

MOPPETS GUIDELINES & POLICIES



ATTENDANCE POLICY

Children will be admitted into MOPPETS on a first come first serve basis as determined by fall pre-registration. Children not initially enrolled will be placed on a waiting list. Two consecutive absences will result in a child losing their spot in the MOPPETS program. These children will be placed on the waiting list. Mothers whose children are on the waiting list are encouraged and welcomed to attend MOPS at anytime, but they must provide their own childcare arrangements.

A SPECIAL NOTE ABOUT CHILDREN IN THE MOPS MEETING

The MOPS meeting is the mother's opportunity to share with other adults away from the distractions of little ones. So that all will benefit from the program, it is our policy that children will not be permitted in the group discussions or craft time. The only exception is for nursing mothers (up to six months of age). If a child has difficulty being separated from his mother, we will work with you to help resolve the situation. We ask that you respect the needs of all our mothers and thank you in advance for honoring this policy.

MOPPETS MEETING GUIDE

Check-In

Teachers will be at the door to greet you and your child(ren) at the start of each class. There will be a check-in sheet where you will put instructions for that day. If the teachers need you for any reason they will contact you. Each child will be given a nametag. If a child has allergies, there will be a notation on his/her nametag to ensure safety.

Separation / Crying Time

We have not established specific guidelines concerning a crying child. We feel our teachers are experienced enough to know when it is time to get a message to Mom. However, if you will be more comfortable with a set time allowance, please designate the maximum crying time on the check-in sheet. We realize that leaving your child, especially for the first time, can be extremely difficult. Even those children who have been doing great can go through periods of anxiety. We will work with you in any way we can to resolve problems in this area.

Snacks

Age appropriate snacks and drinks will be provided in each class. For the safety of all our MOPPETS, please do not bring in any snacks. If your child has any food allergies, please make sure you have listed them on your registration form. Note for Infants: Because of the variety of infant stages we ask that you bring in what you would like your infant to snack on during MOPS.

Infant Feeding

Bottles will be given if requested by the mother. However, it is not possible for teachers to feed meals to the children.

Labels

Write your child's name on all items brought to class such as diaper bags, wipes, bottles, cups, pacifiers, blankets, extra clothing, etc. Periodically check all labels to make certain they have not faded and are still legible.

Toys

Please encourage your children to leave their toys at home. Teachers are not responsible for toys that are lost or broken.

Misbehavior

If talking to a child does not correct misbehavior, the teacher will use "Time Out". The child will be placed in a designated chair for a short period of time. "Time Out" is based on the child's age and maturity—no longer than one minute per year of age. If the problem persists, the teacher will then discuss the matter with the mother. Hopefully, by working together these situations will be easily resolved.

What to Bring

For each child in MOPPETS, please bring the following labeled items:

Diaper bag

Diapers

Wipes

Bottle / Sippy cup

Change of clothes

Plastic bag for wet burp cloths / clothes

HEALTH & SAFETY

This policy has been designed to meet the needs of the sick child, protect the well children, satisfy state regulations and accommodate mothers to the best extent possible. These guidelines will help mothers understand when their child may or may not attend MOPPETS. The guidelines follow those developed for preschoolers by the Tennessee Department of Human Services and the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta.

When to keep your child(ren) at home:

- Oral or rectal temperature ABOVE 100 DEGREES
- Sore throat with fever
- Vomiting or diarrhea
- Impetigo
- Yellow or green discharge from nose (with or without fever)
- Conjunctivitis (pink eye)
- Head lice
- When known to have illness readily communicated to children or staff
- When advised by a doctor to remain isolated

State law requires that all mothers be notified when the child(ren) in the program have been exposed or may be exposed to a contagious disease (chicken pox, pink eye, head lice, etc.)

Medication

Our teachers are not permitted to administer medication of any kind, including over-the-counter medications.