

## Welcome to the Star Room

We are happy to welcome you into the Star Room for an exciting year of growth in your child's life. The Star Room is made up of nineteen children who are or will be turning five years old throughout the school year. We embrace each child's unique qualities and interests in the Star Room to incorporate developmentally appropriate, play-based activities. The Star teachers also strive to promote an increased independence in your child while preparing them for kindergarten. While at North Broadway Children's Center, your child will further their social, emotional, physical and cognitive skills. The Star Room opens at 7:30 am. If your child needs to be dropped off before that time, the Butterfly and Lollipop Rooms will be open.

### Star Room Daily Schedule

7:30-8:30 snack/table top  
8:30-10:00 free choice  
10:00-11:00 outside time  
11:00-11:30 group time  
11:45-12:30 lunch  
12:30-1:00 bathroom breaks/chapter book  
1:00-2:00 quiet rest time  
2:00-2:30 books/journal  
2:30-3:00 quiet table top activities  
3:00 Snack  
3:00-4:40 free choice  
4:40-5:40 outside time  
5:40-6:00 book and journal

or

7:30-9:00 table top activities/snack  
9:00-10:00 outside time  
10:00-11:00 free choice  
11:00-11:30 group time  
11:45-12:30 lunch  
12:30-1:00 bathroom breaks/chapter book  
1:00-2:00 quiet rest time  
2:00-2:30 books/journal  
2:30-3:00 quiet table top activities  
3:00-3:40 table top/snack  
3:40-4:40 outside time  
4:40-6:00 table top activities

### The Star Room Teachers

Melissa Gass	7:30-3:00
Hillery Hentges	8:30-5:00
Vanessa Hiltner	10:00-6:00

### Parent-Teacher Communication

Each child has a labeled mail folder hanging on the wall outside of the room. Inside the mail folder you will often find a daily sheet, your child's work, newsletters and office information. The daily sheet is a great way to open up dialog with your child. The Star Room Parent Board is also located outside the room to the right of the door. This board contains the weekly curriculum, lunch menu, daily schedule, school information, field trip permission and conference sign ups. We also send out information through the class email and Shutterfly containing important updates, news and pictures.

### Pick-Up Time

NBCC closes at 6:00 pm. Please be here prior to 6:00 pm. in order to gather your child's things and speak with a Star Teacher about your child's day.

### Personal Responsibility

Part of teaching the children independence and responsibility is offering them their own spaces in and out of the classroom to keep belongings. Your child will have their own individual cubby and a hook space in the hallway. We will provide a bag for each child to keep nap items and extra clothes in. After group time the children will be given time to collect any nap items from the hallway that they would like during nap time.

### Star Room Rules

The Star Room has three rules for our classroom: be safe, be kind and be respectful. One of our goals in the Star Room is to help the children make personal choices that follow our basic rules. Teachers will offer guidance to the children if they are having a difficult time making choices that are appropriate for the room. If these choices persist then consequences such as loss of table top time (following nap), home toy day or any other earned privileges may occur. We appreciate your support in helping to maintain these rules in the classroom.

### The Star Room Environment

The Star Room is divided into several areas that help promote child development and uphold the Ohio Early Learning and Development Standards. While the room arrangement may occasionally change, the purpose of each space remains the same-to nurture the children's interests and support their ideas and existing knowledge.

## Areas in the Star Room

Art space	Manipulatives
Block space	Sensory Table
Homeliving	Woodworking
Book space	Light table
Discovery table	Calming space
Writing Table	Playdough/flubber table

## The Calming Space

The calming space is an important part of our classroom. As the Stars negotiate social interactions and continue to expand on their self-regulation skills, the calming space acts as a very useful tool. It is available throughout the day when a child needs time and space to cope with anger, sadness, frustration or any difficult emotion that is preventing them from participating in the room in a positive way.

## Portfolios

A portfolio will be kept including documentation, photos and artwork that your child has done throughout the year. Each child will need a 2 or 3 inch ring binder supplied from home. Portfolios can be found above the hook space in the hallway. We periodically work on these throughout the year.

## Medication Information

Medication administration forms must be filled out for all medication at the office. This includes lotion, chap stick, sunscreen, bug spray etc. We may not administer medication without the appropriate signed forms. We appreciate your efforts to keep these forms current.

## Field Trips

We will begin to schedule field trips when we feel that the entire class is ready. Having a brand new class, the children need time to adjust to new peers, as well as, new teachers in the room. Behavioral expectations we look for are: keeping hands on your own body, using a respectful tone, being toilet trained, following teacher messages with few prompts etc. Parents are welcome to help out on field trips and can find a sign-up sheet on the parent board when a trip is scheduled.

## Messy Projects

The choice of art is available each day to foster children's creativity as well as promote early writing skills. Sensory ideas introduce concepts of weight, mass and measurement. Both art and sensory projects can get messy at times. While smocks are available, some children feel they limit their mobility and they are not required to wear them. Your child's clothes may get

dirty.

### Sharing Home Toys

Because the Star Room offers a variety of idea, tools, and toys, we limit home toys to Fridays only. Children may bring in one toy to play with at school on Fridays. We limit the amount of toys that the children bring in because we do not have enough room to store Lego sets, car sets, doll houses, etc. NBCC does have a weapon free policy and this also extends to home toys. The Star Room sharing policy is that a child may choose not to share their home toy. However, if they decide to share with one person they must be prepared to share with everyone else. Costumes are also considered home toys and may be worn on Home Toy Fridays. A good rule of thumb is, if the toy cannot fit at the child's hook space or cubby, then it is too big for school. Bringing books to school is a choice every day of the week and will go on the book shelf to share with the class.

### Rest Time

As children get older, they nap less and less. However, with the busy days that children have at school, we feel it is important to offer them rest time, and this is also required by Licensing. The Star Room nap time is usually only an hour long. This may be a big adjustment if your child is used to the two hour nap in the other rooms. Rest time will begin at 1:00 pm, after bathroom breaks and chapter book. The children will rest on their cots until 2:00 pm. If they are awake at 2:00 pm, and have been resting appropriately, they may get 2 books or their journal to draw or write in until 2:30 when they will be getting up. Nap time is also an important time for teachers to complete documentation, portfolios, daily sheets, emails, Shutterfly, teacher breaks etc. We do not offer non-nappers in the Star Room, due to our shorter nap time routine.

12:30 - 1:00 bathroom breaks & chapter book reading

1:00 - 2:00 quiet rest time/quiet music

2:00 - 2:30 books or journal

2:30 - 3:00 quiet table top time

### Nut Free Zone

NBCC is a nut free zone due to the amount of children with peanut allergies and the severity of this allergy. If your child brings a snack or a packed lunch to school (this includes field trips), please be sure to avoid sending products with peanuts, peanut butter and tree nuts.

### Cell Phone Free Zone

Drop off and pick up time is an important time when teachers can meet with you and talk about your child's day. We would greatly appreciate that cell phones remain off during these times.

### Licensing Policies

\*All sleep items must be stored in a plastic bag on the cots for sanitary reasons. **The pillows and blankets for nap time need to be small enough to fit inside these bags. We**

**recommend a travel size pillow to allow for easy and safe cot storage.** Standard size pillows are too big for cots.

\*Teachers who are on the phone are not counted as ratio. This means that teachers may not take phone calls or return calls until the entire teaching team is present. You may leave a message with the office or send an email.

\*All treats that are brought in for special occasions must be store bought and in their original packaging. We can no longer allow homemade treats such as cupcakes, brownies, cookies, etc.

-In making an effort to encourage healthy eating choices, NBCC will not be allowing cookies, candy, cupcakes etc for birthdays or other celebrations. Please see a teacher if you need help thinking of a healthy alternative.

### Star Room Supplies

Your child will need to bring in the following items labeled with their name on the 1st day: a complete set of extra clothes, a 2 inch 3-ring binder for their portfolio. Each child will also need to bring in 1 ream of printing paper and 2 composition notebooks and 1 pair of scissors. Your child may also bring in the following optional items: family picture, nap items (small pillow, small blanket, one small soft nap toy). **Please label extra clothes, portfolio binder, composition notebooks and nap items.**

### Star Room Wish List

Throughout the year the Star teachers will post a "Wish List". These are items frequently used in the Star Room and we are grateful for the donations.

### Wish List Items

- \*plastic grocery bags
- \*zip lock baggies (sandwich and freezer size)
  - \*foil
  - \*plastic wrap
  - \*soft wood
  - \*nails, screws
- \*scrap paper (office paper)
- \*copy paper (we use lots of paper :))
- \*construction paper
- \*crayons, colored pencils, pens, pencils
- \*extra-large zip lock storage bags for nap items
- \*water color paints (liquid or solid)
  - \*glue sticks/bottles
  - \*straws
  - \*craft sticks
- \*washable markers
- \*colored tape
- \*old electronics