



Welcome to Trailblazers!

Dear Trailblazers Families,

Welcome to the Trailblazers Classroom at Future Generation Early Learning Centers!

This is such an exciting stage in your child's development. Trailblazers are discovering that they can do more for themselves, communicate their ideas, make choices, solve problems, build friendships, and explore their world with growing confidence.

At Future Generation, we believe children don't need to follow someone else's path to learn. They need opportunities to explore, experiment, make choices, try new things, and begin blazing a trail of their own.

That's what being a Trailblazer is all about.

Where Our Core Values Come to Life

Our Future Generation core values — Family, Love, Create, Engage, and Serve — are part of everything we do.

Family — We believe families and teachers are partners. When your child joins Trailblazers, your entire family becomes part of our classroom community.

Love — Children learn best when they feel safe, secure, respected, and genuinely cared for. Strong relationships are the foundation of learning.

Create — Trailblazers need opportunities to imagine, build, paint, pretend, experiment, and discover different ways to use materials.

Engage — Children learn by doing. Our teachers intentionally provide hands-on experiences that encourage children to touch, move, investigate, communicate, question, and explore.

Serve — Even at this young age, children can begin learning how to be part of a community. We encourage helping, kindness, cooperation, empathy, and caring for our classroom and one another.

Learning the HighScope Way

Our Trailblazers Classroom proudly implements the HighScope Curriculum, an active-learning approach that recognizes children as capable and curious learners.

Our teachers don't simply tell children what to do. They encourage children to make choices, explore materials, communicate their ideas, solve problems, and participate actively in their learning.

Throughout the day, Trailblazers have opportunities to:

- Make choices and develop independence
- Explore real and open-ended materials
- Build vocabulary and communication skills
- Develop early literacy and mathematical thinking

- Explore cause and effect
- Strengthen fine- and gross-motor skills
- Use their imaginations
- Express themselves through art, music, movement, and pretend play
- Develop friendships
- Practice sharing and turn-taking
- Identify and express emotions
- Solve age-appropriate problems
- Practice self-help skills
- Become increasingly responsible for themselves and their classroom

At this age, learning is active, sometimes messy, frequently noisy, and filled with discovery — exactly the way it should be!

A Classroom Made for Discovery

Our Trailblazers classroom is intentionally organized into clearly defined interest areas where children can explore different materials and experiences.

Depending on the classroom environment, children may explore areas for blocks, dramatic play, toys and manipulatives, art, books, music and movement, and sensory experiences.

Materials are intentionally placed where children can see them, reach them, make choices about what they would like to use, and begin learning how to independently return them when they are finished.

One of the HighScope concepts your child will begin practicing is:

“I find it. I use it. I put it back.”

It sounds simple, but these everyday experiences help children develop independence, responsibility, organization, decision-making, and respect for their environment.

Growing Independence

One of our biggest goals in Trailblazers is helping children experience the pride that comes from realizing:

“I can do it!”

Throughout the day, teachers encourage children to attempt age-appropriate tasks independently before stepping in to help.

Putting away materials, washing hands, sitting at the table, drinking from an open cup, helping with clothing, making choices, cleaning up, carrying belongings, and communicating their needs are all learning experiences.

Sometimes things will take a little longer.

Sometimes there will be spills.

Sometimes shoes may end up on the wrong feet.

That's okay.

Independence grows when children are given the time and opportunity to practice.

Our teachers are there to encourage, support, and guide children as their confidence grows.

A Day They Can Predict

Young children feel more secure when they know what comes next.

Our HighScope daily routine provides a consistent yet flexible rhythm to your child's day. Over time, Trailblazers begin recognizing the sequence of their day and anticipating what will happen next.

That predictability gives children a sense of security and control while still allowing teachers to respond to children's individual needs, interests, and discoveries.

Understanding Your Child's Development

Every child develops at their own pace, and we want to understand and celebrate your child's individual journey.

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

These aren't tests. Teachers observe what children naturally say, do, attempt, explore, create, and accomplish throughout their day.

These observations help us understand your child's:

- Strengths
- Interests
- Emerging skills
- Developmental progress
- Individual learning needs
- Next steps for growth

Teachers then use this information to intentionally plan experiences that build upon children's interests and abilities.

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

Families Are Our Partners

At Future Generation, we believe that families are a child's first and most important teachers.

You know your child better than anyone, and we value what you bring to our partnership.

Please use Tadpoles to communicate with your child's teaching team, share important information from home, ask questions, and stay connected to your child's classroom experiences.

Our door is always open, and we welcome opportunities for families to become part of our classroom community.

Most importantly, thank you for entrusting your child to us.

We understand how much trust it takes to place your child in someone else's care. Our goal is for your child to feel safe, loved, valued, challenged, and excited to come to school each day — and for you to feel confident that your child is surrounded by people who genuinely care about them.

We look forward to a wonderful year filled with exploration, independence, friendships, learning, and lots of laughter.

Welcome to Trailblazers — where little learners begin blazing their own trails!

Working Together,

The Trailblazers Teaching Team

Future Generation Early Learning Centers

What Your Trailblazer Will Need

PLEASE LABEL ALL OF YOUR CHILD'S BELONGINGS.

Please send the following items on or before your child's first day:

- 2 complete changes of seasonally appropriate clothing, including socks
- 2 additional complete outfits if your child is actively toilet learning
- Extra underwear if your child is toilet learning
- 1 fitted crib-size sheet for the rest mat
- 1 small receiving-size blanket for rest time
- 1 box of tissues
- 1 package of wet wipes
- 1 book bag/backpack large enough to hold your child's rest-time items
- 1 family photograph

Please check your child's extra clothing regularly to ensure that everything still fits and is appropriate for the season.

Cups & Growing Independence

As part of developing independence and self-help skills, children in Trailblazers will begin practicing drinking from open cups during meals and snacks.

If your child still needs a sippy cup during the transition, please speak with your child's teaching team and make sure that any cup sent from home is clearly labeled with your child's first and last name.

Classroom Safety

Please make sure your child's teaching team and Center Director are aware of any allergies, dietary restrictions, or other individual needs.

We can't wait to see where our Trailblazers take us this year!

*Family. Love. Create. Engage. Serve.
Growing together, one discovery at a time.*