

Organization of the Day

Preschool 2 Classroom

Greeting Time

The morning separation is very different for each family, as they have developed their own rituals for saying goodbye. Since few children arrive before 8:00 a.m., those who do are greeted in a common area in a mixed age group. Those who arrive after 8:00 a.m. are greeted in their own classroom. When weather and scheduling permits, the children are greeted outdoors on the playground. This is also a time for families and educators to share with one another through dialogue and/or written communication in the classroom's Parent Message Book. Arrivals take place between 7:15 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

Early Morning/ Late Afternoon

As children arrive, they can make activity choices in the classroom and other open areas of the Center. They are encouraged to explore and collaborate with one another and the educators. When weather permits, this time is sometimes spent in our Outdoor Play Space. Children are also invited to complete work started previously, perform classroom jobs (caring for pets, watering plants, etc.) and discuss possibilities for the upcoming small group work time. (7:15—10:15 a.m. and 4:00—5:45 p.m.)

Snack Time

Snacks are served in our Dining Room and children are invited to take a turn to visit the snack table. Morning Snack is served between 9:30 and 10:00 a.m. and Afternoon Snack is served between 3:30 and 4:00 p.m.

Transition to Meeting Time

As children finish cleaning up, they meet on the rug and join in a game, song, or other short activity. This ritual signifies that meeting will be starting shortly and gives those who are busy a few minutes to save or clean up what they had been working on. (10:10—10:20 a.m.)

Meeting Time

The entire class gathers together to sit in a circle. The children and educators sing together, share news, discuss classroom happenings, and count the number of people present.

Small Group Work

Children work in small groups throughout the Cyert Center. On a typical day there are two small groups, each one working closely with an educator and usually focusing on an exploration of materials and /or spaces in the school or project work around a particular topic or goal. The rest of the children select an area of the classroom to work in, often with provocation presented to enrich or extend their time in that space. The third teacher in the team circulates throughout the room and supports the work of these children by offering suggestions, helping them to resolve any issues that arise, and documenting her observations with photos and/or notes. (10:45—11:45 a.m.)

Outdoor Explorations

We go outside daily, weather permitting, to explore our outdoor play space and other areas on campus. Longer walks to the nearby Carnegie Museums, Library, and Schenley Park are often planned. (11:45—12:45 p.m. and 4:00—5:45 p.m., also 8:00—9:30 a.m. in summer months. Departures for longer trips are prescheduled, typically with departure around 10:30 a.m. and return by 1:00 p.m.)

Story Time

The group gathers together to read a story, often with follow-up discussions.

Lunch Time

Children take turns helping to set the table and decide on the group's seating arrangement and indicate their plans by setting a place card near each child's plate. The others wash their hands and join them in the dining room. Food is passed around in serving bowls, family style, and children are encouraged to try a little of each dish offered. (1:00—1:40 p.m.)

Quiet Time

Soft music is played while children lay quietly on their mats, typically with a special soft toy or blanket from home. Educators circulate to pat backs and visit quietly with children. During the second half of quiet time, children who are not sleeping are offered books or a quiet activity to do on their rest mat. (1:45—3:15 p.m.)

Departure

Children can be picked up any time between 3:30—6:00 p.m. Parents are encouraged to arrive at least 15 minutes before 6:00 p.m. so that they can have time to speak with educators and read any parent board information, as well as help the children to have a smooth transition from the Cyert Center to home. **The Center closes promptly at 6:00 p.m.**