

Big Fish Academy

Toddler Classrooms

Welcome to Big Fish Academy! We are Believers in God, Faithful in Serving Him. Our mission is for all involved to have a safe and fun experience that leads children and families to grow in their faith in God. Our vision is to be Believers in God, Faithful in Serving Him every day to have an impact on all students, employees, church families, and the community. Our prayer is to build a Christ-like atmosphere that will encourage all families through the Big Fish ministry. We are thankful and blessed to have the opportunity to invest back into the lives of you and the students!

We welcome you and your child to the toddler classroom. We are so glad you are here at Big Fish Academy. We look forward to getting to know you and your child. Our toddler classrooms are fun and interactive spaces that help your toddler learn through play and social interactions with their peers. We will work on milestones such as social/emotional skills, language and communication skills, cognitive learning and problem solving, and movement and physical development.

We welcome you to email us with any questions or concerns.

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Meet Our Teachers

Ms Evie recently got married and lives in Mt. Juliet. She just graduated from Tennessee Tech with her Bachelors in Criminal Justice and a minor in Psychology in 2022. While in school, she learned about my love for kids while working in Cookeville. Evie loves camping, kayaking, coffee, and her dog! Most of all, Evie is excited to watch the kids grow!!!

Ms. Trisha graduates from Southern Adventist University in 2021 and has lived in TN for 4 years. Trisha loves all the kids at Big Fish Academy and looks forward to watching the toddlers grow this year.

Ms. Karen graduated from Mt Juliet High and received her Associates degree from Volunteer State Community College with a focus in Human Services. Karen and her husband have 2 children. Karen has worked in child care for over 20 years. She enjoys hiking with my family and loves reading a good book.

Hello Big Fish Families! My name is Courtney Flores and my Husband Josh and I have lived in Mount Juliet for 12 years. Our son, Asher, is a rising 1st grader at W.A.Wright.

Preschool and Early Education of little minds is a true passion for me. I taught Preschool for 7 years and took a little break to co-own a business. My heart has missed the classroom. I am so very excited to be back and part of the Big Fish Family.

I'm excited to take many adventures in learning with your child and looking forward to the opportunity to teach your little one and get to know each of you as well.

Hi! My name is Mrs. Bri and I'm so excited to have your child in class this year! I was born and raised in Mt. Juliet, and live here with my husband of almost five years, Timothy and our two kids Marli (3) and Tate (1). We love spending our free time outside, traveling, and anything water related! This will be my first year at Big Fish Academy! Before having babies of my own, I was a nanny for over TEN years and taught at another preschool. Children fill my heart with so much joy!

Required Items:

- 2" thick Rest mat
- 1 fitted crib sheet (for rest time)
- 1 small Blanket (for rest time)
- 1 full size backpack (no small preschool backpacks please)
- Diapers/Pull Ups: Please keep diapers and/or pull-ups stocked in the cubby. If using pull-ups please have the kind with Velcro on the sides. The brands that sell these are Huggies, Walmart and Target. Please communicate with your child's teacher when your child is potty training. We would love to help you in this process.
- Extra Clothes: Each child will need a complete change of seasonally appropriate clothing - shirt, shorts/pants, socks and underwear (if potty-trained). Please label ALL clothing and place in a gallon size Ziploc bag.
- Lunch Box, labeled with child's name
- Sippy Cup, labeled with child's name
- Sunscreen – Please apply sunscreen to your child every morning prior to school. For afternoon extended care enrollees needing reapplication after rest time, send in a SPRAY can of sunscreen with your child's name written on the bottle.
- Shoes

Supply Needs:

- 1 **plastic** two pocket folder with prongs and pockets
- 2 boxes (or refills) of diaper wipes
- 1 box of bandaids
- 1 pack Clorox wipes
- 5-6 Non-Returnable Family Photos
- 2 large packages of uncoated paper plates
- 1 6-pack of AA batteries
- 1 6-pack of AAA batteries
- 1 box facial tissue
- 1 bottle bubbles
- 1 box sidewalk chalk
- 1 Crayola Watercolor palette

*****WHAT TO WEAR** – Dress for Play!!! We are super active in the toddler class and enjoy getting a little dirty. Please dress your child in clothing that is comfy and ready for action. Also, **ALL** shoes must be closed toe with back support. Open toe and backless shoes pose a tripping hazard and are unsafe at school. Tennis shoes are the preferred choice for school.

*****REST TIME** – Each child will need a 2-inch thick (blue/green) rest mat. They will also need a loose fitted crib sheet and a small blanket. Please **DO NOT** send large blankets, pillows or special fitted nap mat covers. These make it very difficult for storage and mat set-up. Please label **ALL** items with their name on it for rest time. Please send a pacifier, special stuffed animal, etc.

*****LUNCHES** – Please send a healthy lunch every day for your child. Please send an insulated/non spill sippy cup of milk, 100% juice, boxed milk/juice or bottled water for lunch. We **CAN NOT** heat up food, so a thermos (steel-lined works best at keeping food warm) is a great alternative. If items need to stay cold until our 11:00 lunchtime, please include an ice pack. PLEASE LABEL all lunch boxes, ices packs, thermoses, etc.

TOP 10 CHOKING FOODS FOR CHILDREN UNDER AGE 3

1. HOT DOGS: (Vienna sausages, meat sticks, etc.) cut the meat lengthwise so that it is in thin strips and easier to chew.
2. HARD/ROUND CANDY: a danger anytime – please do not send to school.
3. PEANUTS: difficult to chew, easily inhaled; many children are allergic – not appropriate for school.
4. GRAPES: should be cut lengthwise making the fruit thin.
5. MEAT CHUNKS: cut small enough to chew
6. RAW CARROT SLICES: please cut into long, thin slices.
7. PEANUT BUTTER: should be spread thinly onto bread or crackers.
8. APPLE CHUNKS: should be peeled and cut into thin slices.
9. POPCORN: please do not send to school.
10. RAISINS