The classrooms in Children’s House are designed for children between the ages of 3 (by early fall) – 6 years (Kindergarten). All children are different and some are developmentally ready before others. We want the child’s classroom experience to be successful; therefore, classroom changes may be made within the first six weeks of school, if necessary. There are no academic requirements in considering placement. A child needs only to meet the placement requirements on a frequent basis. Some reminding is acceptable.

- The child should be able to separate from the parent. To facilitate this, parents generally say good-bye at the car or at the classroom door rather than accompany their children into the classrooms.

- The child should be at least 36 months of age by early fall. Very young three-year-olds (36 to 40 months) are still mastering many gross motor skills and are still very active. This is a natural stage of development and must be taken into consideration when determining whether placement in Little House (where there are more opportunities for physical activities and gross motor skills and the need to sit for a group time is kept to a minimum) or Children’s House is more appropriate. Children grow so fast at this age that we can take only an educated guess at the rate the children will progress in the time between enrollment and the start of school in the fall. We encourage parents of children who will be between 36 to 40 months at the start of the school year to observe both the Little House and Children’s House programs and discuss the Placement in Children’s House Guidelines with their children’s teachers or, for a child who will be new to the school, with the Admission Director.

- The child should be completely toilet trained and able to use the toilet independently (including the use of toilet paper). Daytime “pull-ups” or training pants are not to be used. It is natural and acceptable for a young pre-school child to have an occasional “accident” while at school; however, if a child has accidents several times a week, the child is not completely toilet trained. Teachers are able to give reminders to use the bathroom before the children go on the playground or after lunch, etc., but it is not possible to give bathroom reminders to individual children at regular intervals (e.g. every half hour). In the case of a child with diagnosed special needs, the toilet training requirement can be waived if the school has personnel available to handle the physical or maturational special needs, per Ohio law.

- The child is able to communicate his/her needs to the teacher and other children appropriately. If communication is difficult for the child at this time, he/she may be very frustrated in an environment that is not meeting his/her needs.

- The child has developed gross and fine motor skills within a range expected for 30 – 40 months of chronological age.

- A child ready for Children’s House is able to work without substantial teacher supervision. Due to the smaller class size of the Little House, teachers at that level are able to give more one-on-one support in choosing work or completing an activity.
The child is able to follow two-step directions, such as wash hands and put on a coat to go outside. Children do not have to be able to do these things perfectly but must be willing to listen to instructions on how to do these things and begin to follow those instructions.

The child is able to complete the work cycle – choose work, complete the work, and put it away, or at least be willing to let the teachers help her do these things. A child who is ready can work with an activity for at least 4 – 6 minutes respectfully. In contrast, Little House level children may take an activity out, work on it for only a very short time without completing the work, and then move on to something else without putting the previous activity away.

The child is able to attend a group activity for 15-20 minutes without being disruptive. This includes listening to stories or participating in individual or small group lessons.

The child is able to follow the ground rules most of the time and will take redirection from a teacher by allowing the teacher to take his/her hand and be shown a new work, perhaps in a different area of the room.

The child is able to interact with other children or with a small group appropriately.

The child will allow teachers to show him/her how to use an activity for at least 3-5 minutes, watching the process before choosing the work.

We encourage all parents to wean their children of any daytime “loveys,” blankets, or a pacifier before the child starts in Children’s House.