



Tax Time

All families will find their 2021 childcare statements online at www.myprocare.com

Our tax ID number will show up on the right-hand corner of the statement when you download it.



Illness at Crayons 2 Pencils

Dear Parents,

Crayons 2 Pencils has probably been hit the hardest these past two weeks. We have had multiple cases of Influenza A, and a few positive cases of Covid. We spent Monday sanitizing as we are doing everything we can to keep your little ones healthy. As you may have noticed some of our teachers have been out too. 😞 They unfortunately are not immune to getting sick. If only we had that superpower.

In the Classrooms

I wanted to let you know that during the day while you are at work, we are a big family here at C2P. Our students and teachers play together on the playground and even do activities together in the classrooms. We all know each other here at C2P. We actually have multiple classrooms of the same ages.

1-Year-Old Classrooms – Yellow and Orange room (1 teacher – 4 students)

2-Year-Old Classrooms – Green and Red room (1 teacher – 6 students)

3-Year-Old Classrooms – Purple and Blue room (1 teacher – 8 students)

4- & 5-Year-Old Classrooms – Silver, Teal and Navy room (1 teacher – 12 students)

We have a few teachers who are our Rotating Teachers Assistants. They work in a variety of different rooms. They cover when teachers are out for the day or on maternity leave. Our first step is to have one of them fill in for your child's teacher. In the event that your child's teacher is out sick and our rotating teachers are already being used, some children may join in another classroom with peers their age to allow us to still stay in ratio. This could sometimes be just for the very beginning of the day, the last 20 minutes of the day or the whole day. We always ask the kids if they want to go learn in the "red" classroom and kids volunteer as they get so excited to play and learn in new rooms because they already know the teachers and the other children.

The learning never stops

At Crayons 2 Pencils our classrooms of the same age are learning about the same projects each day. Our classroom of the same age group have the same daily schedule and routines as well. The teachers do an amazing job teaming up together to help out other classrooms. We have such an amazing support system here.

Staff

Living through a pandemic has been hard for the whole country. Our teachers are extra cautious if they don't feel well. They call in, out of precaution because they care about your child so much. The last thing they want to do is get them sick. If someone in their house test positive for Covid, they could be out for 2 weeks or longer which has happened a few times lately. This comes with little to no warning either. We do our best to be proactive but sometimes we do not get much notice at all causing us to have to make a change last minute.

We have been very blessed to be able to keep our doors open normal hours this whole time as we know how much you count on us. We wanted to let you know that Cindy and Jill are working behind the scene to make sure all rooms are in ratio, children are happy and engaged and learning and nothing misses a beat. We have you while you are at work. We just ask from you to please keep your little one home if they have any symptoms at all to help protect everyone as well. ***We don't take this job lightly – Your children are an extension of our own families.***

If Your Child Is Sick

Please keep your child home from school if they are sick. They can return once they are symptom free without medicine for 24 hours is the general rule.

Menu Change

Due to food shortages, there may be times we have to change our menu last minute. If this happens, we will let you know as soon as we know. Sometimes we order it, they say they have it and we make the menu. Then we get a note that they are out of stock once it ships. In many cases, Mrs. Brenda will go to multiple stores to find what we need but in the event she can not we will let you know.

State's Plan to Increase Ratios in Childcare Centers

We wanted to assure you that our class sizes are our class sizes. We designed the building to fit the square footage of the rooms to the number of children we wanted for that age group. We will not be adding new children to our classrooms as we would have to tear down walls and expand the rooms to be able to do so which is not an option for us.

Bad Weather



In the event of bad weather, we still plan to stay open for our families. As children start leaving, we will combine classrooms. This will allow our staff who live the furthest away to be able to get home safely. Your child may have a different teacher or be in a different room during this time.

Worst Case we would do a delayed start of 9:00 AM if travel was not advised due to an ice storm or blizzard. This has happened once I think in all of our time here at C2P .

Snow Gear

Children 1 Years old and up please bring snow gear to school for days when your child's class ventures outside.



Snow Gear:

Snow Pants

Snow Boots

Thick Mittens or Gloves

Stocking Cap



* Label Everything including the gloves

We will keep their snow gear here for the winter unless you would like it sent home each day/weekend.

Valentines Day

Your child's class will be having a Valentines party on Monday February 14th. Children can bring Valentine Cards to share with friends. To help your child easily be able to pass them out, please do not write the names of the other students in the class on the cards. Just put your child's name only. We will have a party in the afternoon where if you would like to bring a Valentine treat, your teachers will have a sign-up list by your door. They will also put the number of children in their classroom so you know how many cards to bring. You do NOT need to make a Valentine box. We have you covered 😊 We purchased bags for them to decorate. With Covid, unfortunately we will make this a class only event but we will take lots of pictures. Children will also get a Valentines picture taken as well. Once children pass out their valentines' cards and candy, we will put their bag up for them to take home and go through it with you. For parents that are bringing treats on the sign-up sheet, we will have those for our afternoon snack between 3:15-3:30 pm.

Music Class



Your children have been enjoying music class with Mrs. Amanda Meyers who travels to different schools for music class. She brings a variety of new musical instruments and the kids just love her. She comes every other week.

Arrival Time

Please make sure your child is at school by **9:00 AM each day** unless they have a doctor's appointment.



Easy Ways to Earn a Discount Off Your Tuition



Common Sites to leave Referrals on:

Yelp: [https://www.yelp.com/biz/crayons-2-pencils-early-learning-center-norwalk?uid=fj1Js3qVn54OhDfAye_WkQ&utm_campaign=www_business_share_popup&utm_medium=copy_link&utm_source=\(direct\)](https://www.yelp.com/biz/crayons-2-pencils-early-learning-center-norwalk?uid=fj1Js3qVn54OhDfAye_WkQ&utm_campaign=www_business_share_popup&utm_medium=copy_link&utm_source=(direct))

Facebook: [Crayons 2 Pencils Early Learning Center | Facebook](#)

Or leave a **GOOGLE** review by typing Crayons 2 Pencils in google.

There is no better referral than the word of mouth. We would love if you would leave feedback online to help share all about Crayons 2 Pencils. For **each** post you give, you will get \$10 off your tuition. Just let me know you left a post and where and we will apply the discount. In addition – For each post you make you will also get your name in a drawing for 3 grand prizes

Prize 1 – 1 child's tuition free for one week

Prize 2 – Whole family discounted ½ off for one week

Prize 3 – ½ off of one child's tuition for one week

Drawing will be held January 28th

Located in Norwalk Iowa



Infant -Pre-K Location



K-5th Grade After School Location



If you are interested in applying please visit www.crayons2pencils.com and click on the career tab. You will find a section to fill out. Once we receive that, we will schedule your interview!

Call 515-285-5322 to find out more

Now Hiring

Positions Available

**Full Time
&
Part Time**

**Come and be a part of our High Energy Team!
We sure know how to have fun!**

Lots of Perks

Awards, College Opportunities, Hands on trainings, Meals provided for all staff + so much more!

Fill out our online application

<http://www.crayons2pencils.com/Career-Info.html>
Or visit www.crayons2pencils.com and click on the career tab

APPLY TODAY!

We would like to hire up to 3 new full-time staff and 2 (part time staff)

If you know someone who you think would be GREAT send them our way and when they are hired you get **\$50 off your tuition for the week they start.**



Potty Training Tips



Tip 1- Look for signs that they are ready. Are they staying dry all night long? **Are they telling you when they need a new diaper? Are they taking their diaper off if they peed or pooped?** Are they asking about the potty?

Tip 2- Setting the stage for success by talking about going potty. Say to your child "hold on a minute, I want to play with you but I have to go potty first, don't want to pee in my pants, I will be right back". This helps them see that everyone goes potty.

Tip 3- Potty chairs can be very gross. I like the seats that fit right onto the potty but to be 100% honest, they don't even need those. They can learn to go potty right on the grown-up potty. I did always buy the little seats with each of my kids and we only used it for the first few times while they got used to sitting on the toilet.

Tip 4- Get Ready- Kids are motivated by different things. Before you take diapers away for good **have them sit on the potty until they have actually peed in it**. Once they have peed in it many times then they know the feeling and you are ready. Every time you do change their diaper, talk to them "I see you peed in your diaper" or "You pooped, so we need to change you".

Tip 5 - Plan a countdown- 5 more day to wear diapers, 4 more days to wear diapers, 3 more days until we get to wear underwear. Parents sometimes forget to talk to their kids about upcoming changes. Let them know that they will not be wearing diapers soon. Let them know they are getting bigger. Talk to them about who wears wear diapers.

Take it a step farther by putting their diapers in the mail box to mail to a baby. Have them check the mailbox a little bit later to find brand new big kid underwear.

Tip 6- Parents seem to worry about it more than they should and kids actually adjust very well. Here is a big mistake that can be made.

If they have too many accidents the first day parents put them back in diapers.

Think about when you learned to ride a bike. You fell many times when you first started riding it. If you stopped trying then you did not learn. You can't expect them to just "get it" the first day. Plan for accidents. **(My favorite time to potty train is in the summer)**

Tip 7- Going back and Forth between diapers and underwear confuses them. It can actually cause them to hold pooping until they get their diaper on which can then take longer to potty train. **When they show the signs, they are ready for underwear then no more diapers.**

Also watch for signs they have too poop or look for them doing the potty dance.

Tip 8 - Avoid saying "Do you have to go potty" instead say **"it is time for a potty break"**.

Don't ask them if they have to go, you will need to tell them it is time to go.

Some children will cry when they are told it is time to go to the bathroom. The best thing to do is to ignore the crying and take them in to the bathroom. They are not crying because they don't want to go potty, they are crying because they don't want to stop doing what they were doing first.

Tip 9- Potty Training is like a roller coaster. You are going to have a bumpy start! Then they start to get the hang of it. Maybe only 2 accidents and then THEY GET IT! No accidents!!!! You're so EXCITED!!!

Then out of the blue weeks after they have been potty trained with no accidents, they have 4 in the same week. You will feel stressed but just remember; this is very normal. They get back on track quickly and it is smooth sailing.



Tip 10- Bedtime- For our 5 kids once we took diapers away, that was it, and we were done with diapers. We would wake our kids up at midnight when we went to bed and sit them on the potty to go the first few months and they just fell right back to sleep. We did not do it all of the time but most nights we did. Go to Walmart and purchase about 4 sets of mattress protectors. Then layer them on the bed. Mattress protector, sheet, another mattress protector and a sheet. Do this multiple times. That way if they did have an accident in the night, all you have to do is peel one layer off and then it was back to bed. Some kids are not able to hold their bladder at night. If this is the case you can get special night time underwear (pull ups or something). This is not something I recommend unless they really can't hold their bladder.

Tip 11- Rewards- Kids are motivated by different things. Some are happy with high fives while others want sticker charts, toys or candy. With 5 kids I have had I think one of each. You have to find what motivates your own child. For stickers, make a potty chart on the computer. Put a picture of them on it. Make squares and every time they go potty, they get a sticker. Maybe after 5 stickers they get a Popsicle, after 10 stickers they get to go on a walk around the block with mommy or daddy or a bike ride. After 20 maybe a small toy they wanted. You can buy the toy at the store with them and have it on a shelf that they can look at as their goal. For Candy- We always did M&M's for going pee and tootsie Rolls for going poop. That was a big hit with some of my kids. *Side note- sometimes they will only pee a dribble so they can go back and get more candy. I have them in a special spot with a lid on it so they can't access the candy.

Tip 12- Yuck- This can be a very messy job! Sometimes you are just going to throw out the underwear. Have some plastic sacks and wet wipes under your bathroom sink. Remember wet wipes do not go in the toilet. If they poop in their underwear and it is the solid kind, dump it in the toilet so they can see where it goes. Then flush it.

Tip 13- Some kids like to strip all the way down to go potty. That is normal. For boys and girls I teach them to first sit down to potty. Have them sit back far enough on the toilet so that when they pee, it goes into the toilet instead of all over the floor or better yet not on you. If they sit too close to the end of the toilet when they pee it can come right out the rim of the toilet and go all down their clothes.

Tip 14- When you are ready to teach boys to stand up to pee, put cheerios in the toilet so they have something to aim at.

Tip 15 - Be prepared- Accidents are going to happen and they are not forever. I promise! Have some fun with it. After all- You never know when the last accident will take place until you realize one day that they have not had one in forever.

- YOU GOT THIS!

When can they come to school in underwear?

Potty Training always starts at home first.

It will be a few weeks of the kids getting used to the potty and what it means to go "potty". You will spend many hours just sitting in the bathroom with them reading stories and singing songs. This is just the intro phase that is done at home.

Once they have gone pee in the potty multiple times, it is time to start potty training.

You must have gone 2 full days in underwear at home first with some success before they can come to school in underwear. If a child comes to school in a diaper, we will assume they are not potty training. They must come in underwear.

After the full weekend in underwear, you are ready for them wear underwear to school. Make sure to talk with your child's teacher about what works at home. Special words you used; do you have boys sit down to pee (I recommend at first to teach that way as a mom with 4 boys)

Once they attend in underwear, we will follow the schedule that you do at home. **Remember: Accidents will happen at school more at first as at school they are busy playing with all their peers and wait too long to go.** Send them in clothes that are easy to pull up and down with no zips or buttons. They can do a pull up at nap. I would send about 5 sets of clothes in the beginning. Remember Cold weather can make them pee when they go outside. So be aware of this. Accidents happen the most at recess on cold days. It is a roller coaster of a ride!