

Big Fish Academy

Two-Year-Old Classroom

Welcome to Big Fish Academy! We are Believers in God, Faithful in Serving Him. Our prayer is to build a Christ-like atmosphere that will encourage all families and support your children developmentally and emotionally through positive and loving interactions. We feel honored to be a part of your child's life.

We are excited to have you and your child to the 2's classroom and we look forward to getting to know your family. Our 2's classroom is a fun and interactive space that helps your child 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 with the encouragement and support of loving teachers and support staff. We can't wait to see your child grow socially, emotionally and developmentally throughout our school year.

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

Mary Cales, Director, knoxacademy@campbigfish.org

Lorrain Caro, Assistant Director, knoxoffice@campbigfish.org

Meet the Teachers

Welcome to BIG FISH ACADEMY 2's class!

My name is Jenny Woods and this will be my 2nd year as lead teacher for the 2 year old classroom! I will be in the classroom MWF. I absolutely love this age group as so many developmental changes occur and it is an honor to be a part of the social, emotional and developmental growth of your kiddo!

I have a degree in Child & Family Studies from the University of Tennessee and have worked in several child care settings as well as served as a Girl Scout Leader for many years. Alongside working at the preschool, I have an online direct sales business. I am married and have 3 daughters; Maddie (18), Erica (14) and Ally (10). They are my world!! My hobbies included anything to do with them! I look forward to being a part of your sweet child's life and watching them learn and grow!

Hello! My name is Sarah Melton and I will be the curriculum lead teacher in the two's class Monday-Friday. I am originally from Memphis Tennessee, but I recently graduated from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, with a B.S. in Health and Human Sciences. I spent four years studying Child and Family Studies, focusing on Community Outreach and Public Health. During the summer of 2022, I had the incredible opportunity to spend 3 months traveling across Sweden, Denmark, Finland, and England studying Global Public Health as well as Multicultural Early Childhood and Education. Previously I have worked as a full-time/part-time nanny for children between the ages of 0-13, this includes quite a bit of experience with neurodivergent children. This past academic year, I worked as the Assistant School Counselor and resident substitute teacher at the Pre K-8 Episcopal School of Knoxville here in town! I am excited to join the BFA team and watch your kiddos play, learn and grow socially, emotionally and developmentally in a fun and creative atmosphere.

Hi! I am Cheyanne, and I will be assisting in the two's classroom on T/TR. I graduated from Kansas State University in Animal Science. Before seeking my degree, I worked with special education elementary age children, and after graduating, I worked in vaccine and medicine development. I also have 2 young children that also keep me on my toes, so I decided to take time off to concentrate on my role as Mom. My oldest, Eli, started at BFA last year in the two's class and I loved his preschool experience and the camaraderie of the staff. I also love kiddos, being a Mom and helping children develop and learn in a safe space, so I am excited to be a part of shaping young minds socially, emotionally and developmentally at BFA.

Required Items: (Please LABEL all items)

- 1- 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 label all diaper sleeves. 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
- Shoes/socks: please wear shoes made for running and active play. socks should be worn at all times.
- 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.

Supply Needs:

- 1 two pocket folder
- 1 pencil box
- 4 packs (or refills) of unscented diaper wipes
- 2 boxes of tissues
- 1 package of napkins
- 1 6-pack of AA batteries
- 1 set Crayola Markers
- 1 set Crayola watercolors
- 1 set of dot paint
- 1 refill "soft soap" bottle
- 1 package of paper towels
- 1 package of white cardstock
- 1 pack of stickers (any season)
- 1 watercolor paper pad
- 1-2 containers of playdoh
- An oversized shirt to be used as an art smock

*****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.