



Parent Handbook

Revised August 2024

Table of Contents

Welcome to Milestones Learning Center	2
Our Beliefs	2
Our Mission Statement.....	2
Center Contact Information.....	2
Communications.....	3
Contacting Your Child’s Teacher.....	3
Immunizations & Physicals	4
School Hours and Attendance	4
School Closure Dates	5
Hurricane and Severe Weather Policy	6
Safety Drills and Emergency Procedures	6
Tuition and Deposit	7
Fees and Discounts	8
Class Transitions.....	9
Food & Nutrition.....	10
Medications at School	11
Ill/Well Policy	12
Security and Student Safety	12
Parent and Visitor Conduct.....	14
Student Dress Code	14
Student Behavior Policy and Expectation	15
Center Discipline.....	16
Birthday Parties and Other Celebrations.....	16
Special Events	16

Welcome to Milestones Learning Center

License #C20LE0136

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you and your child to Milestones Learning Center. It is a privilege to have the opportunity to care for and educate the children of our community. Our staff is dedicated to providing the best possible care and learning environment.

To be successful in preschool a child will need support and encouragement from both their teachers and parents. Communication is the key to their success. We have created this handbook to assist you with information regarding our center policies and procedures.

Please feel free to contact us at any time with questions you may have throughout the school year.

info@milestones-estero.com or 239-301-2962

Our Beliefs

We believe that all children are unique in their physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development.

We believe all children deserve a safe and loving environment in order to grow.

Most of all, we believe that learning should be FUN!

Our Mission Statement

To provide a safe learning environment in which well-trained staff work together to guide children in our care to reach their fullest potential through fun and exciting ways while utilizing best practices.

Center Contact Information

19850 Breckenridge Drive, Estero, FL 33928

Phone: 239-301-2962 | Fax: 239-301-2967

<http://www.milestones-estero.com>

[Facebook.com/Milestones-Learning-Center-Estero-610733189011270](https://www.facebook.com/Milestones-Learning-Center-Estero-610733189011270)

[Instagram.com/Milestones_LC_Estero/](https://www.instagram.com/Milestones_LC_Estero/)

Center Director, Gina Benson: gina@milestones-estero.com

Admissions Coordinator: admin@milestones-estero.com

General Information: info@milestones-estero.com

Communications

Open communication is an essential part of any successful organization. Our goal is to provide clear information in a timely manner.

In order to do so, we ask for your active participation in reading newsletters, daily reports (infant through 2 years only), Google Classroom, emails, social media, and bulletin boards.

Please watch for flyers, communication folders, school events, and conferences.

All our classes utilize Google Classrooms to communicate regularly with families regarding center events, classroom activities, and student performance. Please provide an email that you will regularly check.

Also, social media is an effective way to know what is happening at school. During a hurricane closure it can be the only resource for many, so we highly recommend you follow our Facebook page.

Contacting Your Child's Teacher

Please refrain from texting your child's teacher or calling their personal cell phones. For school related issues such as attendance, illness, supplies or concerns parents need to call the center's main number.

Your teacher is NOT to use their cell phones in the workplace. Therefore, they could not only be written up if on their phone, but they will also miss your call or message.

You can reach out to your child's teacher though the classroom email or call the center's main number and leave a message for them. We will return all parent calls at naptime or teacher planning time. Classroom emails are not continuously monitored. For immediate concerns, please call the center's main number.

Please be respectful to your child's teacher. Their time off is their personal time and they should not need to be worried about work issues when not at work.

Immunizations & Physicals

Our center requires that all children have all immunizations and current health examinations in order to enroll and be issued a start date for care.

At the time of enrollment, each child must have on file a current Florida immunization record (Form 680) and a Florida physical record (Form 3040) on file. Parents are required to ensure their child's forms remain current. No children are allowed to attend school if either form expires.

Per DCF, if a child's form(s) expire, the child will not be allowed admittance in to care until the records are updated by their physician. Doctor's notes or appointment cards will not be accepted. Additionally, we do not accept immunization exemption forms.

It is the parent's responsibility to know when their child's forms expire and to schedule appointments accordingly to ensure there are no gaps in care. Tuition will not be prorated or adjusted in the event a child cannot attend due to expired forms.

School Hours and Attendance

We offer full-time care, year-round. Parents choose to have their child attend as few or as many days in a week as they wish.

We are open 7:00 am to 5:30 pm, Monday through Friday

No children should arrive prior to 7:00 am and the cut-off for arrival is 9:00 am

Pick-up should be no later than 5:30 pm and late fees will apply after 5:30 pm. *(See Fees and Discounts)*

The center offers 10.5 hours of care, but families should limit their use to no more than 9.5 a day for the health of their child.

Students with medical appointments need to arrive by 11:00 am. If a child is expected to arrive late due to a medical appointment, the center must be notified any time before 9:00 am on the day of the appointment. Parents must either notify the teacher in advance via phone, Google Classroom, or email or call the center and speak with a staff member directly to give this notice of late arrival.

With prior notice of late arrival, all children arriving between 9:00 am and 11:00 am will be required to provide documentation of a doctor's appointment for which the child was the patient to attend that day. This documentation must be presented in writing upon arrival. An email or fax later in the day will not be accepted.

If your child is picked up for an appointment during the day, they must return prior to 3:00 pm or remain out for the remainder of the school day. Avoid returning during naptime, 11:30 am - 2:00 pm, as this is disruptive for the child and other children in the class. Should a student leave and return to care, it is the parent's responsibility to feed their child if they miss the center's scheduled breakfast, lunch, and/or snack time.

PreK students (age 3-5) should strive to attend every instructional day and not miss more than 20% of instructional days in the month.

Not Coming to School? Let Us Know!

As a requirement of Florida Department of Children and Families with the Rilya Wilson Act, to ensure that children are safe and to prevent a child from being forgotten in a hot Florida vehicle, all families enrolled in our program are required to inform the center in writing when their child will not be in attendance, except for those sent home ill from school as they are not expected to return for one full day.

Notice for an absence can be done in advance with a vacation request form, a simple handwritten note to the teacher the day prior, or an email to the center administrative team. All written notices for an absence must be received no later than one hour past our center's required drop-off time of 9:00 am.

If the center finds a need to reach out to a parent and they cannot be reached, then the center will be required to contact DCF to request a safety check be issued to determine the child's whereabouts and ensure their safety.

Additionally, a parent will be asked at enrollment, in the month of September, and in the month of April to acknowledge by signature their receipt of the DCF flyer, "Distracted Adult".

School Closure Dates

We are **closed** on the following dates during the school year (17 days total):

- Memorial Day
- Labor Day
- Thanksgiving Day and the Friday that follows
- The full week from Christmas Day through New Year's Day
- Good Friday
- Easter Monday
- Monday before Lee County Public Schools start; date announced on the school calendar
- The full week of July 4th (Monday through Friday)

We **close at 3:00 pm** for all students on the following dates:

- Christmas Eve; if it falls on a school day
- The Day of Winter Program; date announced on the school calendar
- The Day of Graduation; date announced on the school calendar

Hurricane and Severe Weather Policy

To ensure everyone's safety we close for severe weather and hurricane preparedness.

To make this easy and clear for everyone, we will follow Lee County Emergency Management and close our center when they close Lee County schools, even if it is mid-day or a day or more prior to the storm.

We will re-open when travel is again deemed to be safe and the center has been inspected to ensure it is fully operational.

To learn about center updates, you can check our Facebook page, Google Classroom, listen to our voicemail, review any signs posted at the center, and emails sent to our families using the email provided to us at enrollment.

Safety Drills and Emergency Procedures

Our center conducts an emergency/fire drill every single month at various times of the day including at least two per year which take place during naptimes.

In addition to fire drills, we conduct at least one full center lock down drill and one severe weather drill every year.

Parents are notified on their child's daily report whether a drill was conducted that day.

Loss of Power or Water

In the event of a power or water loss, the center will remain open for one hour in hopes of the problem being resolved. If not, parents will be notified, and children will be required to be picked up from school.

Emergency Relocation Plan

All childcare centers are required to have a plan in place in the event that the center needs to evacuate and cannot return due to the condition of the center; an example would be fire or flood. The plan must include a secondary location in which the children will be housed safe from the outside elements until their families can collect them.

Our policy is that Building A (Main Building) would relocate to Building B (Preschool Building) and vice versa. Depending on attendance, we may be able to remain in the alternate building for the remainder of the day. Otherwise, parents will be contacted, and students will need to be picked up within the hour.

If the event were to affect both buildings, all children would need to be picked up within the hour.

Tuition and Deposit

Tuition rates are published on our website: <https://www.milestones-estero.com/tuition-fees>

Tuition Freeze: Only for students enrolled prior to February 2024, tuition was set and "frozen" at time of enrollment. The rate at which you started care is your guaranteed rate until you graduate or unenroll from our program. If at any point a family selects to unenroll for a period of time, they will then be subject to the current rate of tuition for their child upon re-enrollment.

Billing

Weekly tuition payments are due in full by Monday at 10:00 am. There is a \$5.00 per day fee for all tuition not paid on Monday by 10:00 am. If a holiday falls on a Monday, the tuition will be due the Friday prior at 5:00 pm.

Tuition that goes unpaid for more than 3 consecutive days (Wednesday) will result in temporary suspension of care until the account is paid in full.

To make paying tuition easier, ALL families are required to have an account with our Tuition Express program for ACH payments with a checking or savings account. This allows us to bill and collect tuition without worry. *You don't need to write a weekly check!* Accounts with payments returned as NSF (non-sufficient funds) will be charged \$12.50 per occurrence. Three or more returned payments in three months' time can lead to termination of care.

For families registered for credit card payments prior to 2023, each payment will be billed an additional service fee of \$10.00 per student, per transaction. Credit cards declined for any banking reason will be charged a \$25.00 decline fee per occurrence.

It is our policy to bill for all weeks regardless of attendance or absence. All weeks are billed at full rate even during school closures. Tuition is not pro-rated or adjusted for any reason; including extended absences for illness, reduced operating hours, or severe weather closures.

In the event our entire center were to close for an extended period, our billing policy is:

- Closed up to 10 business days - Billing at full rate for first two full weeks (no credits will be applied)
- Closed for a period of more than 10 business days - Tuition would be billed for the 3rd week; however, all available credits issued annually to families enrolled will be applied.
- Closed for a period of more than 4 weeks - Tuition is not charged starting the 4th week.

Deposits

All families will have on file the equivalent of 1 full week of tuition for each student they enroll. This deposit is applied to the final week of care if the student has been enrolled for a minimum of six months and the parent provides the required written notice of withdrawal. Otherwise, the deposit will be forfeited.

Families choosing to withdraw from the center must provide the center with a minimum of two full weeks' notice (a week denoted as Monday through Friday) in writing prior to termination for the deposit to be applied to the final week of childcare. The deposit will be nonrefundable in all other circumstances.

When we receive a notice to withdraw, the last 2 weeks of tuition are billed in full; the deposit is applied if available and the balance due, if any, is collected. Without a full two weeks' notice of withdrawal, we bill the final two weeks upon notice being given and any deposit on file is forfeited.

Fees and Discounts

Waitlist Fee

Often we have more families looking for care than we have seats available. When this occurs, a family may request to be put on our wait list. Once the waitlist application and \$150.00 fee are received, the family will be placed in line for a seat and notified when a space becomes available. If we are able to enroll the student within 4 months of being placed on the waitlist, the waitlist fee will be applied to the enrollment fee.

Enrollment Fee

The enrollment fee of \$200.00 is collected at enrollment and billed annually in the week of July 4th to all students wishing to remain enrolled for the following school year starting in August. This covers processing and maintaining all student files throughout the year for Florida Department of Children and Families licensing and Florida State requirements.

School Supplies Fee

School supplies are billed to each student for each school year (August to July). Each student is billed \$300.00 at the time of enrollment and annually in the first week of September. For families who enroll after June 1, the school supply fee paid at enrollment will apply for the school year starting in August.

Ill Care Fee

We understand that there will be times your child will become ill at school. We ask that you try to pick them up as soon as possible. The first hour of ill care is free; after that, \$1.00 per minute is billed until parent pick-up.

Late Pick Up

The center closes promptly at 5:30 pm and late fees apply to students who are not picked up by this time. Late fees are billed at \$5.00 per minute per child.

All students who remain in care beyond 6:00 pm will be billed \$10.00 per minute. Repetitive late pick up may lead to termination of care.

Early Arrival

The center opens promptly at 7:00 am and early arrival should not occur. Students will not be accepted before 7:00 am.

Sibling Discount

We offer a \$10.00 weekly tuition discount to all families who have two or more children enrolled in our program at the regular rate. This discount will be applied to the second and each additional child.

Free Week Credit

We offer all families one free week of care annually. This week may be any five consecutive days (Monday to Friday) to be taken at any time after the student has been enrolled in our program for a minimum of four months. Parents must request a vacation credit in writing at least two full weeks prior to the requested week off.

The one-week credit will be applied to accounts in good standing at the student's current tuition rate for that week. The credit has no cash value and cannot be applied to an outstanding debt. The child must be absent (out) all five days.

The free week can be used at any time. However, if the credit is not used by the end of December, the free week is forfeited. In addition, free week credits do not accumulate. A new credit for one week is issued each January.

Summer Seat Hold Discount

When planning a summer absence (in June-July only) for four consecutive weeks or more (a week being Monday through Friday), a \$30.00 weekly tuition discount will hold the student's seat until their return. A written request for this discount must be received at least two full weeks prior to the scheduled absence.

Class Transitions

Transitions take place based on skills, age, and space availability.

Our center follows a school schedule, August-May, and the school is often fully enrolled for the school year. Transitions may not be made during the school year if all seats in the center are full.

Each age group has certain requirements that need to be met in order to move up into the next class. Children who are not meeting these goals will not be moved up and may need to seek professional assistance to ensure there are no greater needs.

- Young Infants – must be 8 weeks old
- Older Infants – between 6-8 months old and mobile (crawling or scooting)
- One Year Olds – must be 1 year old, walking on their own, eating and feeding themselves finger foods, no longer using a bottle at school
- Young Twos – must be 2 years old
- Older Twos – 2.5 years old or older and showing regular interest in using the potty
- PreK 3 – must be 3 years old and fully potty trained
- PreK 4 – must be 4 years old and the year prior to entering PreK 5 or Kindergarten
- PreK 5 – intended for students wishing to take an extra year prior to entering Kindergarten or whose 5th birthday is after September 1st (missing the cut off for Kindergarten)

Tuition rate is based on which class the child is assigned to; determined by this criteria and class availability, not strictly by age.

Food & Nutrition

A healthy diet is essential for a child to learn and grow. We highly recommend that you introduce all types of foods to your child. **We offer breakfast, lunch, and an afternoon snack each day as part of our program at no additional cost.**

Our meals include a variety of fresh fruits, proteins, vegetables, and grains; as well as milk at both breakfast and lunch. All families at the age of 1 year and up, or upon eating table foods, are required to participate in our food & nutrition program as part of enrollment.

We are a peanut-free school. At no point should foods from home, other than breastmilk or formula, be brought into the center.

We gladly provide Gentlease Formula (Enfamil or Kirkland brand) to our infants with the understanding that in order to do so, we must meet all food service preparation requirements set by licensing. In order for us to supply the formula, we must also provide the bottle. If your child is nipple sensitive or requires a specific bottle design, you will need to provide your own formula and bottles.

Parents providing their own formula or breastmilk are asked to prepare their bottles at home and bring them to school daily. All bottles and bottle caps that come from home must have the child's full first and last name and the date clearly labeled. If breastmilk is being provided, the bottles and caps are also to be labeled as such. We can only accept breastmilk within CDC storage guidelines (4 days refrigerated). We cannot accept bottles of formula mixed with breastmilk.

We stop serving bottles at 4:30 pm; any scheduled feedings after that time will be considered parents' responsibility.

We cannot send home remaining formula or breastmilk left in bottles. Any remaining formula or breastmilk the child did not consume during a feeding will be discarded.

Infants will be served formula or breast milk up to their first birthday. At the age of 1, we then provide whole milk until the age of 2, followed by 2% milk for preschoolers.

We will help with the introduction to a variety of foods. As parents offer foods at home, we can also do so at school. We have a menu of food items that can be made available to infants based on age. Our menu can be found on our website: <https://www.milestones-estero.com/menu>.

By the age of 1 year, all children need to be eating solid foods and able to self-feed. All foods prepared will be served in a manner that is age appropriate. The CDC designates some foods as unsafe based on a child's age and therefore we substitute items to our younger children to avoid choking hazards.

Food Allergies/Sensitivities

If a special diet is required for a child by a physician, a copy of the physician's order, a copy of the diet, and a sample meal plan for the special diet must be provided to the center. The parent is responsible for updating the physician's orders annually.

For a food allergy, we require a copy of the FARE form signed by both the physician and parent with the allergy clearly listed and the medication type and procedure in the event of exposure. In addition, a signed parent permission form to administer the allergy medication and the required medication must be provided. The parent is responsible for updating the FARE form annually and replacing medications when expired.

Medications at School

Medication dispensing is strictly controlled by DCF (Florida Department of Children and Families). Therefore, we must follow all guidelines set in place.

We can **only** dispense diaper cream, insulin, epi-pens, nebulizers, rescue inhalers, and seizure medications.

We cannot apply bug spray or sunscreen. We do highly recommend that parents apply this to their child prior to arrival at school.

All medications to be given or applied to a child at school must have a written Rx from a doctor and a signed parent permission form. *This includes diaper cream/over the counter ointments.*

Medication must come in the original container and can only be dispensed as written and for the child named. The center does not supply any medication.

All medication other than diaper cream and emergency rescue medicines (such as epi-pens) must be taken home each day.

Ill/Well Policy

Upon arrival, staff will screen all children to ensure they are well for school. The following list will require exclusion from care:

- Fever of 100° or higher
- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- A cough that produces mucus or causes a rattle like sound in their chest
- A rash that has not been cleared by a doctor (will require a note indicating such)
- Head-lice (We are a NIT FREE center)
- Impetigo
- Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease (blister free to return)
- Chicken Pox, Measles, Mumps (will require a clearance letter from Health Department)
- Pink Eye / Conjunctivitis (must be free of discharge and redness to return)
- Mouth Sores
- Molluscum (must be fully covered)
- Pertussis
- Scabies

Children presenting any signs of illness are asked to refrain from attending until their symptoms have improved. Children need to be well enough to participate in all daily activities including outdoor play.

We cannot accept a child who has been given a fever reducing medication, has vomited, or experienced diarrhea in the past 24 hours. All children deemed ill at school are required to remain out of care for at least one full day or more (ie. If child is sent home Tuesday, then no school on Wednesday) in order for parents to monitor their child's health.

Children cannot return to care if they are taking a fever-reducing medication such as Tylenol, Ibuprofen, Motrin, or medicines containing these ingredients.

A child placed on any medication, either prescribed by a physician or over the counter, for any ailment must remain at home the first day of dispensing to be supervised by parents for reactions or side effects and to ensure that their child's condition is improving.

Security and Student Safety

In order to ensure all children are accounted for in the event of an emergency, each child must be signed in and out each day by their parent or approved pick up person. **Please note: we ask for photo identification from everyone not immediately known.**

We utilize a Procure system which allows for a combination of a 4-digit personal ID code followed by a PIN number for parents and authorized adults to sign the child in and out to track attendance. A unique access code is assigned to each authorized person and must NOT be shared with anyone.

Our center is continuously locked. We ask that parents make sure that upon exiting the building that the door closes firmly behind them. We also ask that parents avoid assisting any person not personally known into the building.

The center reserves the right to refuse access to visitors which do not have a child enrolled or whose child is not present at the time of their visit.

All persons picking a child up from our program will need:

- Valid photo ID
- Be at least 16 years old
- Not be under the influence of any mood-altering substances
- A car seat

The center reserves the right to refuse the release of a child to anyone not meeting these requirements for the child’s safety.

Safety & Security Measures at Drop-off and Pick-up

Our drop off time is limited from 7:00 am to 9:00 am. After 9:00 am all classroom doors are locked to provide an additional level of security.

Drop-off/Pick-up:	Building A (Infant - 3)	Building B (PreK 3-5)
7:00 am – 8:00 am	Front door drop off only	Playground drop off only
8:00 am – 8:30 am	All ages: Door drop off only	
8:30 am – 9:00 am	All ages: Parent may assist their child to the classroom door*	
9:00 am – 4:00 pm	All ages: Parents picking up are encouraged to come to the classroom door* or you may request for us to bring your child to the front door instead	
4:00 pm – 5:30 pm	Front door pick up only	Playground pick up only

* Health and safety procedures apply. Parent and child will be allowed past the lobby area only after the child’s temperature has been taken and both the child and parent wash their hands prior to proceeding to the classroom.

As a security or safety precaution, Milestones may restrict all parents/visitors from entering the building. If this were to occur, drop-off and pick-up would be front door or playground gate only.

Visitors

All visitors to the center will need to present a photo ID, sign in our visitor log stating their visit purpose, and wear a visitor tag while in the building. This will include parents who remain in the center past drop-off hours.

Parent and Visitor Conduct

As a parent you are your child's first teacher and the strongest role model, therefore we ask that you conduct yourself in the nicest of manner when in our school or attending our events.

All language used should be professional and polite. Please be mindful of the tone in which you use and the topics of which you speak as little eyes and ears are always watching and listening. Your child may be accustomed to your actions, but others may not and be greatly affected. Adults who conduct themselves unprofessionally can be banned from our program.

Confidentiality is something we strive to uphold. We will be glad to speak to you regarding your child and their development but at no time will a staff member share with you any information about another child in our program. Therefore, we ask that you be respectful and refrain from asking us about other children as it makes the staff feel as if they are being rude when they cannot answer you.

Smoking/Vaping

Per Florida Law, Statute 386.212; smoking and vaping are prohibited in, on, or within 1000 feet of school property.

Please be a role model! We ask that everyone recognize that smoking is dangerous to the health of the young children we serve. **We are a smoke-free center.** As a parent and role model we ask that you refrain from smoking on our property and that you share our smoke-free policy with those you select to both pick up or drop off your child. This policy includes traditional smoking, e-cigarettes, and vaping.

Smoking cannot take place on the premises of the childcare facility, including our parking lot and sidewalk areas.

Distracted Adults

We ask that everyone picking up or dropping off a child refrain from being on their cell phone. This is an important time for your child. They need your undivided attention, as do their teachers who may need to communicate to you the events of the day.

Student Dress Code

We welcome children to dress themselves and be free spirits in their expression, but we do require that all clothing fit properly, not too big or too small, and the language and images on the clothing should be respectful.

To avoid the need for children to fully undress to use the restroom, rompers are not allowed. Additionally, we highly recommend wearing shorts underneath dresses.

All children must wear tennis shoes or have a shoe with a closed toe and strap around their ankle. Children are not permitted to wear crocs, flip flops, cowboy boots, or rain boots for their own personal safety. We cannot allow them to climb on our outdoor equipment with these types of shoes.

Hats are not to be worn at school and are only permitted on designated theme days.

Accessories and jewelry such as bracelets, necklaces, teething necklaces, rings, watches, and earrings (except for stud earrings) are not permitted.

Student Behavior Policy and Expectation

We expect all children to be kind and respectful to each other, their teachers, and any visiting guests. We do understand that this must be learned. Still, we have to provide an environment where everyone feels safe. In the event that a child displays a behavior that is deemed unsafe or harmful to themselves or others, parents will be contacted and the child will be dismissed from care for the remainder of day. The following behaviors will be dismissed:

- **Biting or Scratching** – A child who bites and breaks skin on another child or teacher will be dismissed for the day.
- **Aggressive Behavior** – A child who injures the face of another child or teacher will be dismissed for the day.
- **Throwing objects** – A child who purposely throws objects such as toys and chairs at another child or teacher with anger or intent to cause harm will be dismissed for the day.
- **Attempting to leave the classroom or teacher supervision** – This behavior places the child, the class, and the teacher in danger. Children must be able to display enough self-control by remaining in a classroom environment and under direct supervision in order to remain in group care. A teacher will not leave an entire class to chase a child. Any child who cannot remain in the classroom will be dismissed for the day and possibly the program.
- **Use of inappropriate language** – Children will experiment with language they hear at home and on television. Please understand they DO NOT hear these words at school from teachers. We are quick to inform a child when they use an inappropriate word. If a child persists in the use of profane language in class, we will dismiss them so not to upset other children and families.
- **The display of excessive emotional breakdowns and uncontrollable tantrums** – This is a behavior that is displayed when a child is just not emotionally ready for group care or a preschool setting. Children after attending care for 3-4 weeks who continue to have such breakdowns throughout their day are not ready for group care and do take away from the learning environment of others. Therefore, we will ask for parents to seek either professional assistance or try care again in a few months when their child appears more emotionally ready.
- **Bullying** – Children purposefully acting in a manner consistent with a bully by name calling, teasing, encouraging others to not play with a child, or share with another child even after re-direction and guidance will be dismissed for the day and possibly the program.

Repeat behaviors will result in a parent conference and a behavior modification plan. The failure of parents to participate or attend conferences will result in termination of care services.

Center Discipline

We understand and expect that most behavior we see in preschool setting is “childlike” and therefore part of learning to be social and kind to others. We will take the approach of re-direction and constructive conversation when working with children to give them the verbal skills needed to handle difficult situations.

Each classroom also offers their own unique visual aid for students and families to monitor performance. This allows children to learn how to self-monitor their actions. At times teachers may need to contact a parent to help in addressing recurring or disruptive behaviors.

It is our goal that together we can help your child learn positive responses and actions.

At no time will we address a child in a manner that would be cruel, harsh, or unusual punishment; humiliating, or verbally abusive; withhold food, rest, toilet use or designated outdoor time; nor will there be the use of profane language or isolation in locked rooms or closets.

Birthday Parties and Other Celebrations

In order to offer a party of any type we are required by DCF to have written parent permission for their child to participate on file at least 2 weeks in advance of the party.

To make this easier for everyone and ensure records and documentation are correct for inspection, one permission form encompasses the entire school year. Parties will only be held on designated days per our school calendar. All birthdays in a month will be jointly celebrated on the LAST Friday, or the pre-scheduled day on our school calendar for that month.

Additionally, only specifically listed party foods will be permitted. All children who have a birthday in the month can work with the teacher on what items they wish to bring in. If we do not receive permission for a child to have the party foods indicated, they will be served what is on the lunch/snack menu for the day.

Special Events

The center hosts a number of events each year to help families feel involved in their children’s school. For example, we offer an open house in August, a Trunk or Treat in October, a visit from Santa in December, a Winter program in January, a visit from the Easter Bunny in the Spring, a Graduation celebration in May/June, and several other events announced on our school calendar.

We will offer a number of events and enrichment programs throughout the school year to various age groups. Participation in enrichment programs are encouraged but not required. Should a parent opt in for a program, they acknowledge payment or authorization to a third party will allow the service/access to their child and grant permission for transfer of care during the program.