

# Impact Learning Center



## Parent Handbook

(Revised Jan 2024)

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# SECTION 1- ABOUT IMPACT LEARNING CENTER

## 1.1 OUR PHILOSOPHY

### Mission Statement:

Impact Learning Center was founded on Jeremiah 29:11. We believe God has a plan and purpose for every person. Our goal is to help others discover and prepare for theirs. Through high quality education and care, we are impacting the world, one life at a time. It is our goal to offer a program that meets the intellectual, moral, social, emotional, and physical needs of each child. It is also our mission to provide the fundamentals of early education that will have a lifelong Impact on each child we serve.

Vision Statement: Impacting the world, one life at a time.

Vision Scripture: *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." -Jeremiah 29:11*

## 1.2 OPEN DOOR POLICY

Impact Learning Center maintains an open-door policy with all custodial parents/guardians of enrolled children. Custodial parents will have immediate access without prior notice to the center. In situations where there is custody or domestic issues the following will apply:

- ◆ The center must be provided with the most recent certified copy of court order and any amendments to the order, i.e. custody order, restraining order, or a protection order from abuse.
- ◆ The center will follow the orders of the court. Deviations from the court order will only be made if there are written instructions from the custodial parent/s (joint custody will require both parent signatures).
- ◆ If there is not a copy of a court order or a copy has not been provided to the center then both parents will have equal access to their child. By law the center may not deny access to child by parent without a court order.
- ◆ If there is a verbal or physical conflict the center will contact the police.

## 1.3 ADMISSION/NON-DISCRIMINATION

Admission for new children into the program will depend on availability. Interested parents should speak to the center Director and schedule a tour. If accepted they will be required to complete an enrollment packet and pay all applicable fees. Impact Learning Center does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, disability, or any other characteristic protected by law. Impact Learning Center will make reasonable accommodations for children with known disabilities or special needs unless doing so would result in an undue hardship or would result in unsafe conditions for the child or other children, families, or staff.

## SECTION 2– FEES

### 2.1 Tuition

Fees are based on reserved spot and not on actual time that a child spends at the center. There will be no reduction in the basic rate should a child not be in attendance at the center for the contracted time. Parents will also be billed for all days including holiday, sick, emergency closings, teacher training, and vacation days. Current tuition rates are posted on the parent information board or can be provided by the center director.

### 2.2 Multiple Child Discounts

Impact Learning Center offers a discount of \$20 for the oldest child's tuition for families with more than one child enrolling in our school. This discount is not valid for children with vouchers or any other discounts. At time of enrollment, the parent must request a "Multiple Child Discount".

### 2.3 Late Payment Policy

Weekly tuition is due on or before Monday of each week. If your tuition is not paid in full on Monday, a late fee of \$25 will be added to your child's account. If fees continue to go unpaid that week, your child may be placed on a DO NOT ACCEPT list Friday afternoon. The following Monday, your child's care may be terminated until payments are made in full.

### 2.4 Registration Fees

A \$75 per family non-refundable registration fee is payable at the time of enrollment. Registration fees are not refundable under any circumstances.

### 2.5 Supply Fees

A \$25 supply fee per family is due annually on August 1st. Also, upon enrollment this supply fee is also due unless it is within 4 months (April, May, June, July) of the next school year. Failure to pay will result in temporary suspension of services.

### 2.6 Checks and Returned Check Fees

Checks are generally not accepted. However, in a special case (such as an outside vendor paying who does not have the ability to provide electronic funds) if one is accepted and then it is refused for payment there will be a Non-Sufficient Funds (NSF) fee assessed in the amount of \$40. Once a check is returned for NSF, checks may be refused as a form of payment from that vendor/family. In addition, childcare will be suspended until all fees are paid in full.

### 2.7 Late Pick Up Fees

A late fee of \$1 a minute will be assessed for children who are not picked up by closing time or at the end of scheduled program hour (for example 2:00pm for Head Start students). The late fee must be paid in order for the child to return to the center. Services can be terminated if this continues to be a problem (3 times or more within a 90-day period).

If a child is not picked up within 30 minutes of the center closing and every attempt to reach an authorized adult on the pick up list has failed, Impact Learning Center will be forced to contact the sheriff's office to report child abandonment.

### 2.8 Holidays

The following are some of the holidays typically recognized by the center. There are approximately 12 days a year designated as closure days. Tuition does not change for weeks that include holidays/closures.

New Years Day, Martin Luther King, President's Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Veteran's Day, two days for the Thanksgiving holiday, and two days for the Christmas holiday. A Holiday Schedule will be posted on the Parent Bulletin Board.

### 2.9 Attendance

Because you are paying for your child's spot in our program, full tuition is charged each week whether your child is present or not.

### 2.10 Vacation

Children are allowed to take up to two weeks' vacation each year. Tuition will be charged at 1/2 the normal rate for those weeks. Written notice is required at least one week prior to the planned vacation.

## **SECTION 3 – ATTENDANCE**

### **3.1 Arrival at Impact Learning Center**

All children must arrive by 8:30am if they are eating breakfast at the center or by 9:00am if they are not. Parents must call as soon as possible to notify the center if their child will be late or absent. Please leave your cell phones in your vehicles and give your child and the staff your attention during the transition from home to school.

Parents/guardians are required to sign their child into the center in the Smartcare system electronically, then into their classroom on the paper Sign in Sheet (must sign first and last name, not just initials). Parents must turn their child over to center staff before exiting the center.

Please don't sneak away, but help your child become engaged in the ongoing activities in the classroom if needed such as washing their hands upon entering, then picking out a toy or book. This may require planning a few extra minutes each morning, but will greatly benefit your child's transition into the classroom. Please label your child's clothes, bedding, backpack or any other items you bring in. Families are required to keep at least two sets of extra clothes for their child in case of a restroom accident or anything else (such as food/drink spillage) that may soil their clothes.

### **3.2 Special Requests**

Parents must follow the policy for Administering Medication if the child is to receive medication during the day. A prescription or doctor's note may be requested as well depending on the type of medication, cream, or substance you are leaving. This should be taken care of prior to the item being dropped off.

Parents are requested to notify the teacher or Director if there are any special needs or instructions for the child's day. Special requests must be submitted in writing and may include but are not limited to health issues, family situations, alternative pick-up person, early pick up time, or any other issues the center should be aware of to best meet the individual needs of the child.

### **3.3 Absences**

Parents are requested to notify Impact Learning Center if a child will not be in attendance that day. This notification will assist us to more effectively maintain appropriate child staff ratios and prepare the appropriate amount of food. Parents must notify the center if their child is ill. This notification will assist the center to track any illnesses that may occur at the center. Information regarding illnesses will be shared only on a need-to-know basis. Parents/guardians should bring a doctor's note for their child whenever possible.

Students receiving the School Readiness voucher are only allowed 3 reimbursable unexcused absences a month. Any other absences must be accompanied by a doctor/medical excuse in order for their voucher to reimburse the center for their child's tuition. If the child's tuition is not covered by the voucher, the parent/guardian will be fully responsible for the unpaid tuition. The child may not return the next week unless the outstanding tuition is paid.

### **3.4 Illnesses**

Parents are requested to notify the Center Director if their child has a communicable disease so that parents of children in the classroom/center may be notified when applicable. Only information about the communicable disease will be shared so all families can take precautions, not about which child has it. The center will follow the center's Confidentiality Policy and procedures. The center conducts a health check on each child upon arrival to the classroom. A child may not be accepted into the center if staff deems the child is too ill to attend or is contagious.

### **3.5 Termination/Withdrawal from Impact Learning Center**

The center reserves the right to terminate childcare services at any time, with or without cause. Childcare services may be terminated for willful destruction of property, if the child poses a threat to the safety and welfare of other children in care, physical or verbal abuse by the parent upon the Center Staff, insufficient funds that are not repaid promptly, or refusal to follow center policies.

Two weeks written notice is required from parents that are withdrawing their child from the center. Parents are responsible for any fees if proper notification is not provided. Any past due balances are due on last day of enrollment. Balances remaining after 30 days will be referred to the center's collection agency.

In the event that a child is absent for one week, without proper notification to the office, the child will be considered withdrawn from the program and the reserved classroom space will be filled. All tuition and any related charges are due and payable during this one-week period. To re-enroll, normal registration/supply fees will apply. The child will then be considered for enrollment upon space availability.

### **3.6 Pick-up Policy**

Parents or authorized adults are required to sign the child out of the center in Smartcare electronically and on the Sign In/Out Sheet located in the child's classroom. The parent or authorized adult is responsible for supervision of the child once the child has been signed out of the center and must walk their child to the car.

### **3.7 Authorized Pick Up/Emergency Pick Up**

Only authorized persons listed on the DCF Enrollment Form are permitted to have access to your child and to remove your child from the center. The following procedures apply:

- ◆ It is the responsibility of the registering parent to notify the center in writing of all persons authorized to pick up your child from the center.
- ◆ Parents are required to complete the DCF Enrollment Form at time of enrollment. Only persons listed on this form will be permitted to remove the child from the center.
- ◆ Persons on the authorized list but are unfamiliar to the staff will be required to show proof of a government issued identification with a photograph of them.
- ◆ Changes/updates to the Pick-Up list must be made on the original DCF form located in the office.
- ◆ Individuals must be at least 18 years of age in order to sign a child in or out of the center.
- ◆ In an emergency, the center will contact the parents/guardians first. If the center is unable to reach the parents, the staff will call the persons on the listed form until someone is reached.

It is the parent/guardian's responsibility to ensure that an authorized person is available to pick up the child on time.

If a parent or authorized adult appears to be under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs the staff will attempt to contact the other parent or authorized adult on the pick up list. Impact Learning Center does not have the right to deny the parent access to their child but the staff will contact the police immediately if the center is not able to contact other parent or authorized adult to pick up child.

### **3.8 Attendance Policy for VPK**

Child must arrive in the VPK classroom no later than 9:00 AM daily. Child must participate in VPK activities until 12:00 PM daily.

Children who arrive late or leave early may be counted as absent on the VPK attendance form. Parents must call the center if child is going to be late or absent. If a child is absent for five consecutive instructional days he will be dismissed from the VPK program.

Absences and tardiness may be excused under "extraordinary circumstances" if appropriate documentation is provided. These include

- a) Hospitalization of the child, his parents or guardian (must provide a doctor's note).
- b) Illness of the student, his parent or guardian that requires the ill person to remain at home (must provide a doctor's note).
- c) Death of a member of the student's, parents' or guardians' immediate family (obituary or death certificate required).
- d) Court ordered visitation (court documents must be provided).
- e) Parent or guardian's military deployment (military documentation must be provided).

A child may not miss more than 26 days per year for illness. A child may not miss more than 35 days per year regardless of circumstances.

Parents must complete and sign an attendance verification form EACH month. These forms will be distributed on the last instructional day of each month and must be signed and returned to the office the same day.

Children who do not meet attendance requirements will lose VPK funding. The child may be allowed to remain in the classroom, but will be required to pay full tuition.

# SECTION 4 – PARENT INVOLVEMENT

## 4.1 Parent/Guardian Volunteers

Impact Learning Center has an Open-Door policy with all parents of enrolled children. Parents/guardians are not only welcomed, but also highly encouraged to volunteer in their child's classroom. All visitors are required to sign in at the front desk before proceeding to the classroom.

The Discipline Policy (see 5.15 & 5.16), Standards of Conduct (see 5.17), and Visitor Policies (see 5.18) will apply to all volunteers at all times. Siblings of children in the program may not attend when a parent is volunteering in the classroom. Parent/guardian volunteers may be asked to help with certain tasks such as cutting out items for the classrooms, sharing information about their job or hobby or culture, chaperoning on field trips, donating items, and reading to a group of children.

## 4.2 Take Home Activities

Although Impact Learning Center does not assign required "homework" for preschoolers, we may send home suggested activities to enhance the learning taking place in the classroom.

## 4.3 Parent-Teacher Conferences

All parents/guardians are invited to attend scheduled parent/teacher conferences to review child's progress and needs and set goals for the child. Conferences will be scheduled two times throughout the year for infants, toddlers, and preschool children. Other conferences may be scheduled as needed or as requested by parent/guardian, teacher, or center director.

## 4.4 Parent Surveys

Impact Learning Center is interested in your feedback. Anonymous parent surveys will typically be distributed annually. Your responses will ensure we are meeting the needs of our families.

## 4.5 Parent Bill of Rights

We believe that parents have rights and that their concerns are reasonable and important.

### A Healthy Learning Environment

- Parents have the right to know that their child will be safe at school, both physically and emotionally.
- Parents have the right to know that all children will be treated fairly and that each child will be treated as an individual.
- Parents have the right to know that the staff is experienced and trained in child development.
- Parents have the right to know that any negative or cruel behavior among students or between students and staff will not be tolerated.

### Clear, Courteous Communication

- Parents have the right to be treated with courtesy by all members of the staff.
- Parents have the right to participate in meaningful parent-teacher conferences to discuss their child's school progress and welfare.
- Parents have the right to visit their child's class.
- Parents have the right to know that they can approach a staff member with a concern and that the staff member will listen carefully and will they can to address the issue.

### Information on School Policies

- Parents have the right to information on academic requirements of the school program.
- Parents have the right to inspect their child's record and respond to any statement.
- Parents have the right to be informed of and to appeal center policies.
- Parents have the right to be informed of and to appeal administrative decisions.

# SECTION 5 – HEALTH & SAFETY

## 5.1 Child Abuse and Neglect

Impact Learning Center has the responsibility for the prevention, identification, and reporting of child abuse and neglect (sexual, physical, emotional). Under Florida Law, cases of possible child abuse and neglect are reported immediately to the Department of Children and Families. The abuse hotline is **1-800-96-ABUSE**.

## 5.2 Confidentiality of Records

The Center maintains confidentiality of all records of children and families.

## 5.3 Emergency Closing and Inclement Weather

If the threat of a natural disaster such as hurricane, tornado, flooding, etc., is imminent, we will follow the Duval Public School System as well as the Early Learning Coalition (VPK and School Readiness facilitator) and Lutheran Services Florida (Head Start grantee) for closure guidance. Once the storm passes and is out of the area, we will assess the center for damage and re-open as soon as possible.

The following steps must be confirmed before opening the center:

- ◆ The center must have power and any dangerous damage must be repaired.
- ◆ There must be available staff in the center to provide appropriate staff to child ratio.

Parents are responsible for childcare tuition even in the event that the center is closed due to natural disaster.

## 5.4 Child Health Services

Impact Learning Center is required by the Department of Children and Families to have on file for each child a Physical and an Immunization Record. **You must provide these forms upon enrollment: Physical Examination – Form 3040 and Immunization – Form 680 (or approved immunization exemption form).**

## 5.5 Child Health Emergencies

In the case of accidents and incidents, staff will contact parents and complete an incident report in which both staff and parents sign. This serves as documentation that parents were informed of the accident/incident and any necessary follow-up. It is very important that you make sure that your child's teacher is aware of changes in phone numbers or emergency contact persons. Please keep this information up to date.

## 5.6 Accidents

We take all pre-cautions to insure the safety of your child while under our care. However, in the event that a child is hurt at our center, the following procedures will be followed:

- ◆ An accident report will be filled out by the child's teacher and depending on the type of injury, the parent may be called.
- ◆ The parent will be asked to review the accident form and provide a signature. A copy will be given to the parent upon request.

## 5.7 Medication Administration

All medication administered by the center staff must be authorized by the child's parent or guardian by first completing an Administration of Medicine form. **Only medicine that has been prescribed by a doctor may be given at the center.** All medicines must be in the original container.

If non-prescription medication is to be given, a note from the physician, stating the name of the medication and the dosage instructions, must be attached. Staff will inform parent/guardian immediately of any noticed side effects or changes in behavior. Parents are strongly encouraged to give all medications at home. If this is the case, please notify your child's teacher so that any behavioral changes and/or allergic reactions may be noted.

Medication will be stored in a secure area inaccessible to children. **NO MEDICATION MAY BE PLACED IN THE CHILD'S CUBBY/BOOKBAG OR LEFT UNATTENDED IN THE CLASSROOM.**

## 5.8 Conditions of Short Term Exclusion

A child will be placed on short-term exclusion, which may include non-admittance, when the illness and/or injury is contagious and/or poses a significant health and/or safety risk to other children and staff.

## 5.9 Notification of Illness

Parents/Guardians are encouraged to inform staff if their child becomes ill from a communicable disease and of any other health/safety concerns. If a child appears to have symptoms of a communicable disease, teaching staff should isolate the child away from the other children and immediately contact the child's parent/guardian.

Children will not be allowed to return to the center until all symptoms have ceased. Depending upon the condition, children may not be allowed to return to the center without a physicians' authorization.



Parents/Guardians will be asked to immediately pick up their children if the following signs, symptoms, or conditions are present:

- ◆ Fever AND sore throat, rash, vomiting, diarrhea, earache, irritability, or confusion. Fever is defined as having a temperature of 100° F or higher taken under the arm or 101° F taken orally.
- ◆ Diarrhea - runny, watery, or bloody stools.
- ◆ Vomiting - two or more times, vomiting that contains blood, or vomiting followed by severe cramping.
- ◆ Severe coughing - child gets red or blue in the face or to make a high pitched whooping sound after coughing.
- ◆ Eye discharge - thick mucus or pus draining from the eye, or pink eye
- ◆ Difficult or rapid breathing
- ◆ Ear Discharge
- ◆ Untreated infected skin patch(es)
- ◆ Unusually dark urine and/or gray or white stool and yellowish skin or eyes.
- ◆ Head Lice (including nits)
- ◆ Conditions that commonly require parameters from a physician detailing when a child may return include, but not be limited, chickenpox, strep throat, scabies, impetigo, meningitis, and Hepatitis A.
- ◆ Child is irritable, continuously crying, or requires more attention than staff can provide without jeopardizing the health and safety of the other children
- ◆ Any other unusual signs, symptoms, or conditions based on the center director's discretion (or the staff member in charge in their absence).

### **5.10 Dress Code**

We request that children arrive at school in comfortable, easy to launder clothing. While we make an effort to protect their clothing, children can experience accidental spills during activities and meal times. Please label all clothing items with the child's first and last name.

For the safety of the children, we do not allow open-toe shoes, flip flops, or sandals either in the classroom or during outdoor activities. In case of accidents, we request every child keep two changes of clothes at the center. Label each item with the child's first and last name and place the items in a sealed bag in the cubby.

### **5.11 Meals**

A nutritious breakfast, lunch and afternoon snack are provided for all children. In order to ensure the health and safety of all children, food items, purchased or from home, may not be brought into the classroom to be eaten, with the exception of special classroom events (as approved by the Director in advance). This will help us prevent children with allergies from being exposed to foods which could be harmful and enable us to meet the USDA food program guidelines.

### **5.12 Dietary Restrictions and Allergies**

Please discuss any special dietary needs for your child with the director. Modest accommodations may be made for children with food allergies or who require specific menu items for cultural reasons.

### **5.13 Discipline Rationale**

Discipline is the effective management of children's behavior with the goal of self-disciplined children. The management technique to be used in any particular situation will be based upon consideration of the particular situation and the individual child. All staff, volunteers, and parents will use the positive guidance methods listed below:

### **5.14 Discipline Procedures**

1. Plan ahead to prevent behavior problems. Anticipate problems that may occur and provide intervention or directions in advance. (Ex: Limit number of children in centers. Have activities prepared so children do not have to wait too long.)
2. Establish clear and simple rules that are age-appropriate. Consistent reminders help reinforce limits. Rules should be stated in a positive way. (Ex: If a child is running, say, "Please use your walking feet. Running feet are for outside", instead of "Don't run!")
3. Be a model for the desired behavior. Treat all children with respect and politeness. (Ex: The teacher has a leaky paint container in her hand. She needs to get to the sink. She asks the children who are in line at the sink if she could please use the sink out of turn, rather than simply cutting in front of the children. She remembers to thank them.)
4. Help children to learn problem-solving skills. Give them the language they need to communicate feelings and needs to others appropriately. Work with them to come up with solutions to conflicts.
5. Give hugs and caring. The key to discipline is establishing a nurturing relationship with each child. Children need to know they are accepted and loved no matter how they behave.
6. Reinforce positive behavior. Remember to focus on the specific behavior you wish to see repeated. (Ex: "Jessie, you worked so hard to put all the blocks neatly on the shelf! Thank you!")

7. Overlook small annoyances. Sometimes when a behavior is overlooked, not reinforced by attention, it disappears. Unless the behavior is aggressive and someone is in danger of getting hurt, the teacher/caregiver may let the children work out the problem on their own.
8. Offer positive alternatives to a negative behavior. If a child's behavior is unacceptable, suggest alternative choices. (Ex: If a child is throwing blocks, the teacher intervenes by telling the child that blocks are for building. If the child wishes to throw something, he/she can throw a bean bag, or a ball.)
9. Re-direct or divert the child. Substitute an appropriate activity for the unacceptable one. Some behaviors that are inappropriate are temporary, or situation specific. In these cases it is best to alter the environment by redirecting the child to another activity. (Ex: Two children who are good friends have begun to get irritated with each other. Intervene before things get out of hand by engaging them in a new activity.)
10. Help children see behavioral consequences. Since young children are self-focused, it is hard for them to see beyond their own needs. Help them to move from thinking of themselves, to thinking of others by analyzing the consequences of their actions. Discuss their behavior in a non-judgmental way and encourage them to think about its impact on others.
11. Provide renewal time. When a child is too upset to talk or listen, it may be necessary to remove the child from the situation for a few minutes. The teachers stay with the child to discuss what happened and to help the child regain composure.
12. Implement Behavior Intervention Policy when necessary.

### 5.15 Discipline Guidelines

1. Time out. There will NOT be any identified space, or chair, reserved for "time out". Children are not to be isolated indefinitely due to behavior problems. Time out may be used only if stipulated in an individual child's behavior plan.
2. Physical punishment. The use of physical force with children is prohibited. This includes pulling by the arm, grabbing children by the arm/shoulders/neck, hitting, pushing, shoving, etc.
3. Threatening. Children will not be threatened with physical punishment.
4. Ridiculing or Degrading. There will be no name-calling, belittling, or comparison.
5. Withholding of meals, snacks, or water. Children will not be denied food, water or any other basic need as a means of discipline.
6. Denying a rest. Children will not be denied rest as a means of discipline.

In the event that a child is exhibiting extreme challenging behavior (such as attempting to hurt other students or staff or attempting to destroy property) the follow the **Behavior Intervention Procedures** will occur:

- ◆ Provide renewal time.
- ◆ When a child is too upset to talk or listen, it may be necessary to remove the child from the situation for a few minutes. The teacher or other staff member is to stay with the child in the classroom to discuss what happened and the help the child regain composure.
- ◆ If necessary, the child may be removed from the classroom if another staff is available to remain with the child at all times.
- ◆ If the child is unable to regain control within 15 minutes, the parents or authorized persons may be contacted to pick up the child. An incident report can be written up to notify families what has occurred.

### 5.16 Suspension and Expulsion

After utilizing the Behavior Intervention Procedures above, the center director should meet with the parents and teacher(s) to discuss the situation and what can be done to help the child. Because of severe behavior challenges, some children may require different or more specialized care than the center is able to offer. If a child is exhibiting unacceptable behaviors at the center more than once, such as behaviors that could cause harm to him/herself or others, the center should take steps to assist this child as soon as possible. Some of these steps may include:

- a. Notifying the child's family of any behavior incidents that occur at the center
- b. Inviting the child's family to a conference to discuss behaviors and create strategies to assist the family, center staff, and child
- c. Implementing reasonable strategies or modifications (to the home and/or center) which may include the parent shadowing the student at the center, family modifying schedule at home, shortening of hours for the student at the center, moving child to a different classroom, implementing a behavior documentation chart, revoking privileges, etc.)
- d. Assisting the family in having the child professionally evaluated for behavior and/or developmental concerns
- e. Communicating with the family regularly to share progress and concerns

If all the above steps are followed and the child continues to exhibit unsafe behaviors, the center may decide (with the Executive Director and/or owners' approval) that further action may be needed including suspension and/or expulsion.

### **5.17 Standards of Conduct**

Impact Learning Center has guidelines of acceptable conduct that all parents, guardians, volunteers and visitors must abide by while on premises. It is expected that all parties will follow these guidelines. We strive to provide a safe and professional learning environment for you and the children. Volunteering in the classroom is strongly encouraged however; the "Standards of Conduct" must be adhered to at all times.

- ◆ Respect the unique identity of each child and family. Refrain from stereotyping on basis of gender, race, ethnicity, culture, religion or disability.
- ◆ Follow program confidentiality policies concerning information about children, families, and other staff members.
- ◆ Supervise children at all times. Children will not be left alone or unsupervised while in the center or under the center's care.
- ◆ Use positive methods of child guidance. Any use of corporal punishment, emotional or physical abuse or humiliation is prohibited. Methods of discipline that involve isolation, the use of food as a punishment or reward, time out or the denial of basic needs are prohibited.
- ◆ Refrain from the use of any threatening physical contact or verbal abuse towards individuals connected with the program, other parents or volunteers.
- ◆ Refrain from smoking on the premises and during all center or parent activities. Impact Learning Center adheres to a "Smoke Free Environment."
- ◆ Refrain from illegal activities while on the premises or in attendance at center activities. Impact Learning Center prohibits theft, firearms, alcohol, explosives and illegal substances on the premises and during all center or parent activities.
- ◆ Refrain from harassment. Any cause of disharmony of any kind will not be tolerated.
- ◆ All visitors on the center property must dress appropriately. Appropriate attire is at the center director's/leadership's discretion and includes wearing all components such as shirts and shoes. Visitors/parents must also refrain from wearing clothing that is too revealing, clothing with wording or graphics that can be considered offensive to others, and clothing meant to wear at home such as night gown, robe, and slippers.

### **5.18 Visitor Policy**

All volunteers and visitors shall check-in at designated area for check in and obtain permission for the visitation and a visitor's pass. Visitation by a non-enrolled child unaccompanied by his/her parent(s) or legal guardian is prohibited unless prior approval has been granted by the Center Director.

Only persons with legal authority to do so (such as Department of Children & Families personnel or law enforcement) shall be allowed to question a child on the property without the consent of the child's parents or legal guardian.

Because staff, children, and parents should at all times feel that the school and work environment is safe and not hostile, all visitors to the property shall comply with all policies while on property and shall conduct themselves in a manner that is not disruptive, threatening or abusive.

- ◆ Any parent, volunteer or visitor who is disruptive, threatening or abusive will be asked to relocate to a location in the facility where children are not present and where the matter can be discussed and resolved in a professional manner.
- ◆ If the person refuses to relocate or continues to act in an inappropriate manner, the person will be asked to leave the premises. If the person refuses to leave, staff will notify appropriate law enforcement personnel. Should the person subsequently return to the property and again act in a manner that is disruptive, threatening or abusive or if the initial incident is so extreme that the teachers are concerned about the person returning to the facility, the person shall be informed in writing that he/she may be prohibited from returning to property.
- ◆ Any person who believes that he/she has wrongfully been asked to not return to the property, must first leave the property as requested, but may subsequently appeal the decision in writing to the Center Director.
- ◆ A final decision will be made and the person will be notified in writing that he/she may not return to the property except under expressed conditions.
- ◆ Notwithstanding the above, center personnel shall always have the authority to notify appropriate law enforcement personnel should any person to property violate criminal statutes.

This policy shall be posted in a place clearly visible to all.

# SECTION 6 – CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

## 6.1 Curriculum

Center teachers will use the *Creative Curriculum framework* or *Frog Street Curriculum* as well as supplemental curriculum materials to plan specific activities that promote school readiness. The lessons will be based on helping children to attain positive school readiness outcomes.

## 6.2 Toys from Home

To prevent special toys from being lost or broken, we ask that toys not be sent to school with your child. On certain days throughout the year, we allow children to bring personal items and/or toys to share during a special part of the day's activities. Your child's teacher will inform you about these "Show-N-Tell" days.

## 6.3 Field Trips

Beginning at age three, field trips may be used to enhance the children's learning opportunity. They are a great way to extend the curriculum and provide children with hands-on experiences. Teachers have specific goals and objectives when planning a field trip. Parents will be provided at least one week's notice for each upcoming field trip. Each child must have a signed field trip permission slip in order to attend each trip and there may be a fee required for the parent to pay.

## 6.4 Screening and Assessment

Screening is a process to determine whether or not a child has any developmental concerns that may require further evaluation and follow-up. Screenings conducted at the center may include vision, hearing, speech/language, nutrition, dental, and overall development. The Ages and Stages Questionnaire or the Brigance Screening will be used at least once per year. Parental consent forms for screening are included in the registration packet.

Parents will be informed in writing of results of screenings. At home activities may be recommended based on the results of the screenings. If further evaluation or services are needed, parents will be referred to the appropriate agencies or to their personal pediatricians. Additional screenings and parent conferences will be utilized as a means of follow-up on screenings that result in referrals to outside agencies.

Children at every age level will be assessed using informal observations or formal assessments for the purpose of identifying developmentally appropriate learning outcomes met throughout the year and creating individualized learning goals based on the results of the assessments.

Teaching staff will use a variety of strategies to promote and support children's learning and developmental progress based on the observations, individualization, and ongoing assessment of each child. Information will be gathered from teachers and parents.

### Screening Procedure

- Parental consent forms for screening are included in the registration packet and will be kept in the child's file in the office.
- The Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) or the Brigance Screening will be used at least once per year for all age groups. Teachers will complete and score the ASQ. Parental input may also be used to complete these screenings. The scored screening will be kept in the classroom folder.
- Parents will be informed in writing of results of screenings either through a letter sent home by the center director or through written documentation of a parent-teacher conference where results were shared.
- At home activities may be recommended based on the results of the screenings.
- If further evaluation or services are needed, parents will be referred to the appropriate agencies or to their personal pediatricians.
- Additional screenings and parent conferences will be utilized as a means of follow-up on screenings that result in referrals to outside agencies.

### Accountability Procedure

- Summary sheets of all children screened will be given to the director.
- Children in need of follow up will be noted on the summary sheets.
- The director will review the screening tool for each child identified as in need of follow up.
- The director will rescore the instrument to ensure accuracy of scoring.
- The director will review the results with the parent and may rescore instrument based on parental input.

## **Assessment Procedure**

- Within six weeks of the start of the school year, teaching staff will do an initial assessment for each child using an approved developmental checklist or assessment instrument.
- Based on parent information, screenings, and initial observations, goals will be made for each child based on their individual needs.
- Teaching staff will conduct teacher-directed small group learning centers daily that will focus on these individualized goals.
- The ongoing assessment of each child will be recorded and updated at least twice per academic year. Each time an update is made new goals and plans will be made, based on the children's individual needs.
- Portfolios will be maintained for each child. Teachers will gather evidence of children's progress in these individual files. Things to be included in the portfolios may include literacy and numeracy assessments, artwork, anecdotal notes, writing samples, daily notes, photos, growth charts, etc. These items should be dated.
- Assessment results will be shared with parents during Parent-Teacher Conferences twice during the school year.
- At the time of a child's transition to the next class, the teacher will pass the child's screening information up to the next teacher.
- At the time of a child's transition to kindergarten, the teacher will send the screening information home.

### **6.5 Transitioning Children from Class to Class**

If it becomes necessary during the year to move a child up to the next class, Impact Learning Center will strive to make as smooth a transition as possible for the child, the parents, and the teachers. Parents will be informed both verbally and in writing. The child will transition slowly over the course of a few days.

### **6.6 Transitioning from PreK to Kindergarten**

In May or June of each year, Impact Learning Center will provide activities to aid in the smooth transition of preschool children to kindergarten. These activities may include one or more of the following: the distribution of information of how to register your child for kindergarten, a graduation ceremony, a visit to a nearby elementary school, and information on school readiness sent to parents.

# RECEIPT OF PARENT HANDBOOK

I understand a copy of Impact Learning Center's parent handbook can be accessed on their website at [www.impactLCJax.com](http://www.impactLCJax.com) or I can request one e-mailed to me. I agree to abide by the policies of Impact Learning Center (last updated January 2024). I have also received the "Parent Handbook Reminders" including information about late fees and the illness policy.

Parent of \_\_\_\_\_ (child's name).

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Director Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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## ON-LINE PORTFOLIOS PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

I understand the center utilizes on-line portfolios and parent communication systems in conjunction with the following websites [www.teachingstrategies.com](http://www.teachingstrategies.com), and/or [www.Smartcare.com](http://www.Smartcare.com) to document my child's progress and activities he/she is engaged in at the center. I give the center staff and volunteers permission to include photos/videography of my child and his/her work in the on-line portfolio. I also give them permission to include notes and observations pertaining to my child's day, tuition, and events at the center.

Note that sometimes other children in the center may be feature in photos, videos, or stories of your child that are shared with other families at the center. By giving your consent you agree not to share photos or video of any child, other than your own outside of the program without permission. You also understand that your child's other classmates and families will have access to these photos as well.

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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## SPECIAL NEEDS/CARE/INSTRUCTIONS

Impact Learning Center does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, disability, or any other characteristic protected by law. Impact Learning Center will make reasonable accommodations for children with known disabilities unless doing so would result in an undue hardship or would result in unsafe conditions for the child or other children, families, or staff. The space below may be used to write in any special needs or care that your child may request due to any suspected disabilities or behavior issues:

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