



Welcome to Nurture Nest & Little Explorers!

Dear Nurture Nest & Little Explorers Families,

Welcome to Future Generation Early Learning Centers!

We are so happy that you have chosen to become part of our family. We understand that entrusting someone with the care of your baby or young toddler is an enormous decision. Our goal is to create a place where your child feels safe, loved, understood, and deeply connected to the people caring for them — and where you feel confident that we are working alongside you every step of the way.

Our youngest children begin their Future Generation journey in Nurture Nest and Little Explorers.

Nurture Nest is designed around the most important needs of our youngest learners: nurturing relationships, responsive caregiving, security, trust, and opportunities to safely discover the world around them.

As children become increasingly mobile and curious, Little Explorers encourages them to move, investigate, communicate, experiment, and discover what they can do.

At our Bloomfield location, Nurture Nest and Little Explorers learn together in one thoughtfully designed classroom environment.

At our Mount Juliet location, Nurture Nest and Little Explorers are offered as two separate classroom environments, allowing us to tailor each space and daily experience to the developmental needs of the children.

Regardless of location, our philosophy remains the same:

Relationships come first.

Where Our Core Values Begin

Our Future Generation core values — Family, Love, Create, Engage, and Serve — begin with our very youngest children.

Family — We believe you are your child's first and most important teacher. Our job is to partner with you and maintain the connection between home and school.

Love — Before babies can learn from us, they must trust us. Warm, responsive relationships help children feel safe enough to explore, interact, and learn.

Create — Babies and young toddlers are natural creators. They discover what happens when they bang, stack, dump, fill, move, squeeze, scribble, build, and manipulate materials.

Engage — Learning begins through interaction. We talk, sing, read, play, respond, imitate, move, and explore alongside your child throughout the day.

Serve — Caring for another human being is the heart of what we do. We respond to each child's individual needs with patience, respect, compassion, and intention.

HighScope Begins Here

Our Nurture Nest and Little Explorers classrooms implement the HighScope Infant-Toddler Curriculum, which recognizes that even our youngest children are active learners.

Babies and toddlers learn through their entire bodies and all of their senses.

They learn when they reach for an object.

They learn when they drop something and discover that it falls.

They learn when they hear a teacher name what they are touching.

They learn when they crawl across the room to investigate something interesting.

They learn when they make a sound and a trusted adult responds.

And they learn through the everyday caregiving moments that happen throughout their day.

This is why our teachers don't separate caregiving from learning.

Feeding, diapering, dressing, comforting, resting, and transitioning are all opportunities to build relationships, language, trust, independence, and understanding.

Relationships Come First

One of the most important components of our HighScope approach is creating close, consistent, responsive relationships between children and caregivers.

Our teachers take the time to learn your child's individual cues, temperament, preferences, routines, interests, and ways of communicating.

For a baby, being held and comforted when upset isn't interrupting the curriculum.

It is the curriculum.

A child who knows that an adult will respond when they need help develops trust. That secure relationship gives them the confidence to begin moving away from their caregiver to explore — and to return when they need reassurance.

This relationship becomes the foundation for everything that follows.

Learning Through Everyday Experiences

Our daily routine is consistent yet flexible because babies and young toddlers need predictability while also having individual schedules and needs.

Their day includes experiences such as:

- Arrival and departure
- Feeding and mealtimes
- Diapering and bodily-care routines
- Rest and nap time
- Choice and exploration time
- Outdoor experiences
- Music and movement

- Stories and language experiences
- Sensory exploration
- Small and large motor experiences
- Individual interactions with caregivers
- Opportunities to explore alongside other children

We follow children's cues and developmental readiness rather than expecting every child to do the same thing at the same time.

Nurture Nest: Building Trust & Security

For our youngest learners, our primary focus is creating a safe, loving, responsive environment that feels like an extension of home.

Nurture Nest children are beginning to:

- Build trusting relationships with caregivers
- Recognize familiar voices and faces
- Communicate their wants and needs
- Explore using their senses
- Develop body awareness
- Reach, grasp, roll, sit, crawl, and move
- Listen to language, songs, and stories
- Explore cause and effect
- Develop individual routines
- Become curious about the people and objects around them

There is no rush.

We meet each child exactly where they are and celebrate every new discovery along the way.

Little Explorers: Curiosity Takes Off!

As babies become increasingly mobile, the world suddenly gets much bigger!

Our Little Explorers are encouraged to safely investigate their environment, manipulate materials, practice emerging physical skills, communicate, and make simple choices.

Little Explorers are beginning to:

- Crawl, cruise, walk, climb, and move with increasing confidence
- Develop fine-motor coordination
- Explore objects in different ways
- Build receptive and expressive language
- Imitate sounds, actions, and words
- Make simple choices
- Develop emerging self-help skills
- Explore music and movement
- Participate in sensory experiences
- Interact with other children
- Express emotions and preferences
- Develop increasing independence

We expect Little Explorers to be busy, curious, messy, active, and wonderfully determined.

That's how they learn!

Understanding Your Child's Development

Throughout the year, teachers will observe your child during natural interactions and everyday experiences and document their development using COR Advantage, HighScope's child assessment system.

There are no tests or worksheets.

Instead, teachers observe what your child naturally does, communicates, explores, attempts, and accomplishes.

These observations help teachers understand your child's development and intentionally plan experiences based upon their interests, strengths, and emerging abilities.

We will share your child's growth and development with you throughout the year, including during parent-teacher conferences.

Communication Between Home & School

Communication is especially important during the infant and young toddler years.

Please complete all requested information in Tadpoles when your child arrives, including important information about:

- When your child last ate or drank
- How your child slept
- Any changes in your child's normal routine
- Changes in feeding
- Teething
- Unusual behavior or mood
- Anything else that may help us understand your child's needs that day
- Sometimes the smallest piece of information helps us understand why your child may be having a different kind of day.

Please never hesitate to communicate with your child's teaching team or Center Director. We are partners in caring for your child.

From Your Family to Ours

Thank you for trusting us with your little one.

We know that handing your baby to someone else and walking out the door can be one of the hardest parts of beginning child care.

We want you to know that while your child is with us, they will be talked to, played with, comforted, encouraged, challenged, celebrated, and loved.

You aren't simply enrolling your child in a classroom.

You are joining the Future Generation family.

We look forward to growing together through all of the firsts, discoveries, messy moments, giggles, milestones, and memories ahead.

Growing Together,

The Nurture Nest & Little Explorers Teaching Teams

Future Generation Early Learning Centers

What Your Child Will Need

PLEASE LABEL ALL OF YOUR CHILD'S BELONGINGS WITH FIRST AND LAST NAME.

Nurture Nest

Please send:

- 2 complete changes of seasonally appropriate clothing, including onesies and socks
- 1 fitted crib sheet
- Bottles needed for your child's daily feedings
- Breast milk and/or formula according to center procedures
- Extra formula, when applicable
- 2 soft bibs, if needed
- Pacifier, if needed — no straps or clips
- 1 family photograph
- 1 labeled diaper bag or backpack

Please make sure bottles, bottle caps, food containers, clothing, pacifiers, and all other personal belongings are clearly labeled.

Little Explorers

Please send:

- 2 complete changes of seasonally appropriate clothing, including socks
- 1 fitted crib sheet or rest-time sheet as appropriate for your child's sleeping arrangement
- 1 small receiving-size blanket only when developmentally appropriate and permitted for your child's sleep arrangement
- Bottles as needed
- 1 sippy cup, if developmentally appropriate
- Bibs as needed
- Pacifier, if needed — no straps or clips
- 1 family photograph
- 1 labeled diaper bag or backpack

Please check your child's extra clothing frequently to make sure it still fits and is appropriate for the season.

Diapers, Wipes & Personal Care

Please follow your center's current procedures regarding diapers, wipes, diaper creams, and other personal-care products.

Any diaper cream or topical product must meet Future Generation's current authorization and documentation requirements before it can be applied by staff.

Please speak with your child's teaching team or Center Director regarding allergies, feeding instructions, dietary restrictions, or other individual needs.

*Family. Love. Create. Engage. Serve.
Their Future Generation journey begins here.*