

MASSACHUSETTS ADDENDUM

CADENCE EDUCATION FAMILY HANDBOOK

PARENTAL INPUT

Parents are welcome to visit their child's classroom anytime. The School Director and/or Assistant Director are easily accessible and receptive to parental input. Feel free to email your School Director or Assistant Director with questions or concerns. If you would like to meet with the School Director or a teacher at length, we request that you make an appointment. Parental input concerning our programs and policies is always welcome.

Cadence Education teachers also complete general child assessment reports during the school year. After these assessment reports have been given to you, the parents, you will have an opportunity to schedule a parent-teacher conference to discuss its contents or any questions you may have.

- For infants and children receive services from Early Intervention (EI) or with an Individual Education Plan through the public schools, Cadence Education will complete a progress report of the child's development every 3 months and provide it to parents.
- Parents of children over 15 months of age will receive a progress report two times per year.

SAFE SLEEP PRACTICES FOR INFANTS

As a program that follows EEC and QRIS guidelines on Safe Sleep Practices for Infants, Cadence Education wants parents to be aware of the following EEC regulations that we follow in our infant classrooms:

- As part of our Health Care Policy, all children 12 months of age or younger are placed on their backs for sleeping, unless the child's health care professional orders otherwise in writing – per EEC Group Child Care regulation 606 CMR 7.11(19)(a)9.
- Swaddling of infants is not allowed under any circumstances by the Department of Early Education and Care.
- No padded or soft materials – such as pillows, comforters or stuffed animals – may be placed in a crib with any child under 1 year of age.
- Blankets are not allowed in infant cribs. The use of sleep sacks is recommended only in accordance with product instructions (some products are only safe until such time as the child can roll over in their sleep).
- All infants new to our program will have their cribs outside of our crib room to be monitored under direct visual supervision during their introductory period.
- Children sleeping in car seats or equipment at the school (such as a swing) will be moved to a crib.
- No propping devices, wedges, SIDS monitors or sleeping position aids can be used in cribs in licensed EEC centers.
- All Cadence Education staff complete DEEC's training Reducing the Risk of SIDS in Child Care upon hire and biannually thereafter.

SUDDEN INFANT DEATH SYNDROME (SIDS) INFORMATION

EEC requires that all group childcare programs notify parents of the risk of SIDS. SIDS is the unexplained death of a healthy baby. SIDS is very rare. It happens most often to infants between two and four months. The cause is not known, but the steps outlined below may reduce the chances of SIDS.

- Put your baby to sleep on his/her back
- Use a firm, flat mattress
- Do not put pillows, blankets, quilts, comforters or soft toys in a baby's bed (this includes soft items attached to pacifiers)

- Use a fitted crib sheet and/or a sleep sack if desired
- Burp your baby before putting him/her down to sleep
- Do not overdress your baby
- Do not overheat the room
- Do not place your baby's crib near a window
- Do not let anyone smoke near your baby
- Breastfeed your baby
- If your baby is premature or sick, ask your provider about the best sleeping position

The safest place for your baby to sleep is in his/her own crib. If you want to stay close to your baby at night, bring the crib into your room, next to your bed. This will make it easier to feed and comfort your baby and then put him/her back into her crib. For more information, call the 24-hour SIDS hotline at 1-800-641-7437.

OUR LICENSING BODY

Our MA schools are licensed by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care. A copy of the MA EEC Regulations is available upon request or on the web at:

<https://www.mass.gov/orgs/department-of-early-education-and-care>

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