This introduction letter is filled with tidbits of information to help you with the transition from the Infant Room to the Freshmen Room. Our staff is committed to giving your child a wonderful learning experience that will last them a lifetime. They receive continuous training in early childhood to enhance their understanding of the characteristics and developmental stages of toddlers.

Toddlers are lovable, engaging, demanding, curious, and "into everything". They are also egocentric, have extreme moods, and are high in energy. Toddlers love to dump and fill, push and pull, and enjoy climbing on many things. In the mind of a Freshman the whole world exists only for their pleasure and service. At this age, most children engage in solitary play.

As your child's verbal skills are developing and they are learning new words, they will often treat other toddlers like objects. They may bite, pull hair, pinch, push, hit, or poke each other's eyes. These actions may happen due to their excitement, frustration, and/or lack of verbal skills.

As your child is learning to walk independently and their coordination is developing, they may trip, walk into objects, lose their balance, or fall out of their chair. If an injury occurs an accident report will be filled out and placed in your child's file, after being reviewed by the office staff. Any head injury will be reported to you right away. As your child's coordination improves, the bumps and bruises will decrease.

Toddlers are easily distracted. The world is too exciting to spend much time doing just one thing! We will be very busy guiding them in their excitement and exploration. We keep them on the move and let them explore many new activities. Your child may come home very tired for the first few weeks due to the vast array of fun activities that they will be involved in. Hands-on messy play is part of our daily routine as well as art. You will see their artwork displayed in the classroom and in the hallway outside our classroom.

FEEDING SCHEDULE: We will follow your child's feeding schedule until they are ready to begin eating table food. If you would like your child to begin eating our school lunches and snacks please let us know. At your request we can puree any food items that you wish to introduce to your child. Breakfast is served from 8:00- 8:30 a.m. The children receive a morning snack at 9:30. Lunch is served at 12:00 p.m.

NAPTIME: We will follow your child's naptime routine until they are ready to give up their morning nap. Our scheduled afternoon naptime is from 12:30-3:00 p.m.. Your child will be sleeping in a playpen unless they are older than 15 months or until they no longer roll or turn around in their sleep. If your child does happen to roll off the cot they will not get hurt since they will only be a few inches off of the ground. Please send in a blanket and/or stuffed toy as well as a pacifier if they sleep with one. We will send the blanket home at the end of each week to be laundered.

BOTTLES & CUPS: Please send in a sippy cup for your child to use for snack and at lunch time. If your child is still on formula you will need to continue to provide it for your child. Please place these items in the refrigerator in the kitchen on the inside of the door. All bottles and caps must be labeled.
SNACK: Your child will be given a snack in the morning and again in the afternoon.

TAKE-HOME FOLDERS: Outside the classroom there are folders for each of the children. All artwork and parent notices will be placed in your child's folder to go home. Please check your child's folder daily.

PARENT COMMUNICATION: Your child will continue to receive a day sheet. In addition to information about mealtimes, naptime and diapering, the activities your child participated in during the day will also be included. If you wish to speak to the Head Teacher it is best to call between 12:30 and 3:00 when the children are napping. Of course, if you need to speak to a teacher immediately, please don't hesitate to call us any time.

If you have questions about any aspect of the Freshmen room, please feel free to ask the staff in the classroom. We look forward to working with your child and making his/her experience here in the Freshmen room one that they will never forget.

The Freshmen Staff!