



## **SIX MILE MOPPETS Frequently Asked Questions**

Because leaving a child in childcare can sometimes be stressful, we've compiled a list of frequently asked questions to help address concerns or questions you may have.

### **Do I have to leave my child in childcare?**

Because MOPPETS is designed to be a "time out" for mothers, it is suggested that children not be brought into MOPPS meetings, with the exception of "lap babies." "Lap children" may stay with their mothers; however, we do ask that mothers step out of the room if their child becomes disruptive/loud.

### **What do the children do in childcare during the meeting time?**

In the infant room, we try to maintain a 1:2 or 1:3 worker/child ratio. The toddlers room has a 1:3 or 1:4 ratio. The 2-year-old rooms and up will have a 1:5 or 1:6 ratio.

Children twelve months and younger sleep, rock, play, eat, and in general are loved and cared for. Children ages two and up have a regular schedule that includes free play, snack, a story, a craft, and outdoor time.

Your child will be in his or her MOPPETS classroom for the majority of the morning. When possible, MOPPETS teachers will take the older children outdoors. Older children may play on the playground, draw with chalk, blow bubbles, etc.

### **What about security?**

We have an effective security system in place that features name-tags with ID numbers that match you with your child. If your child needs you, a worker will come to your table and excuse you to come to childcare. You can excuse yourself to attend to your child's need and then return to the meeting. You will need your ID number to pick up your child after a meeting.

### **What if I am potty-training my child?**

We promise to do the best job we can, but please remember that we are caring for multiple children. You may want to use a "pull-up" diaper on meeting mornings just to be safe. Two-year-olds and older have potty breaks, and children are taken to the restroom as needed, but we may not catch every child at the right time. Please always pack a change of clothes for your child.

### **What do I do if my child cries in childcare?**

Be assured that not all children cry when their mothers leave them. However, should your child cry, we encourage you to give the MOPPETS worker a chance to settle him. If he still doesn't settle down, here are some suggestions for what to do if we come to get you because your child is crying:

- 1 We require workers to inform you when your child has been consistently crying for 10 minutes. We do not necessarily want you to do anything; we just want you to know, to give further instructions, or to come take care of a need if necessary. You may feel that your child just needs more time to adjust. Let the MOPPETS coordinator/ teacher know what you want to do. Someone will come to get you again if your child does not settle down.
- 2 Go to the room and help settle your child down, reassuring him that you will come to get him after they are through playing. Work with your child and a teacher so you can exit the room with the child in the care of a specific person. Remember, if he/she continues to be upset after you leave, we will come and get you again.
- 3 If the child is inconsolable, we understand if you need to leave. Don't give up. Please try again at the next meeting. Sometimes adjusting to a new situation/teacher can take time and patience.

### **What do I do if I have a concern about my child's care or classroom?**

Please let your MOPPETS coordinator or teachers know of any concerns you have with your child's care. If there is a problem, we need your suggestions, too. It may be easier to share your concerns on the phone after you get home rather than with children in tow.