

## **Communities Deserve Strong Child Care Opportunities**

When parents welcome a new child, it is certainly an exciting time. The joy of new life feels welcoming and warm, amidst emotional adjustments, odd sleep patterns and other experiences associated with newborns.

Eventually, every time, things settle into a rhythm and families need to make decisions about the logistics for managing their new family size. This often includes decisions about childcare. Many parents do not have the option of staying home from work, modern living costs requiring a double income to make ends meet. Adding daycare expenses to this budget isn't exactly family friendly.

The average cost of full-time infant care in Texas for a single child is \$8,495 each year, according to a Boston Globe article on the cost of daycare by state.

In some communities west of Houston, this expense is more burdensome than others. Take Rosenberg, for example, where the average household income is about \$47,000 according to U.S. Census data — meaning daycare costs nearly 20% of this income for just one child.

Northwest in Katy, the average household income sits higher at \$71,000, according to U.S. Census data. Yet, the cost of daycare for a single child of these families still takes more than 10 percent of this income.

At Annie's Precious Angels, we recognize the burden this expense can place on families and feel every person has the right to access quality care and education for their children. Our center aims to provide this essential opportunity to communities most in need, focused on creating a stimulating, creative, positive and secure learning environment to develop the children's overall skills and self-concept.

Much research exists about the essential brain development that happens in children beginning at birth and in those first formative years. A report from UNICEF on early childhood development reported "considerable evidence showing infants exposed to good nutrition and adequate psychosocial stimulation had measurably better brain function at twelve years of age than those raised in a less stimulating environment."

Parents who leave their children in others' care deserve to know their children is offered the opportunity to grow into their potential. We believe we can bridge a gap for families struggling to access this level of impact.

## **Our Child Care Community Experience**

Annie's Precious Angels aims to build a strong community through positive influences on our youth that instill a sense of individual value and inspire generosity. Our center creates unique learning opportunities for our children and aims to simplify parents' lives through partnerships and activities.

This will start with our attention to our first core value: Optimism. We believe maintaining a positive outlook on life allows us to be our best selves and to imprint that on others.

To enhance daily interactions with children and families, our staff will wear T-shirts with positive phrases and develop other small services, such as offering a free cup of coffee or tea at drop

off. These little things make a positive impact on our energy each day.

Our next core value is collaboration: When we work together, we experience a supportive atmosphere and enhance our access to quality life and bigger purpose.

For parents, we'll focus on creating partnerships with local businesses, such as dry cleaners, as a way to create one less morning stop for busy parents on their way to work.

In our programs, we'll aim to be all-inclusive for our children, introducing a variety of extracurricular activities with no additional financial burden to our families. Children will gain exposure to sports, music, arts, dance, yoga and even language classes.

Finally, we'll enact our third core value: Generosity. We believe through the spirit of collaboration, community and optimism, we aim to lift others through our ability to give and support those in need.

Our center will organize events such as food drives or other fundraisers to help feed and clothe the homeless, or support others in need. We will focus on helping women of color to provide for themselves and their families through job application and interview support.

We will extend our reach to the surrounding community with open invites to participate in public events, such as a BBQ, carnival, art day and so forth. These create an opportunity to foster relationships and understand our mission at Annie's Precious Angels.

The bottom line is we believe a strong foundation for our children is vital to enhancing our community and overall positive life experiences. It's our goal to create a supportive atmosphere and enhance the community's access to quality living and bigger purpose.

Families will experience the support of community when their child enrolls at Annie's Precious Angels.

## **Why Annie's Precious Angels?**

Building Annie's Precious Angels daycare center is Andrea Staples longtime dream. Andrea feels passionate about caring for and impacting youth in a positive way, and has always felt a connection with children.

Annie is a nickname many of Andrea's family use for her, and she's long considered youth precious - so the entire center name, "Annie's Precious Angels" was a natural choice.

"Children are so precious," Andrea said. "If there was a way, I would foster every child I could."

In her life, Andrea aims to act as an instrument of positive change while building strong, valuable relationships. Through this daycare center, she aims to leverage her experience and knowledge to impact others, helping individuals create their story and contribute to a growing community.

This starts with a commitment to creating a daycare environment that feels like a second family for children and parents. With this support, kids gain confidence to grow in their education and independence while developing essential socialization skills and strong relationships.

The importance of strong relationships means the center is focused on low staff turnover. This will start with looking to hire a staff passionate about a rewarding child care career. Annie's Precious Angels also aims to maintain low child to teacher ratios, employ staff with higher education and

participate in ongoing training.

## **Providing Access Now is Crucial**

When children have a positive, stimulating environment during the infant through toddler period, it benefits his or her academic and cognitive development, according to a study found in the [US National Library of Medicine National Institutes of Health](#).

This becomes increasingly difficult in our current society when more parents are finding themselves spending more time out of their homes and away from their children.

The truth is, more and more households operate on a dual income. As of 2012, in about 60% of households with children under the age 18 both parents were employed, according to [data from the Pew Research Center](#). In the 1960s, only 25% of these households held dual employment; generally, the father was the only one with a job (70%).

With both parents now busy with full-time employment, quality daycare options are critical to establish this positive base in young lives.

Annie's Precious Angels is involved in children's lives at this precious and vital stage, creating a support network along with the child's parents for optimal environment and early development. These formative years are when children develop attitudes, establish values and find they are persons of worth. Our aim is to provide a stimulating, creative, positive, and secure learning environment to develop the child's overall skills and self-concept.

## **Our Center's Educational Approach**

Annie's Precious Angels aims to provide a quality learning environment where the youngest minds can grow and thrive. We incorporate a two-tiered approach focused on curriculum and choice.

### **Daily Choice**

We recognize the importance of daily choice activities, and offer a variety of options to enhance every child's exposure to varied skills and experiences. We aim to offer following centers at our location:

- Dramatic Play Center
- Music Center
- Sand & Water Center
- Art Center
- Block Center
- Science and Nature Center
- Manipulatives and Table Toys Center
- Book Center

### **Daily Curriculum**

We believe individuals deserve to be treated uniquely in each learning journey, and we will leverage assessments and communication to discover each child's strengths, establish learning plans and achieve goals. The below offers a general guideline for our

curriculum choices, with modifications based on those individual needs.

## We'll Meet Expectations

Annie's Precious Angels offers a safe place for our children and families to feel at home and connected. We aim to provide a flexible, friendly space that offers a two way street to communicate important needs. Together, we're building a strong community so everyone enjoys a quality, happy life.

Founder Andrea Staples' reputation for developing strong relationships with children, and her passion for creating quality life opportunities for all - starting with our youth - is obvious through her past experiences.

"Andrea is one of a few people I would leave and trust with both of my children," said Lauren, a previous coworker whose known Andrea for 10 years. "With my son and other children, Andrea was always attentive always smiling and very welcoming and the children were always drawn to her. Always pushing them. If they asked for a book, she would have them read some. If they came in for a snack, they had to do something positive for them and someone else."

Others echo Lauren's enthusiasm

"Andrea provided a safe and fun environment for my daughter," said Crystal. "She was ready with activities and a welcoming, friendly personality. She was very calm, attentive and treated my daughter like family. This made us very comfortable knowing our daughter felt at ease in her care which can be hard for children with separation anxiety."

Annie's Precious Angels aims to uphold and enhance this reputation to ensure positive experiences for our families. We'll focus on a core set of key qualities within our center in order to achieve this goal. These include:

**Reliable:** We understand you put a lot of trust in our staff every day your child spends with us, and we vow to be reliable in our care and promises.

**Safe:** We provide a safe community for our children and families to learn, grow and connect.

**Playful:** We aim to have fun, after all!

**Cooperative:** We work together towards a shared vision of a stronger community filled with thriving individuals.

**Encouraging:** We want the people we serve and touch to feel lifted with our words and actions.

**Family:** Strong relationships are at the core of our work, and we aim to make you feel like part of Annie's family.