

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Cradles to Crayons Childcare and Learning Center. Jeff and I started this Center February 28, 1994. It has been such a blessing that has taught us patience, given us strength and opened our eyes to the field of Early Childhood. Jeff and I are life long residents of Hendricks County and now reside in Pittsboro. I am a graduate of Bethesda Christian High School and Jeff is a graduate of Brownsburg High School. Jeff has furthered his education to become a Journeyman Plumber and is now a Commercial Plumber. I have a CDA in Early Childhood and I am currently enrolled with Ivy Tech working towards my Associates of Science. I have a variety of business experience, working in Law firms, a hospital, and a Fortune 500 company. I was fortunate enough to be able to stay home with my two daughters, Logan and Brooke for most of their early years.

Jeff and I have always had a great concern for children, our own, as well as others. As parents we understand the fears and concern that parents have with regard to the welfare and safety of their children, particularly when the children cannot be with their parents. When Jeff and I were given the opportunity to purchase the Friends Church building, we spent many months researching centers and felt it was the perfect facility for a child care center program.

The program at Cradles to Crayons is an approach that provides children with educational alternatives and encourages them to begin to take an active role in their learning process. Space and time are flexibly arranged to enable personal involvement and an opportunity to find the answers to questions that are important to every child's educational experience. We feel that the "hands on" approach is the best program available. The program allows the children to use all of their senses when manipulating items and that makes for more constructive learning. With the large amount of space offered in the Center, we are able to use more than one room per class to work on the development of a wide range of learning and life skills. Therefore social and academic, as well as kinetic skills are developed within the context of each activity or project.

Within the setting of the Center, the teachers act as facilitator, guide, recorder and planner. The teacher must maintain a delicate balance between the fostering of an individual child's strengths, interests and the social needs of sharing and caring for others and materials. By introducing new materials, equipment and ideas, the teacher helps the children see what may be seen with negating their own valid interpretations.

The staff and I welcome the opportunity to work with you and to share some of your child's early learning experiences. Thank you for choosing Cradles to Crayons Childcare and Learning Center.

Sincerely,

Melinda Wardle, Member Manager
& Staff