



Nene's Little Angels Childcare Center
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When did you open your daycare center? I opened my first center in August 2017 it was licensed for 15 children. Parents started to tell their friends and family about the care and educational services I provided for their children and my clientele grew quickly. that I outgrew that building and moved into a larger building January 2020. This building is licensed for 39 children. On September 16, 2022 we open a new location, licensed for up to 90 children.

Why? I chose to open a daycare because I believe it's my purpose. In 2012 I worked as a program director of a childcare center in Dearborn Heights, Mi for over four years. There is where I saw a need for children who needed a little more nurturing, encouragement, and guidance than most children, and I want to be the person to bridge that gap, but because I was working for someone else, my hands were tied. I couldn't care for or provide the level of service to children the way they needed or the way I wanted to, so I decided to create a lane for myself to care and educate children the way they needed. I believe all children deserve the best of everything in this world. They are beautiful little innocent people with a mind like a sponge, just waiting to see, learn, and explore all everything this world has to offer, and it is our job to make sure we give them all the tools they will need to navigate through life.

As a parent we accept the responsibility to raise and provide for our children. In order to do so, most parents work 9-12 hours a day, just to make ends meet. After working a full day, they pick up child(ren) up from daycare, stop at the grocery store or a restaurant to pick up dinner. They get home, feed, bathe, and put the child(ren) to the bed for the night. Most of the time with an electronic device. Then parents stay up another hour or two preparing for the next day, to do it all over again. While we as parents are working tirelessly to provide for our families, we sometimes forget about the needs of our child(ren). I too, have been guilty of this. There is no blueprint to parenting. We are human, and mistakes will be made. I believe it helpful if you have a village when raising a child. Someone who can fill in where the parent leaves off, and that is what Nene's Little Angels Childcare Center is and does!

When I was in grade school I remember seeing on the local news station, reading on billboards, and hearing in school from our teachers the importance of eating a healthy breakfast before starting the school day. Because of the benefits to improve concentration, better test scores, increased energy, and even a healthier body weight. Well so is a child feeling safe and loved! If a child is feed a healthy breakfast, but does not feel safe or loved, I promise you it would be difficult for that child to concentrate or focus on any task. Which is why we focus more on the social and emotional development of a child.

Throughout my time in child care I've learned of many children go to bed at night without dinner night. I've seen the effects of children that haven't been hugged, or told I love you by their parent. I've cared for many children who feel invisible in their own homes, as well as children who do not feel like they matter to anyone! My goal is to make sure every child that comes through my doors know what love is, and how it feels. I want them to know and feel like they matter to someone, and that there are people who care about them. So we at Nene's Little Angels will continue to feed them extra meals, we will continue to go above and beyond to educate them, we will show them love and compassion, we will listen to them, we will help them build their confidence, self-esteem and self-worth. Nene's Little Angels will Bridge the gap!

How is your center different from others? My center differs because I instill a love of learning in young children, my center caters to all educational needs of you children specifically social emotional learning. We use a social emotional curriculum that focuses on teaching children social emotional skills that will help them be successful throughout their years in school, including college, managing their behaviors and becoming successful adults. What makes my daycare highly qualified is that we're knowledgeable to the educational needs of children, were have educated, caring and responsible and staff members who genuinely appreciate infants, toddlers, and preschoolers for who they are. We have a sense of engagement, sensitivity, and responsiveness when we interact warmly and frequently with the children that attend Nene's Little Angels.

What services do you offer? Nene's Little Angels offers Before and After care, Transportation, Infant and Toddler childcare, and GSRP Free Preschool for children that are 4years

What are the center's hours? Do you also assist parents who work nights and weekends? Nene's Little Angels Childcare Center is open Monday – Friday 7a.m. -5:30p. Nene's Little Angels licensed hours Monday – Saturday 6a-11p. Currently, there has not been a need in our community to open late nights and weekends. We are available to service parents that may need extended hours if the need arrives.

What are some of the indicators of a child experiencing stress?

Some of the physical signs of stress that I've seen in my center, are children complaining of headaches, upset stomach, bedwetting, and a decrease of appetite. Emotionally, some children may have anxiety, they may become clingy or having separation anxiety. We've seen an increase in children crying, being angry, being aggressive, and/or isolating themselves from other.

What strategies are you using to address stress in young children?

Communication is key! We enjoy having open-ended conversation daily with our children in an open, supportive manner. We ask them how they're feeling and really listen to their answers. Children typically don't have the vocabulary necessary to say "I feel stressed," so they may use other words like "scared," "sad," "confused," to describe how they are feeling. We help children develop healthy coping methods: Kids often aren't equipped with the tools needed to lower their stress levels. We teach mindfulness techniques or breathing exercises to help calm them, this can be very beneficial in promoting relaxation, we also try to reduce their anxiety by planning fun activities together and regularly offering praise, hugs, and affection to boost their feelings of self-worth. The key is talk to the child and really listen.

Why can parents trust your daycare with their children? 90% of my staff have received their degree in Early Childhood Education. We are 4 Star rated through Great State to Quality. We set out to exceed the requirements of Michigan Childcare Licensing when caring and educating children. Nene's Little Angels is a highly qualified childcare center that is knowledgeable to the educational needs of children. I have a team of caring and responsible staff who genuinely appreciate infants, toddlers, and preschoolers for who they are. We have a sense of engagement, sensitivity, and responsiveness when we interact warmly and frequently with the children that attend my center.

What advice would you give to others with young children who are stressed out from the pandemic?

- **Keep calm and be real:** It's not going to be easy to be cool with all that's going on today. Young people read adults well. They learn to read faces and emotions before they can walk. Know what you want to say and be truthful and be authentic.
- **Initiate a conversation about coronavirus:** Don't wait for your kids to bring the subject of coronavirus up to you. Ask what your child is feeling about the outbreak right now so you can respond to their concerns and their fears truthfully and assure them that you will create ongoing opportunities to talk and connect.
- **Be honest about being worried:** Do tell them that you are worried, but at the same time convey why you believe it will be okay.

- **Give them the facts:** Make sure to give young people factual information so that they know what is true from someone they trust.
- **Communicate often, at least once a day:** Don't be surprised if you hear the same questions, questions you've answered repeatedly. Answer them patiently and completely.
- **Spend quality time together.** If your child is going through stressful changes in their life, show them that you'll always be their pillar of support. Try to reduce their anxiety by planning fun activities together and regularly offering praise, hugs, and affection to boost their feelings of self-worth. Having family routines, like weekday dinners together or Sunday movie nights, can also bring stability and comfort to a child's week.
- **Manage your own stress.** Children often follow the emotional cues of the adults in their lives. If you've been going through a stressful time and you're feeling the negative effects of stress, anxiety or depression, don't forget to take care of yourself. Parents and caregivers need to prioritize their own happiness too, so they're able to serve as loving, attentive presences in their children's lives.

Is there a waiting list for your daycare? Yes, we currently have a waiting list for all classrooms. We are currently looking for a larger building to accommodate the educational needs in our community.

What is the staff to child ratio? In our Infant room ages birth to 12 months there are 2 teachers to 4 infants

In our Toddler room age 18 months to 3 years 3 teachers to 16 toddlers.

In our GRSP Free Preschool ages 4-5 years there are 3 teachers to 18 children

staff trained in CPR and early childhood development? All of Nene's Little Angels staff are CPR certified. 90% of our teachers, including myself have either an Associate, CDA or a bachelor's degree in early childhood development.

Nene's Little Angels is not a babysitter service, we are passionate educators.