for suggestions. Trusts staffs training and experience in dealing with similar behaviors & knowledge of developmental milestones. Follows through on advice, and reports back on what they see at home • Knows child's teachers by name & takes time to learn a bit about them personally • Is confident their child and their family is valued by staff
Slight illness no fever	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allows child to sleep in, drink some water, & eat a bit • Notifies staff of child's mild symptoms via Brightwheel so that any staff caring for child can be aware of symptoms. Lists specific dosage instructions if medication is to be offered at care • Prepared for who will pick up the child if symptoms worsen during the day • Messages best way to reach parents if symptoms worsen
Missing Items (that lost mitten you just bought, or the lost bottle lid)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finds Brightwheel photo from yesterday when child last wore/used the missing item to show staff what is missing • Asks staff to look for item that was properly labeled at home • Understands keeping track of dozens of children's belongings can be challenging <p>Thanks staff for searching.</p>
Gratitude	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flexible with child's schedule. Does not expect staff to change classroom routine or upset schedules of the group to meet their child's needs • Frequently tells staff in person and via messaging how impressed they are with all their child has learned • A difference maker in this childcare, this family is highly appreciated. Their gratitude makes teachers feel engaged and prompts them to do even more
Participation in Special Events Volunteerism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Makes every effort to have an adult present at each special event. Understands it means a lot to their child & that staff may need help • Offers to help with games at summer parties • Willing to donate to special events knowing donations help make these memorable events affordable and possible • Cherishes the fun memories their child is making and expresses gratitude • Inspires other families to participate more & inspires teachers by appreciating everything they do!

