



Welcome to Discovery Grove!

Dear Discovery Grove Families,

Welcome to the Discovery Grove Classroom at Future Generation Early Learning Centers!

The two-year-old year is filled with incredible growth. Your child is developing new words almost daily, forming stronger opinions, building relationships, testing ideas, strengthening physical skills, and discovering that they can do more and more for themselves.

At Future Generation, we believe children this age need a place where they can wonder, explore, experiment, communicate, create, make mistakes, and discover.

That's what Discovery Grove is all about.

Just as a grove provides room for young things to grow, Discovery Grove provides a safe, loving environment where children can branch out, explore their world, and grow at their own individual pace.

Where Our Core Values Come to Life

Our Future Generation core values — Family, Love, Create, Engage, and Serve — are woven throughout your child's day.

Family — You know your child better than anyone. We believe families and teachers are partners, and your knowledge of your child helps us provide the best possible experience.

Love — Children learn best when they feel safe, secure, respected, and genuinely cared for. Strong relationships give children the confidence to explore and take appropriate risks.

Create — Discovery Grove children are creators! They build, paint, pretend, scribble, stack, design, move, mix, and discover new ways to use familiar materials.

Engage — Two-year-olds learn by doing. We intentionally provide hands-on experiences that encourage children to touch, move, investigate, communicate, question, experiment, and explore.

Serve — Children are beginning to understand what it means to be part of a classroom community. We encourage helping, kindness, cooperation, empathy, and caring for our classroom and one another.

Learning the HighScope Way

Our Discovery Grove Classroom proudly implements the HighScope Curriculum, an active-learning approach where children have opportunities to make choices, explore materials, communicate ideas, solve problems, and participate meaningfully in their day.

Two-year-olds are natural scientists.

They want to know:

What happens if I do this?

Where did it go?

Can I make it happen again?

What happens if I put these together?

Can I do it myself?

Our teachers don't rush to give children the answer.

Instead, we encourage them to wonder, investigate, experiment, and discover.

Throughout the day, Discovery Grove children have opportunities to:

- Make meaningful choices
- Develop language and communication skills
- Explore early literacy concepts
- Develop early mathematical thinking
- Investigate cause and effect
- Explore real and open-ended materials
- Strengthen fine- and gross-motor skills
- Engage in pretend and dramatic play
- Express themselves through art, music, and movement
- Build relationships with other children
- Recognize and express emotions
- Practice problem-solving
- Develop self-help skills
- Build independence and confidence

Plan. Do. Review.

An exciting part of the HighScope experience becomes increasingly visible during the Discovery Grove year: Plan-Do-Review.

Children begin learning to:

PLAN — “What do I want to do?”

DO — “I’m going to try it!”

REVIEW — “What did I do?”

At two years old, these conversations are simple and developmentally appropriate. A child's plan may be pointing to the block area, saying “babies,” or telling their teacher, “I make tower!”

That's exactly where it begins.

Over time, Plan-Do-Review helps children develop language, memory, decision-making, problem-solving, confidence, and the ability to think intentionally about their own ideas.

Sometimes Discovery Is Messy

Learning at two doesn't always look neat and quiet.

Sometimes it looks like blocks covering the floor.

Sometimes it's paint on little fingers.

Sometimes it's containers filled, dumped, and filled again.

Sometimes it's banging two objects together just to hear what happens.

Sometimes it's building a tower simply for the joy of knocking it down.

That's discovery.

Children need opportunities to experiment with materials without adults always determining what the finished product should look like.

When something doesn't work, we encourage children to try again.

Those little moments are building something much bigger:
curiosity, creativity, perseverance, and problem-solving.

"I Can Do It!"

Two-year-olds have a growing desire for independence.

We believe everyday routines provide some of the most meaningful learning experiences of the day.

Our teachers encourage children to participate in:

- Feeding themselves
- Drinking from an open cup
- Washing and drying their hands
- Dressing and undressing
- Putting belongings away
- Cleaning up materials
- Making choices
- Communicating wants and needs
- Carrying out simple responsibilities
- Participating in toileting routines

Sometimes it would be much faster for an adult to do something for a child.

But faster isn't always better.

When children are given time to try, struggle a little, receive encouragement, and eventually succeed, they develop confidence.

Every "I did it!" becomes another step toward independence.

Big Feelings, Growing Words

Two-year-olds have very big ideas and feelings — but they don't always have all the words they need to express them.

That's why social-emotional development is such an important part of Discovery Grove.

Our teachers help children begin to:

- Identify feelings
- Use words to communicate wants and needs
- Ask for help

- Navigate peer conflicts
- Practice turn-taking
- Wait for short periods
- Express frustration appropriately
- Accept comfort
- Begin calming their bodies
- Understand simple limits and expectations
- Develop empathy for others

We recognize that crying, frustration, saying “NO,” wanting something another child has, and struggling with waiting are all normal parts of development.

Our job isn't to eliminate big feelings.

Our job is to help children learn what to do with them.

Toilet Learning: Growing Independence Together

Toilet learning is often an important developmental milestone during the Discovery Grove year.

We approach toilet learning as a partnership between families, children, and teachers.

When you begin noticing signs of readiness at home, please communicate with your child's teaching team so that we can work together to provide consistency between home and school.

Children who are toilet learning should wear clothing that allows them to be as independent as possible.

Elastic-waist pants and shorts are strongly encouraged.

Please avoid:

- Onesies
- Overalls
- Belts
- Complicated buttons or snaps
- Clothing that is difficult for your child to pull up and down independently

Please send additional clothing and underwear during toilet learning.

Accidents are expected.

We respond calmly, respectfully, and without shame. Toilet learning is a developmental process, and every child progresses differently.

A Day They Can Count On

Our HighScope daily routine provides a consistent yet flexible rhythm that helps children understand what happens throughout their day.

The Discovery Grove day includes experiences such as:

- Greeting and arrival
- Plan-Do-Review
- Choice and exploration time
- Small-group experiences

- Large-group experiences
- Meals and snacks
- Bodily-care and toileting routines
- Outdoor experiences
- Stories and language
- Music and movement
- Rest time
- Transitions and departure

Knowing what comes next gives children a sense of security and control while still allowing teachers to respond to children's individual interests and needs.

Understanding Your Child's Development

Every child develops differently, and we celebrate those differences.

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 children naturally say, do, create, attempt, communicate, explore, and accomplish.

These observations help us understand your child's:

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

Teachers then use this information to intentionally plan experiences based on children's interests and developmental 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, families aren't visitors to our program.

You are part of it.

Please use Tadpoles to communicate with your child's teaching team and share information about changes in eating, sleeping, toileting, behavior, routines, or anything else that may help us better understand your child's needs.

We also encourage you to become part of our classroom community. Come share a favorite children's book, tell us about a family tradition, or share something special about your family or culture.

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

We understand that there is nothing more precious than the child you place in our care each day. Our goal is for your child to feel safe, loved, valued, capable, and excited to discover something new.

We can't wait to see what our Discovery Grove children discover this year!

Working Together,

The Discovery Grove Teaching Team
Future Generation Early Learning Centers

What Your Discovery Grove Child 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 wipe
- 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 ensure everything still fits and is appropriate for the season.

Mealtimes & Independence

Mealtimes are an important part of the learning experience in Discovery Grove.

Children are encouraged to practice self-feeding, using utensils, and drinking from an open cup as they develop greater independence.

If your child still needs 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 provide plenty of extra clothing and underwear.

Please choose clothing that your child can easily pull up and down independently. Elastic-waist clothing is strongly encouraged.

Consistent communication between home and school will help us support your child's success.

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.
Where curiosity grows and every discovery matters.