

Big Fish Academy

Toddler 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 our toddler classroom and we look forward to getting to know your family. Our toddler 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

Welcome to the BFA Toddler Class

Hello! My name is Kendall Moore and I am one of your toddler teachers. I graduated from Alcoa High School in 2020 and I am now working on my special education degree through Grand Canyon University. I have worked with kids throughout middle school and highschool through the Peer Tutoring program and as a babysitter. I also worked at the Big Fish Academy preschool in Mt. Juliet and at the Big Fish summer camp in Knoxville prior to joining the Big Fish Academy Farragut teaching staff. I love the toddler's and it makes my heart happy watching them grow and learn both socially and emotionally and developmentally. We learn lots through play, circle time and group time and I am excited to get our year started together.

Hello, my name is Lyona Bankston and I am one of the toddler teachers! I am a graduate of Austin-East Magnet High School and it has always been my passion to work with children since I was a little girl. I have worked with and volunteered at the Boys and Girls Club with a variety of ages and at Sarah Greene Moore with school-aged children. I also am Mom to a 5-month old son and I love that role, too. I am excited to be a part of the toddler team as it my goal is to give the kids the developmental foundation they need to navigate through preschool and beyond. There is never a dull moment in the todd's and I look forward to helping your kiddo grow and learn!

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 AAA 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.