



Welcome to Curious Climbers!

Dear Curious Climbers Families,

Welcome to the Curious Climbers Classroom at Future Generation Early Learning Centers!

Get ready for an exciting year filled with movement, exploration, growing independence, new words, big feelings, messy discoveries, and plenty of “I can do it!” moments.

Children at this age are incredibly curious. They want to touch it, move it, climb it, carry it, dump it, fill it, stack it, open it, close it, take it apart — and sometimes try to put it back together!

We believe all that curiosity deserves to be celebrated.

That's why we call this classroom Curious Climbers.

Your child is climbing toward new developmental milestones every day, and our job is to provide the safe, nurturing, engaging environment they need to explore just how much they can do.

Where Our Core Values Come to Life

Our Future Generation core values — Family, Love, Create, Engage, and Serve — guide the experiences and relationships we create for children every day.

Family — You know your child better than anyone. We believe the strongest early childhood experiences happen when families and teachers work together.

Love — Toddlers need loving, responsive relationships with adults who understand their individual personalities, cues, needs, and emotions. Children must feel safe and connected before they can confidently explore.

Create — Curious Climbers need opportunities to build, pretend, paint, stack, scribble, pour, dump, fill, mix, move, and experiment with materials in their own ways.

Engage — Toddlers learn with their entire bodies! We provide hands-on experiences that encourage children to move, touch, communicate, investigate, imitate, question, and discover.

Serve — Children are beginning to understand that they are part of a community. We model kindness, helping, caring for others, cooperation, and respect throughout their day.

Learning the HighScope Way

Our Curious Climbers Classroom proudly implements the HighScope Curriculum, where children are viewed as active participants in their own learning.

Our teachers don't simply show children the “right” way to use materials. Instead, we encourage children to explore, experiment, make choices, solve problems, and discover what happens.

We often think of toddlers as little scientists.

What happens if I drop this?

Can I fit this inside that?

What happens when I mix these together?

Can I climb up there?

How many blocks can I stack?

What happens if I pour this out?

Can I do it myself?

Every experiment teaches them something.

Throughout the day, Curious Climbers have opportunities to:

- Make simple choices
- Explore real and open-ended materials
- Build vocabulary and communication skills
- Develop fine- and gross-motor abilities
- Strengthen balance and coordination
- Experiment with cause and effect
- Develop early problem-solving skills
- Explore music and movement
- Participate in sensory experiences
- Engage in pretend play
- Build early friendships
- Identify and express emotions
- Practice self-help skills
- Develop increasing independence

Sometimes Learning Looks Messy!

If you walk into Curious Climbers and see blocks scattered across the floor, containers being filled and dumped, children banging objects together, paint on little hands, or cardboard tubes being investigated in ways adults never imagined — learning is happening!

Toddlers need opportunities to experiment.

Sometimes that experimentation is noisy.

Sometimes it's messy.

Sometimes the idea doesn't work.

And that's okay.

We want children to discover:

“I tried something. Something happened. Now I can try something different.”

Those experiences are the beginning of problem-solving, perseverance, creativity, and critical thinking.

“Me Do It!”

One of the biggest developmental changes you'll see during the Curious Climbers year is a growing desire for independence.

Whenever it is safe and developmentally appropriate, our teachers encourage children to try before we do it for them.

Everyday routines become learning opportunities.

Your Curious Climber will begin practicing skills such as:

- Feeding themselves
- Drinking from an open cup
- Washing and drying their hands
- Helping with dressing and undressing
- Putting belongings away
- Cleaning up materials
- Making choices
- Communicating wants and needs
- Participating in toileting routines when developmentally ready

It might take longer.

There might be spills.

Clothing might get messy.

Shoes might occasionally end up on the wrong feet.

But every attempt communicates something incredibly important:

“I am capable.”

Big Feelings Belong Here Too

Curious Climbers are beginning to realize something very important:

“I am my own person.”

With that discovery comes preferences, opinions, independence — and some very big feelings.

You may hear more:

“NO!”

“MINE!”

“ME!”

“I DO IT!”

These moments aren't signs that something has gone wrong. They are part of young children learning autonomy, communication, emotional regulation, and how to navigate relationships with other people.

When big feelings happen, our teachers help children learn that all feelings are okay, while not all behaviors are okay.

We help children begin to:

- Name their feelings
- Communicate what they want
- Use simple words and gestures

- Wait for short periods
- Navigate peer conflicts
- Find appropriate ways to express frustration
- Accept comfort and support
- Begin calming their bodies
- Try again after something doesn't go their way

These skills take time, patience, repetition, and a strong partnership between home and school.

Toilet Learning: We'll Work Together

For children who are developmentally ready, toilet learning becomes another opportunity to develop independence and confidence.

We believe toilet learning should be a partnership between families and teachers.

Please communicate with your child's teaching team through Tadpoles when you begin seeing signs of readiness at home so that we can discuss a consistent approach between home and school.

During toilet learning, please send additional clothing and dress your child in clothing they can easily pull up and down independently.

Elastic-waist pants and shorts work best.

Please avoid complicated buttons, belts, snaps, overalls, and other clothing that makes independent toileting unnecessarily difficult.

Accidents are a normal part of learning. We respond calmly, respectfully, and without shame while encouraging children to continue trying.

A Day They Can Count On

Toddlers thrive when they know what comes next.

Our HighScope daily routine provides a consistent yet flexible rhythm that may include:

- Arrival and departure
- Choice and exploration time
- Group experiences
- Meals and snacks
- Bodily-care and toileting routines
- Outdoor experiences
- Music and movement
- Stories and language experiences
- Rest time
- Transitions throughout the day

The predictability of the routine helps children feel secure while still allowing teachers to respond to individual needs, interests, and discoveries.

Understanding Your Child's Development

Every Curious Climber develops at their own pace.

Throughout the year, teachers will observe your child during natural classroom 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 says, does, attempts, explores, creates, communicates, and accomplishes.

These observations help us understand your child's strengths, interests, emerging abilities, and next developmental steps. Teachers use this information to intentionally plan experiences that support continued growth.

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

Families Are Our Partners

Communication between home and school is incredibly important during this stage of development.

Please use Tadpoles to share information about changes in your child's:

- Eating
- Sleeping
- Toileting
- Behavior
- Mood
- Routines
- Development

Even small changes at home can help us better understand what your child may need from us during their day.

Our door is always open, and we encourage families to become part of our classroom community. Come share a favorite book, tell us about a family tradition, or simply spend a little time experiencing the classroom through your child's eyes.

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

We know that behind every Curious Climber is a family who loves them deeply.

Our goal is to create an environment where your child feels safe enough to explore, loved enough to take risks, supported enough to make mistakes, and confident enough to try again.

We can't wait to see how high our Curious Climbers climb this year!

Working Together,

The Curious Climbers Teaching Team
Future Generation Early Learning Centers

What Your Curious Climber Will Need

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

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
- Additional 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 belongings
- 1 family photograph

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

Cups & Mealtimes

Mealtimes are an important learning experience in Curious Climbers. Children will be encouraged to practice self-feeding and drinking from an open cup as developmentally appropriate.

If your child still requires a sippy cup during this transition, please make sure it is clearly labeled with your child's first and last name.

Toilet Learning

If your child is toilet learning, please send plenty of extra clothing and choose clothing that encourages independence.

Elastic-waist pants and shorts are strongly encouraged.

Please communicate regularly with your child's teaching team so we can provide consistency between home and school.

Classroom Safety & Individual Needs

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

*Family. Love. Create. Engage. Serve.
Little feet. Big curiosity. New heights every day.*