

# Family Handbook

#### Copyright @ 2021 by Celebree School

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without prior written permission of Celebree School.

#### **Nondiscriminatory Policy**

All Celebree Schools adhere to a strict non-discrimination policy in its employment practices and in the provision of services to its clients. Celebree will not refuse, withhold, or limit the provision of any services to any present or prospective client, or make any employment decision regarding any current or prospective employee, based solely on that individual's race, color, religious creed, handicap, ancestry, national origin, age, sex, veteran status, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, pregnancy or citizenship status. Celebree is an equal opportunity employer.

# **Table of Contents**

# Contents

Welcome to Celebree	4
Our History	4
Celebree School Historical Timeline	4
Philosophy and Mission	5
The Celebree School of The Woodlands Creekside Values	5
Mission Statement	5
Celebree School of The Woodlands Creekside Vision	5
Philosophy on Education and Guiding Children's Behavior	5
Educational Philosophy	5
Tuition / Enrollment	6
Enrollment Process	6
Hours of Operation	6
Calendar	6
Absences and Attendance	7
Weather Policy and Emergency Closings	7
Family Referral	7
Discount	7
Financial Responsibilities	7
Non-Sufficient Funds	8
Late Pick-Up Charge	8
Annual Enrollment Fees	8
Security Deposit	8
Annual Tuition Increases	8
Policy Changes	8
Program Changes and Withdrawal	9
Reasons for Dismissal, Expulsion or Termination	9
CURRICULUM AND PROGRAMS	9
Infant Curriculum	9
Toddler Curriculum	10
Twos Curriculum	10
Threes Curriculum	10
Pre-Kindergarten Curriculum	10
School-Age Curriculum for Before and After the Elementary School Day	10

Classroom Learning Materials	11
Lesson Plans	11
Assessments	11
Transitions	11
Guiding Children's Behavior	12
Inclusion of All Children	12
Health and Safety	12
Health Records	13
Illness Policy	14
Diapering Procedures	14
Handwashing	15
Medication	15
Child Abuse, Neglect and Tragedy Policies and Procedure	16
Family's Resources for Licensing and Policies:	16
Tragedy Response and Support Policy :	16
Immediate Response to On-Site Deaths:	16
Immediate Response to Off-Site Deaths:	16
SIDs Policy	17
Cleaning Policy	17
Nutritional Wellbeing	17
Breastfeeding	17
Snacks and Meals	18
Birthdays and Celebrations	19
Safety	19
Parking	19
Arrival Procedures	19
Departure Procedures and Release of Children	20
Supervision	20
Armed Intruder Plan	20
Emergency/Disaster Plan	21
Accident or Injury Procedures	22
Emergency Preparedness Plan	22
Offsite Evacuation Destination: Clean Touch Cleaners at 8633 W. Rayford Rd. Spring, TX Ph: 83284327648	22
Non-Smoking Campus	23
Pets on Site	23
Outdoor Play	23
Screen Time	24

Family's Resources for Licensing and Policies	24
Gang-Free and Bully-Free Zone	25
Communicating with Families	25
Open Door Policy	25
Daily Communication	25
Family Teacher Conferences	25
Family Information Board	26
Community Resources	26
Monthly Newsletter	26
School Family Committee (SFC)	26
Celebree Website	27
Program Evaluation	27
Satisfaction and Resolution	27
Volunteering	27
General Policies	28
Outside Employment of Celebree Teachers	28
Confidentiality Policy	28
Family Code of Conduct	28
Clothing	28
Notice of Policy Changes	29
Thank Youl	29

# **Welcome to Celebree**

# **Our History**

Since 1994, Celebree School has been caring for and positively impacting the lives of children in Maryland and Delaware. Today, our child care history is taking a big next step to supporting children and their parents in more locations and in more states. We cannot wait to meet you!

## Celebree School Historical Timeline

- **1994** Richard Huffman opens his first childcare location in Ellicott City, Maryland. He names the center Enchanted Child Care and employs a staff of 25 people.
- **1996** Richard opens his second location in Parkville, Maryland known as the "Carney" location, representing the neighborhood it serves. This location fills up so quickly, Richard knows he is on to something. He begins to build a team that could support multiple locations.
- 1997 Richard expands his footprint into his third and fourth Maryland counties opening two new locations in Bel Air and Frederick. He now employs over 100 employees and provides care to over 400 children! A successful model is in place and ready for accelerated growth.
- **2002** With 11 locations in operation, Enchanted Child Care is re-branded as Celebree Learning Centers®. The company's core values to "Protect, Educate & Nurture" are defined.
- **2006** Celebree Learning Centers opens its 13th location and is now located in five Maryland counties. At this point, the company has 420 employees and provides care to over 1000 children! Celebree has now established their business model around three key areas: Talent, Brand, and Operations.
- 2007 Celebree opens its first location outside of Maryland, in Bear, Delaware.
- **2008** The Celebree team continues to focus on rapid expansion, and opens its 19th location in Hampstead, Maryland. Celebree now has 500 employees and provides care for nearly 1,800 children.
- **2012** The Celebree corporate infrastructure has really taken shape. A call center has been established on behalf of the Celebree locations. A sales touch point process is established, and CRM tools are enabled. Most importantly, employee development methodologies are beginning to have a big impact on employee satisfaction and the quality of care. At this point, Celebree Learning Centers is caring for over 2,100 children.
- **2014** Celebree opens its 23rd location in Lutherville, Maryland, established as a flagship location beneath a new corporate headquarters, complete with robust training facilities. A new leadership development program is now helping Celebree to retain and develop top talent. Recognized as an industry leader in quality education, Celebree begins to apply for state accreditation through the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE).
- **2016** With a 24th location now opened in Germantown, Maryland, Celebree employs nearly 700 people and cares for over 2,600 children! The very first center that opened in 1994, Ellicott City, is the first center to be awarded accreditation through MSDE. Richard also begins to build a franchise offering, which would reproduce the success of his corporate center model and allow him to expand the Celebree brand at a more rapid rate.
- **2018** Celebree opens its 26th location in Pasadena, Maryland and 6 locations are now fully accredited through MSDE. At this point, it is clear that a "Learning Center" doesn't do Celebree justice. Celebree is rebranded to "Celebree School®" and brings the Celebree franchise offering to market.

**2019 and Beyond** – With like-minded professionals plugged into their neighborhoods, we will continue to celebrate the education of children as we expand our franchise model into additional states. We will teach them to be confident, so they may grow into self-assured adults.

This is our child care history. This is our village. Join us.

# Philosophy and Mission

#### The Celebree School of The Woodlands Creekside Values

We Protect, Educate, and Nurture children in a stimulating and positive environment.

#### **Mission Statement**

Celebree School TWC's team of educated, well-trained, and experienced professionals provides a safe, developmentally appropriate environment for infants, preschool and school age children. Our programs are open and welcoming to children of all abilities and cultural backgrounds. We strive to ensure that our activities, lesson plans and interest area enhancements are designed to support and reflect the cultural, language, and unique interests of each child. We provide children a stimulating early care and educational experience that promotes each child's language, social, emotional, physical and cognitive development. Celebree School TWC programs are designed to help give children the foundation they need to build self-esteem, to encourage exploration, and to reach higher levels of learning.

We are invested in providing our team of educators with ongoing support through continuing educational opportunities, ongoing formal and informal coaching, professional development, and training. As our children's first teachers the role of parent partnership is not overlooked within our programs. Our dedicated team of educators maintains partnerships with our families through ongoing communication, family teacher conferences, and consistent family involvement opportunities through our School Family Committee (SFC).

Celebree School TWC programs reflect our genuine desire to protect, educate, and nurture those in our school families while providing care which significantly exceeds state requirements and is responsive to the needs of our team of educators, the families we serve, and our community at large.

#### Celebree School of The Woodlands Creekside Vision

Our vision is to be the recognized leader in providing the best care for infants, toddlers, preschool, and school age children. Known for our exceptional educational programs, talented teams, and community relationships, we pride ourselves on our unique blend of fun and learning in a safe and nurturing environment.

# Philosophy on Education and Guiding Children's Behavior

### **Educational Philosophy**

At Celebree School TWC we Protect, Educate, and Nurture children in a stimulating and positive environment. Our professional and dedicated team supports children in developing positive social skills through purposeful play. Because research supports that 90% of a child's brain develops before the age of 5, we believe our role during these formative years is to build the foundation for a promising lifelong relationship with learning and social emotional growth.

Celebree School TWC is dedicated to the Whole Child. We believe uninterrupted time in purposefully designed play spaces that are reflective of all learners, family units, cultures and languages present in the School Family creates an atmosphere of awareness, independence, and self-regulation. Our

teachers enhance and scaffold child-led explorations and investigations in safe and nurturing environments while concurrently assessing each child's developmental milestones with the overall goal of a successful transition into Kindergarten.

# **Tuition / Enrollment**

### **Enrollment Process**

Once a family chooses to join the Celebree School TWC family they will be provided with an enrollment application. A child may not begin attending Celebree School TWC without the completion of all required paperwork, as this holds pertinent information and is important for your child's safety while in our care. Payment of the application fee and security deposit is also required to pre-enroll.

A non-refundable application fee and a security deposit, equal to one week of tuition, are due upon enrollment. Paying the above-mentioned fees along with completing the enrollment application, parent agreement, medical forms and other forms required by the state are necessary to complete the enrollment process. If applicable, we ask that families provide any IFSP (Individual Family Service Plan) or IEP (Individual Education Program) information at the time of enrollment to allow us to best meet your family and child's educational needs. All application and enrollment fees are final and non-refundable, without exception.

During your child's enrollment with Celebree School TWC, information provided at enrollment may change or be updated. It is the responsibility of the parent to report to the office any change of address, telephone numbers (home or work), employment, emergency contact person, special needs accommodation, and medical information to include immunizations. State licensing requires several forms to be updated annually.

An annual re-registration fee will be charged each year securing your child's space for the upcoming school year. Half-yearly supply fees is also charged to each child enrolled. Please refer to the financial responsibilities section of your enrollment agreement for further information.

Currently we offer programs from 6 weeks to School Age for your child's enrollment.

# **Hours of Operation**

We are open Monday through Friday from 6:30 am to 6:30 pm. The building may not be entered until this time to ensure proper staffing and supervision of children.

#### Calendar

Celebree School TWC follows Klein ISD's calendar as close as possible and observes the following dates for the calendar 25-26. **Kindly refer to the Celebree School TWC calendar for all key dates and scheduled closures.** 

When a holiday falls on a Saturday, the school will be closed the previous Friday and if a holiday falls on a Sunday, the school will be closed the following Monday. Celebree School TWC offers two Parent Teacher Conferences throughout the year, on these days the school is closed to students. We also offer staff development days for our staff in preparation for conferences and summer camp.

Tuition is calculated as an annual amount divided on weekly payments. Tuition rates will remain the same during closure days / holiday weeks. **There are no refunds or make-up days given for holidays.** 

## **Absences and Attendance**

In order to maintain state regulated teacher/child ratios and supervision, Celebree School TWC requests that you call the school when your child will not be attending. Tuition will not be prorated or reduced in the event of an absence.

# **Weather Policy and Emergency Closings**

Celebree School TWC will follow the lead of KLEIN ISD for school closures due to weather and emergencies. However, we will make every effort to remain open for our regular operating hours of 6:30am-6:30pm Monday through Friday as much as possible without compromising the safety of our families and staff. Celebree School TWC recognizes that there may be times when the severity of the weather could create undue hardship on our employees and in those instances our regular operating hours may be adjusted. If a decision is made to adjust operating hours the communication outlets mentioned below will be notified

- Celebree Ecosystem, powered by Teaching Strategies, message will be sent to parents.
- School delays or closings may also be announced on Facebook, local television and radio

In the event of a school-based emergency (such as water main break, fire, or other structural issue) in which closing is necessary, we will make an effort to ensure every parent is notified. If the school director is unable to contact each parent, phone calls will be placed to the emergency contacts listed on your child's emergency card. Tuition is not prorated or discounted if Celebree School TWC opens late, closes early, or is closed for the day.

## **Family Referral**

The highest compliment our parents can pay us is the referral of family or friends to Celebree School TWC. The trust and confidence that you place in us means a great deal. In appreciation of that trust and confidence, we are excited to share our family referral program.

- The family referral must be submitted before the referred family's first day of care and must be shared during the tour.
- A \$100 gift certificate will be given to the referring family for each new family that enrolls at Celebree School of TWC that remains enrolled for 90 days.

#### **Discount**

Discounts are not applicable on: Application/Registration Fee, Curriculum/Supply Fee, Lunch Fees, and/or Enrichment Fees.

- A sibling discount will be applied on the lowest tuition: for first sibling 10%, for second or more siblings 5%
- First responders discount: 10% with a valid proof of service.

# Financial Responsibilities

Tuition will be collected via:

- ACH (electronic payment processing)
  - Recurring auto draft from bank checking or savings account (tuition is automatically withdrawn from your bank account every Monday)
  - Authorization forms will be provided with your enrollment form and are available at the front desk(one-time draft from bank account)

- Cash, debit cards, and over-the-phone credit card payments are not acceptable forms of payment.
- Credit card payments are subject to additional processing fees, which may increase over time.
- If autoypay fails for any reason and the payment is not received by 5:00pm CST on Wednesday evening, your account will accrue a late fee.
- Payment plans are available on individual basis when financial hardships arise. We kindly ask
  that you please contact the Director and schedule a meeting to work on the best payment
  plan for your family.

### Non-Sufficient Funds

Per our enrollment agreement, a fee will be debited from your account for each Non-Sufficient Fund (NSF) occurrence. When more than one NSF occurrence is presented to your account in a six month period, payment must be made by money order or certified check for the next six months.

# Late Pick-Up Charge

We do understand that there may be occasions when an emergency arises causing you to be late to pick up your child from school. After the second time of late pick up, a \$10 charge will be billed to your account for the first 10 minutes and \$5.00 after each 5 minutes thereafter. Late pick up applies to Early dismissals: pick up after 12:30pm and full-time program pick up after 6:30pm.

### **Annual Enrollment Fees**

An annual non-refundable registration fee for each child will be charged to your account on the first Monday of May each year per your enrollment agreement. If enrollment occurred between half way in the school year, registration will be billed at 50%. Registration fee is a non-refundable, non-transferable fee once paid.

A curriculum fee will be charged to your account in January and June every year. This is a non-refundable fee once paid.

# **Security Deposit**

The security deposit is equal to one week of tuition. If tuition rates should increase the difference will be paid to equal the new tuition rate.

#### **Annual Tuition Increases**

Our tuition structure and rates will be reviewed on annual basis. Any **extraordinary change** to tuition rates will be accompanied by a 30-day written notice per our enrollment agreement.

Tuition rates will be provided annually with a new enrollment packet at registration time on February for the next school year. Tuition rates are specifically earmarked to cover program expenses, supplies, operations, and annual teacher salary increases.

# **Policy Changes**

Parents will be informed of any **policy changes** through written communication, typically with a 30-day written notice, unless immediate action is required.

## **Program Changes and Withdrawal**

All program changes and enrollment withdrawals must be provided in writing with at least a 30-day written notice from the last day of attendance.

- If your child is withdrawn due to non-payment, the child will not be permitted to return until the balance due is paid in full including a new application fee.
- In all cases, families will be responsible for the weekly tuition for any reversal of dis-enrollment that happens within a two-week period of the last day of care.

## Reasons for Dismissal, Expulsion or Termination

Celebree School TWC will work with our families to continue enrollment until the children are ready to attend Kindergarten, however at times unfortunate situations occur when suspensions or dismissals will take place. The following are situations that might require expulsions but are not limited to:

- Non-payment of tuition (unless a payment has been established)
- Failure to comply with Parent Handbook policies
- Inability of a child to participate in classroom learning and daily activities after several steps have been taken in place to improve the challenges.
- Continual tardiness picking up the child at the end of the day
- Inappropriate behaviors that will put other children at risk or in a not safe situation
- Excessive biting that will continue after steps have been taking to correct it.
- In the situation of inappropriate parent behavior, Celebree School TWC reserves the right, at any
  time without prior notice to discharge, withdraw, or remove from the premises any child, parent,
  relative and/or individual that poses a threat or compromises the operations of Celebree School
  TWC.

After steps have been taken to correct behaviors or situations mentions above by our Director, dismissal notifications will be made by the Director to the families.

# **CURRICULUM AND PROGRAMS**

Celebree School TWC is dedicated to the Whole Family. We believe a reflection of the varied family units inside our school creates an environment reflective of acceptance without bias. Celebree School TWC believes in meeting families where they are and through our thought leadership and expertise guide them towards a successful union between home and school that creates a foundation for continual learning and growth.

The Education Team, alongside Teaching Strategies and our Advisory Board, reviews the curriculum and developmental program annually with the purpose of ensuring that the current curriculum is meeting the needs of the children in the program. The results of the review are used to modify the curriculum, if necessary, and include program goals. Based on any changes made the Education Team will use this opportunity to train the teaching staff to ensure proper implementation of the curriculum and any additional changes presented because of the annual curriculum review.

#### Infant Curriculum

Our program provides individualized daily activities to meet each child's unique development. Through additions to the environment, exploration extensions, daily read aloud, and a language building words, infants are engaged in experiences that support their physical and motor development, language and

literacy, social foundations, arts and numbers foundations. Sign language is also introduced, as our teachers implement a monthly focus to their plans.

#### **Toddler Curriculum**

Our toddler's curriculum is designed to provide hands-on experiences for little learner. Using monthly studies, teachers provide language building opportunities, and begin to introduce shape and color recognition. Through the insertion of classroom interest areas, changes to the environment, large and small group play, and reading and storytelling, the curriculum is balanced to provide physical well-being and motor development, language and literacy, math, science, art, dramatic play, music and movement, and social development.

### **Twos Curriculum**

The curriculum for our little ones that are two year old turning three within the school year, deepens the attention on each area increasing their independence and fostering their language and social skills. Our program continues to introduce numbers, shapes, letters and self-help skills as well as social emotional focusses and fine motor development. This program is offered either as a Full-time program running August to August or Part-time program running August to May with a summer camp option. Children must be two years old by September 1st in order to enroll in this program.

#### **Threes Curriculum**

For the three-year-old or preschool curriculum, we utilize monthly teaching guides. Each monthly study incorporates all areas of development. There are also monthly focuses for math, writing, science, physical development, social studies, language and literacy and social emotional development. Each skill introduced builds on the previous unit's skills. The classroom is set in learning/interest areas, where provocations are added to encourage purposeful play and skill building. Assessments, an integral part of curriculum cycle, are completed on an on-going basis and are used to ensure that teaching is well rounded, and each child is prepared to work on achieving the next developmental skill. Our preschool program is offered for children that turned 3 years old by September 1st. Children in this program must be fully potty trained and independently go to the bathroom. Our Full-time program runs August to August and our Part-time program runs August to May with a summer camp option.

# Pre-Kindergarten Curriculum

The pre-k curriculum prepares our children to enter Kindergarten by expanding their learning in all academic areas. Children will be beginning writers and emergent readers. Our teachers will introduce phonics and proper letter formation. STEM, art, music and movement are also included in their daily routines. For children to attend this program they must be 4 years old by September 1st. Our Full-time day program runs August to August and our Part-time program runs August to May with a summer camp option.

# School-Age Curriculum for Before and After the Elementary School Day

The school-age curriculum is designed to enhance (not extend the traditional school day). Our program offers activities that meet the needs of the school-age child's interests. Our classroom connections reinforce the skills that the child's elementary school teachers recommend practicing through engaging games and exercises, the children can practice math facts, writing skills and reading skills amongst other fun activities. This program runs August to May until Klein ISD closes and it is offered as a summer camp option June to end of July. Summer camp tuition charges will be applicable.

## **Classroom Learning Materials**

Celebree School TWC carefully selects classroom materials and toys that are developmentally appropriate and reflect children's interests, both indoors and outdoors. Materials are chosen to deepen engagement and support meaningful learning, especially in language and reasoning skills. Classrooms are designed with real-world, age-appropriate experiences in mind. Teachers enhance interest areas and rotate materials based on monthly themes, seasons, and children's interests to keep the environment fresh and stimulating.

Diversity is celebrated by including materials that represent the cultures and languages of the school community—such as books, play food, textiles, and art supplies—often with family input.

Materials are accessible, stored at children's level, and include options for all developmental stages, ensuring every child can participate. By allowing children to choose their own materials, Celebree School TWC fosters independence, creativity, and confidence in a safe, inclusive environment.

Therefore, we encourage parents to ensure children aren't bringing any toy from home as it can be a hazard for the other children. Although, children are allowed to bring a snuggle toy that the classroom teacher has to approve.

### **Lesson Plans**

Lesson plans are designed -based on children's interests, abilities, and family input, including IEPs and IFSPs. Plans cover all key learning areas and are tailored for different learning styles and group sizes. All lesson plans are carefully reviewed to follow our curriculum, and families can access them online. Lessons are culturally responsive and inclusive, reflecting each age group.

#### **Assessments**

Celebree Schools TWC use both formal and informal assessments to track each child's learning and development. Teachers use this information to tailor lessons and improve the program. Assessments are sensitive to family culture and children's abilities, and are done in familiar classroom settings. Informal assessments, like checklists and work samples, are collected daily and stored confidentially. Formal assessments use the GOLD tool to monitor progress across all learning domains, with results shared through The Celebree Ecosystem.

Parent Teacher conferences will be offered twice a year where observations on the children's development will be shared with the families.

#### **Transitions**

Families are encouraged to tour our school and meet staff before enrolling, helping everyone feel comfortable with the school culture. Open communication is promoted, especially about children's routines, preferences, and any IFSP or IEP support needs.

After acceptance, families receive a welcome packet and an invitation to join the School Family Committee and if enrolling prior the start of the new school year, families will join during Meet the Teacher. When children move to a new classroom, our Director will meet with our parents and the teaching team to meet and share developmental information and ensure a smooth transition, with families included in the process.

For Kindergarten, Celebree School TWC provides portfolios with developmental records and helps with the transition, including field trips and information on local school events. Portfolios are private and shared only with permission. Celebree School TWC makes reasonable accommodations for children with special needs and reviews all relevant documentation before a child transitions, ensuring teachers are prepared to support every child.

# **Guiding Children's Behavior**

Celebree School TWC provides a caring, structured environment that encourages children's independence and involvement in setting classroom expectations. Children help create rules when appropriate, which supports self-regulation and healthy choices.

Clear expectations and helpful cues guide respectful behavior. Celebree strictly prohibits physical punishment, psychological abuse, or coercion, and avoids using sticker charts or prizes to manage behavior, except when recommended by specialists.

If challenging behaviors occur, teachers use redirection, reflection, problem-solving, and offer choices like a classroom safe place for self-regulation. Families are informed of persistent issues, and together with teachers, create individualized plans to support the child's development and well-being. All behaviors are discussed with the Director and communicated via email to our parents. Guidance and working in partnership for a successful outcome ins offered to our families through meetings and conversations with our admin team and teaching staff.

### Inclusion of All Children

We believe a diverse and inclusive environment benefits those with and without special needs as it allows children to develop meaningful friendships and instills an appreciation and acceptance of individual differences. Providing an inclusive environment at the pre-school level increases understanding and acceptance of diversity and helps children develop a respect for all people. As we strive to prepare children for their future, a diverse environment allows children exposure to the social expectations of an inclusive society. Therefore, Celebree School TWC does not, "refuse enrollment of a prospective student, expel a current student, or without privileges from a current student, a prospective student, or the parent or guardian of a current or prospective student because of an individual's race, ethnicity, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability.", as stated in the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

To meet the specific disability and health care needs of the children we serve, Celebree School TWC's curriculum, activities, books, materials and environment reflect the diversity of all children, families and the wider community. Where possible, these will be adapted to facilitate the inclusion of all children within the daily routine and activities of our programs. Our teachers and staff actively discourage stereotyping or gender, culture, background, or ability by facilitating non-stereotypical play and through the use of non-stereotypical resources and classroom images. Celebree School TWC strives to provide learning experiences that are meaningful to each child by recognizing variations in learning style and ability.

# **Health and Safety**

Celebree School TWC promotes the nutrition and health of all children and staff and strives to protect them from all illnesses. The World Health Organization defines health as, "...a state of complete physical, oral, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity." At Celebree School TWC we believe healthy risk taking is desirable for learning, but we also make sure to take measures to protect our children from hazardous practices and environments that are likely to result in adverse consequences.

Our Health and Safety Policy is broken into three sections:

#### I. PROMOTING AND PROTECTING CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND CONTROLLING INFECTIOUS DISEASE

- Health Records including those who are under immunized
- Illness Policy
- CPR and First Aid Training
- Diapering Procedures

- Handwashing
- Medication Administration
- Child Abuse and Neglect Policy
- Tragedy Response and Support Policy
- SIDS Policy
- Cleaning Policy

#### **II. NUTRITIONAL WELLBEING**

- Infant Feeding
- Breastfeeding Policy
- Snacks and Meals
- Birthdays and Celebrations

#### **III. HEALTHFUL ENVIRONMENTS**

- Arrival and Departure Procedures
- Parking
- Release of Children
- Supervision
- Non-Smoking Schools
- Pets
- Accident or Injury Procedures
- Outdoor Activities
- Screen time
- Licensing Information
- Gang-free and Bully-free Zone

# <u>Promoting and Protecting Children's Health and Controlling Infectious</u> Diseases

#### **Health Records**

In accordance with your state licensing regulations Celebree School TWC maintains current health records for each child that show that the child is current for routine screenings and immunizations according to the recommended schedule. When a child is overdue for any routine health services, legal guardians must provide evidence of an appointment for those services before the child's entry into the program and as a condition of remaining enrolled in the program, except for any immunization for which parents are using a religious exemption. Immunization exemptions for medical reasons or reasons of conscious must be filed with the state. If a family elects for an immunization exemption, Celebree School TWC requires that the official exemption be kept in the child's file at the school.

#### Health records include:

- Results of health examinations on state approved forms
- Up-to-date immunizations; unless an Affidavit is provided
- Hearing/vision screening results for children 4 years old
- Current emergency information
- Instructions for any special needs
- Sunscreen and mosquito Permission Form

The content of each child's health and safety file is confidential but is available upon request to teaching staff who have consent from legal guardians, the child's parents or legal guardians and

regulatory authorities. Program staff do not discuss children or their families with one another except in private and only when necessary for the best interest of the child.

# **Illness Policy**

Celebree School TWC follows strict health guidelines to keep everyone safe. Families are asked to keep sick children home. Frequent handwashing is practiced, and teachers monitor children daily for signs of illness, checking temperatures or rashes if needed. The school's illness policy must be followed to help prevent the spread of disease. Children who exhibit the following signs or symptoms of illness are required to be picked up within an hour of notification or remain home until they are symptom free for twenty-four hours unless a licensed physician has cleared your child of being contagious:

- Diarrhea and/or vomiting one time
- Temperature of 100 degrees or higher
- Skin rash other than a localized diaper rash
- Evidence of head lice and nits
- Evidence or suspicion of any communicable disease
- Any complaints of unexplained or undiagnosed pain

When a child becomes ill in the school, they are brought to the main office for isolation and prevention of the spread of any communicable illness. Parents, guardians, or an authorized individual is notified of the child's illness via phone and the teacher will complete an illness report to be signed by the teacher and the parent, and the parent is required to pick up the child from the school within the hour.

In the event of illness or injury that needs immediate medical attention, an ambulance may be called. If an ambulance is called, you will be notified immediately and asked to meet the ambulance at the closest local emergency room to the school. To ensure your child's comfort and safety, a member of management or your child's teacher will travel in the ambulance with your child and your child's entire file containing all medical information and or allergy alerts. This file will be transferred to the attending medical staff.

Prior to bringing your child back to the school please ensure:

- Your child is free of fever, vomiting, diarrhea, or other related symptoms of illness for a full 24 hours without the use of symptom reducing medications.
- In the event that an antibiotic treatment is required, the child must have received the antibiotic treatment for 24-hours prior to returning to the school.
- Celebree School TWC requires a doctor's written statement releasing the child and verifying
  that the child is no longer contagious for all communicable diseases or illnesses causing the
  child to miss 3 or more consecutive days of care.
- For non-contagious infections / illnesses / complaints (such as ear infections, teething etc.) the
  child may return to care without the 24-hour waiting period only if the child is fever free and has
  been diagnosed by a doctor and is accompanied by a doctor's written statement deeming
  the child able to fully participate in scheduled school activities.

## **CPR and First Aid Training**

All staff members hired at Celebree School TWC have a current certificate showing satisfactory completion of First Aid Training and CPR. CPR cards are kept on each of the staff's files.

# **Diapering Procedures**

Celebree School TWC is equipped with the facilities to change diapers and soiled clothes in a safe and sanitary fashion. Teachers check the children's diapers every two hours when children are awake and change soiled diapers in designated areas every time diapers, underwear and other clothing are wet

or soiled. Teachers check for and change wet or soiled diapers or training pants when a child wakes up.

Soiled diapers are changed immediately regardless of the last time the child was changed. Diapering and changing procedures are posted in designated areas. For those children changed on an elevated surface a teacher's hand is always on the child. Diaper bins have hands-free lids that open and close tightly. Each classroom that requires a diaper table is furnished with a table that is the exclusive use of that classroom. Parents provide diapers, wipes and extra clothes when needed.

## Handwashing

Celebree School TWC follows consistent practices regarding handwashing and teaches these practices to our children by assisting as needed, specifically infants, to successfully complete the task. Children and adults wash their hands upon arrival for the day; after diapering or using the toilet; after handling body fluids; before and after handling meals and snacks and before preparing food; before and after administering medications; after handling garbage; after cleaning; after playing in sensory materials i.e., water, dirt, sand; after handling animals; and when moving from one classroom to another.

Proper handwashing includes using liquid soap and running water; rubbing hands vigorously for at least 20 seconds, including backs of hands, wrists, between fingers, and under fingernails; rinsing well; drying hands with paper towels and avoiding touching the faucet with just washed hands.

#### Medication

To protect your child, Celebree School TWC will only administer medication that is properly dated and labeled for your child. The following is a list of medication requirements that need to be checked before bringing medication into the school office for your child:

- The medication is prescribed for your child in their name
- The medication is in the original container with a prescription label in place
- The medication was prescribed and dated for this specific illness
- The dosage and frequency and expiration date are listed on the prescription label
- A proper medication measuring tool is provided

A medication authorization form may be obtained when needed at the front desk. This form must be completed for each medication the child will need. A new medication authorization form must be completed with each arising illness. Please give this completed and signed form and medication to the Director.

- Your child must receive at least one dose of the medication at home at least 24 hours prior to being administered at the school.
- Medication brought in a baggie or in an already measured syringe will not be distributed to a
  child under any circumstances. Pharmacies will provide parents with two medication bottles if it
  is explained that the child will need an additional prescription labeled bottle for school.
- Over-the-counter medications will be administered in accordance with the labeled instructions unless otherwise authorized in writing by a licensed physician. One dose of over-the-counter medications may be given per illness.
- All medications except for life saving medications are kept in a locked container housed in the main office and are readily available but inaccessible to children
- Medications that require refrigeration will be kept in a locked container housed in the staff refrigerator

Medication authorization procedures are subject to change in accordance with state specific childcare licensing regulations.

# Child Abuse, Neglect and Tragedy Policies and Procedure

Celebree School TWC is committed to providing a safe and nurturing environment where children are educated in a fun and relaxing atmosphere. All staff are mandated reporters and are required by law to report any suspicion of physical, emotional, or sexual child abuse or neglect to law enforcement or social services. Those who fail to report according to individual state child care licensing regulations can be held accountable under the law. It is also prohibited by law for anyone to interfere with an individual's attempt to report child abuse or neglect. Our employees are trained in the prevention and identification of child abuse and neglect. They also receive additional training throughout the year.

Be assured that your child's safety and well-being are of top priority to Celebree's management and teachers.

### Family's Resources for Licensing and Policies:

Families of victim of abuse should contact below resources to get the appropriate directions, based on their case:

- Minimum standards can be found at <a href="https://www.hhs.texas.gov">https://www.hhs.texas.gov</a>
- Texas Abuse and Neglect Hotline; Phone: 1-800-252-5400 or online https://www.txabusehotline.org
- HHSC website (To access local Licensing): https://www.hhs.texas.gov

#### Tragedy Response and Support Policy:

We are committed to ensuring the safety and emotional well-being of all members of our community. In the unfortunate event of a death involving a child or staff member, whether due to an accident or a prolonged illness, we have established clear procedures to address such tragedies. This policy outlines the steps to be taken in cases of death occurring both on-site and off-site.

### Immediate Response to On-Site Deaths:

In the event of an on-site death, staff must immediately contact emergency services by dialing 911. The area should be secured to ensure safety and privacy for the affected individual and to prevent further distress to other children and staff. The Director or an appointed staff member will notify the child's or staff member's family as soon as possible, ensuring that this is done with sensitivity and support. The Director will assess if it is necessary to temporarily close the facility and communicate this decision to all families.

#### Immediate Response to Off-Site Deaths:

If a death occurs off-site, the Director or designated staff member must be informed as soon as possible. The Director will reach out to the family, offering condolences and support while maintaining confidentiality and respect. The Director will inform all staff members of the incident in a private and supportive manner, ensuring they are aware of the resources available for their emotional well-being. Parents and guardians will be notified through an appropriate communication channel (e.g., email, phone call, or a private meeting) to share relevant information and next steps while maintaining the privacy of the affected family.

In the event of either on-site or off-site tragedy, all media inquiries must be directed to the Director. No staff member should communicate with the media independently. All efforts to secure professional

counseling services will be made and be available for children, families, and staff to provide emotional support during the grieving process. Age-appropriate discussions will be conducted in classrooms to help children process the event, with support from trained staff or external professionals. With the consent of the affected family, the facility may hold a memorial or commemoration event.

We recognize that the death of a child or staff member is a deeply emotional event that affects the entire community. Our goal is to handle such occurrences with the utmost compassion, sensitivity, and professionalism. The incident will be reviewed to determine if any changes to current policies and procedures are necessary to better handle future situations.

## **SIDs Policy**

To reduce the risk of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), infants 12 months and younger, unless otherwise ordered by a physician, are placed on their backs to sleep on an infant mattress that meets the standards of the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission. Pillows, quilts, comforters, blankets, stuffed toys, and other soft items are not allowed in cribs. The mattress can be fitted with a secure and appropriately sized crib sheet. Infants that fall asleep in equipment not designed for sleeping i.e. car seats, bouncers are promptly removed from the equipment and placed on their backs in their designated crib.

# **Cleaning Policy**

Celebree School TWC selects and uses fragrance-free and non-toxic cleaning products to sanitize its school. Soap and water spray bottles and spray bottles of state approved disinfecting and sanitizing agents are available in each classroom. All toxic cleaning materials are stored in locked cabinets out of reach of children.

Celebree School TWC has procedures in place to assure that the cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing of the school is carried out as recommended by NAEYC, (National Association for the Education of Young Children's) "Cleaning, Sanitizing, and Disinfecting Frequency Table" guidelines. Copies of the frequency table can be found in the office.

# **Nutritional Wellbeing**

## **Infant Feeding**

Older children who can safely hold their bottle may remain in feeding chairs and supervised by the classroom teacher. Younger infants who cannot hold their bottle are held for bottle feedings. Teachers do not feed infants in place of other forms of comfort.

Parents who choose to formula feed are required to provide pre-made bottles that are labeled with their child's full name and the date. Teachers will not mix powdered formula. Bottles can be warmed in a bottle warmer in the classroom.

# **Breastfeeding**

Breastfeeding families and employees need ongoing support from childcare providers to provide their milk for their babies; Celebree School TWC subscribes to the following policy:

- Breastfeeding mothers shall be provided a place to breastfeed or express their milk.
   Breastfeeding mothers, including employees, shall be provided a sanitary place to breastfeed their babies or express milk. This area will have an electrical outlet, comfortable chair, and nearby access to running water.
- A refrigerator will be made available for storage of expressed breast milk. Breastfeeding
  mothers and employees may store their expressed breast milk in the classroom refrigerator.

Mothers should provide their own containers, clearly labeled with their child's full name and the date the milk was expressed.

- Teachers will discard any unfinished and unrefrigerated formula or breast milk after 1 hour.
- Sensitivity will be shown to breastfeeding mothers and their babies. Celebree School is
  committed to providing ongoing support to breastfeeding mothers, including providing an
  opportunity to breastfeed their baby in the morning and evening, and holding off giving a
  bottle, if possible, when mom is due to arrive. Artificial baby milks (formula) and solid foods will
  not be provided unless the parent or guardian has requested and provided such foods. Babies
  will be held closely when feeding and bottles will never be propped.
- Teachers shall be trained in handling human milk. All school teachers are trained in the proper storage and handling of human milk, as well as ways to support breastfeeding mothers. The school will follow guidelines from the American Academy of Pediatrics and Centers for Disease Control in ensuring that breast milk is properly handled to avoid waste.
  - Storage Guidelines for Human Milk:
    - <a href="http://www.cdc.gov/breastfeeding/recommendations/handling-breastmilk.htm">http://www.cdc.gov/breastfeeding/recommendations/handling-breastmilk.htm</a>
    - <a href="http://www.healthychildren.org/English/ages">http://www.healthychildren.org/English/ages</a>
      stages/baby/breastfeeding/pages/Storing-and-Preparing-Expressed-Breast-Milk.aspx

#### **Snacks and Meals**

Celebree School TWC recognizes good nutrition is vital to children's physical and mental development. We encourage the development of good eating habits that will last a lifetime. Our snack menu meets both the state department of education and FDA nutritional requirements. This means fruits and/or vegetables will be served at least four times per week, along with daily whole grain options as part of the snack menu. A lunch menu, not included in your weekly tuition. The lunch menu will be offered as a cold or warm lunch with a side of vegetables. (sandwiches, bake potatoes, broccoli, meatballs, chicken nuggets).

In sensitivity to children's needs and to potentially accommodate for known food allergies, lunches are provided by parents and should consist of a balanced nutritious meal. To ensure children are in alignment with our nutrition policy, Celebree School TWC will monitor children through 4 years old, record, and report their daily consumption. **We are a nut-free building.** 

Foods we recommend that parents pack for lunch:

- Fruits
- Vegetables
- Lean meats
- High fiber, whole grain foods

#### Please keep to a minimum:

- High sugar snacks
- Processed foods
- Foods that are high in fats, sugar and salt

#### Please avoid sending:

- Candy
- Gum
- Energy drinks

Mealtimes will include meaningful conversation and will promote social interaction, encourage good table manners and develop sound nutritional habits. Teachers will eat with the children to model the behavior that is desired. Children will be encouraged to try new things and to clean up after themselves. Meals will not be withheld as a form of punishment.

• Celebree School TWC provides a morning and afternoon snack daily

- The morning snack, offered around 9:30am is mainly a fruit or cereal. The afternoon snack is
  offered at approximately 3:00 p.m after nap time. For specific timing refer to the class schedule
  posted in the classroom.
- You are welcome to bring a breakfast item if you feel your child needs a snack earlier than the AM snack time
- Menus are posted in the school on the family information board in the main hallway, in each classroom by the food prep station
- All food and drink items must be labeled with your child's first and last name in addition to the
  full date (month, day and year). Most parents label directly on food bags with a permanent
  marker. Others write on a sticky label/tape or use printed name labels and write in the date
  each day
- Careful attention is paid to any food allergies your child may have and each classroom posts in a private location the full list of allergies for the entire school
- You will provide lunch for your child, while milk is provided by Celebree School TWC.
- If food is sent from home, it will not be heated at school. To ensure the safety of all children and
  avoid any risk of burns, we do not microwave or warm up food. We recommend using thermos
  containers or sending meals that can be enjoyed at room temperature. Refrigerators are
  available in every classroom. Please do not pack your child's lunch with an ice pack.
- Place your child's labeled lunch in the proper bins, refrigerator or cubby upon arrival.
   Perishable items should be removed from a child's lunch box and placed in the refrigerator
- Teachers will dispose of any foods with expired dates
- Fresh fruits and vegetables will be thoroughly washed prior to eating AM and PM snacks

Milk is not to be brought into the school. All children will be offered milk during lunch unless there is a noted milk allergy from a pediatrician. If a child has a milk allergy; a written doctor's note must be kept in the child's file with an explanation of the allergy and plan of action in case of exposure.

#### **Birthdays and Celebrations**

Birthday and holiday store bought treats are allowed but please consider that we are a **nut-free school** and some may have some children with allergies in our schools, therefore homemade treats will not be permitted. Consider providing nutritious choices low in fat and sugar and that do not contain nuts, peanuts, or nut by-products. Please make teachers aware when treats will be brought in and send enough for each child in your child's classroom. The front office is available to provide the proper head count of children and any allergies that may exist. Please discuss your plans with the school director and classroom teachers in advance.

# Safety

#### **Parking**

Parking for parents and visitors is permitted in designated areas. In cases in which parking is not designated, please ensure you do not park in fire lanes or any unauthorized areas, including the spaces designated for Celebree School TWC buses/vans.

Please do not leave children unaccompanied in vehicles or leave your vehicle running unattended while dropping-off or picking-up your child. Leaving children unattended is against the law and is very dangerous. Should this occur, the proper authorities will be notified immediately.

#### **Arrival Procedures**

Celebree School TWC requires parents, legal guardians, or any authorized individual over the age of eighteen to accompany a child into the building and properly sign in using the tablet located near the

doors to the back of the school. Once signed in, the lobby doors will unlock, allowing access to the back of the school. Please be sure the doors close securely behind you and your child after signing in and refrain from holding the door open for others. For safety reasons, please do not allow your child to run in the hallways and parking area. You must personally take your child to the teacher in the classroom. We kindly ask that to be mindful that drop off and pick up are not conference times. The safety of your child is our outmost priority. Our teachers must be diligently greeting and receiving all children at all times. If you are changing your routine for the day, i.e., a late drop off, please call or contact your school leaders.

### Departure Procedures and Release of Children

Children will only be released to the authorized individual specified on the child's emergency card or if proper documentation is provided by the legal parent or guardian at the time of departure. Celebree School TWC teachers and management have the duty and authority to ask for identification of any person entering the building with whom they are unfamiliar. During a situation when an unauthorized individual is picking up your child, while a parent can inform the classroom teacher, **a written documentation from the parent must be received by the school management.** Identification must be presented during pick-up and a photocopy will be made that will be maintained in the school's pick-up log. Any legal documents regarding custody or visitation must be provided to the school.

If the parent or authorized person arrives to pick up a child and that person appears to be intoxicated or under the influence of drugs, all reasonable steps will be taken to prevent that person from leaving with the child, including offering to call another contact person. While we cannot legally withhold a child from the legal guardian, we will not hesitate to call the local authorities if we feel the child is in danger. Any staff (persons) faced with this problem will report immediately to the Director, and the authorities will be phoned.

Same safety rules and routines from arrival procedures apply for departure procedures.

#### **Supervision**

Celebree School TWC is committed to protect the children in our care. We believe children must be always supervised while in our care. Careful planning of the environment, classroom resources, play experiences, routines, and staff movements are all also important elements of effective supervision. In addition, our teachers utilize Tadpoles, our online child supervision tool, to record face to name accounts for all the children in their care on thirty-minute intervals and during each transition including transporting children on field trips, special events and local elementary schools for before and after care. All children are always monitored by sight and sound. Celebree School TWC is equipped with closed circuit monitoring systems in the classrooms, hallways, and playgrounds.

#### **Armed Intruder Plan**

The safety of our children, staff, and visitors is of the utmost importance. This policy outlines our procedures for handling situations involving a dangerous intruder attempting to gain access to the facility.

All entry points to the facility will remain locked during operational hours. Access is controlled through secured keypad entry with personalized codes. All visitors must present their identification and sign in at the front office before entering the facility. Staff will receive regular training on how to identify potential threats and respond to emergency situations, including recognizing the signs of a dangerous intruder or the signs of a fire.

If a staff member notices a suspicious individual attempting to gain entry, they must immediately notify the Director. The Director or designated staff member will announce a lockdown using the overhead PA system.

All staff must ensure that classroom doors are locked, and children are moved to a secure area away from windows and doors. Curtains or blinds should be closed, and lights turned off to minimize visibility. A designated staff member will call 911 to report the intruder, providing specific details such as appearance, behavior, and location.

The Director will continue to use internal communication tools (e.g., walkie-talkies or a secure phone line) to coordinate with staff and ensure all areas of the facility are secure. Families will be notified via Tadpoles as soon as it is safe to do so, with updates on the situation.

Once law enforcement has resolved the situation and deemed it safe, an all-clear signal will be given to staff

Parents and guardians will be informed when it is safe to pick up their children. Procedures for controlled release will be followed to ensure safety.

A meeting will be held with staff to review the incident, provide support, and gather feedback for improvements. The preschool will conduct regular drills to ensure staff and children are familiar with the lockdown and safety procedures.

## **Emergency/Disaster Plan**

Ensuring the health, safety, and welfare of children and staff is our top priority. This policy outlines the procedures for reporting and managing any incident or unusual occurrence that poses a threat to the well-being of individuals at the facility.

An emergency incident or unusual occurrence includes, but is not limited to:

- Accidents resulting in injury.
- Exposure to hazardous materials.
- Fire, Tornado or other natural disaster
- Any situation that disrupts the normal operations of the preschool and poses a potential risk.

The priority is to ensure the safety of all children and staff by taking appropriate emergency measures (e.g., evacuation, first aid, lockdown based on incident). The staff member who identifies the incident must immediately inform the Director or the designated safety officer. If needed, call 911 to report emergencies involving immediate threats to health or safety. Notify the parents/guardians of affected children as soon as possible after the situation is under control. Report the incident to appropriate licensing or regulatory bodies within required timeframes if necessary. If evacuation is necessary, alert the pre-determined evacuation site of arrival.

The Director will conduct an internal review of the incident to identify the cause, evaluate the response, and recommend any necessary changes to current procedures. The Director will hold a debriefing session with involved staff to discuss the incident and gather feedback and determine any needed training for staff on emergency preparedness, incident reporting, or best practices for ensuring safety.

All media inquiries must be directed to the Director. Staff members should not make any statements to the media independently.

## **Accident or Injury Procedures**

In the event a child is injured, the teacher will assess the physical area to ensure it is safe and the director will be informed in order to either write a note or call the parents. Basic first aid will be administered by the trained teacher in the classroom. After the assessment and initial treatment of the child, an accident report will be completed by the classroom teacher, this form will be reviewed and signed by a member of management and given to the parent the same day of the injury. Parents are to sign the report, a copy will be provided to the parent and a copy will be placed in the child's file.

The teacher will notify the Director immediately anytime a child is injured. Upon the school management's discretion outside medical services may be contacted if needed. Any time outside medical services are contacted the parent / guardian must be notified as well.

The parent / guardian will immediately be notified of their child's injury if one of the following has occurred

- An injury above the neck with or without a visible mark. A few examples include but are not limited to: a bumped head, an eye injury, a tongue bite, bloody nose, loss of a tooth naturally or through trauma to the mouth, scratch to the face, etc.
- If the child was injured and the skin was broken regardless of where the injury is located. School management will notify their state licensing specialist/inspector within 24 hours of:
- Any injury to a child that requires treatment by a medical attendant
- Any child that is admitted to a hospital as a result of an injury in our care

If a child is transferred to a hospital while under the care of the school, the School Director or person responsible for care will take with them the child's medical information that includes:

- Parent/guardian signed authorization for the school to seek emergency medical treatment
- Parent/guardian signed consent forms allowing the program to share children's health information with emergency medical professionals and other necessary service provider
- If applicable, a written incident/injury report

# **Emergency Preparedness Plan**

Offsite Evacuation Destination: Clean Touch Cleaners at 8633 W. Rayford Rd. Spring, TX Ph: 83284327648

Evacuation of the Center to the Evacuation Destination would ONLY occur in the event that the <a href="WHOLE">WHOLE</a> Center is unsafe. This would include but not limited to: gas leaks, toxic chemical releases, etc. No child should be released until "child accounting" is complete.

By law, during disaster, teachers become "disaster workers".

It is the responsibility of staff members for the safety of the center's children. Staff members must have in place emergency plans for their own children and families. Staff members will be required to stay at the center and fulfill their responsibilities to the center's children. The Director will release teachers when appropriate.



# **Non-Smoking Campus**

Celebree School TWC is a non-smoking campus. This includes cigarettes, e-cigarettes and vapes. Disregard for this policy could create serious health concerns for children with allergies or asthma.

#### Pets on Site

Due to allergies, no pets are allowed in the classrooms.

# **Outdoor Play**

As we consider the outdoors an extension of the indoor classroom outdoor play is an important part of a healthful environment and curriculum. Our playgrounds, equipment, materials (wheeled toys, balls, hoops, ribbons), and activities are also available to enhance the children's play experience. Children go outside twice each day, weather permitting.

Since outdoor play is a part of the curriculum and daily routine, and you feel your child is not well enough to play outdoors, then he or she should not attend school. It is important for parents to provide the appropriate clothing and outerwear for the weather conditions. Children are required to wear closed toed shoes while in school once walking.

In warmer weather parents are encouraged to provide sunscreen along with a medication form that must be signed in order to apply sunscreen, per the 'Health Records' section of this handbook. Children are also encouraged to consume water to replenish body fluids. Typically, the length of time spent outside is reduced and often the children wait to go outside until late in the day or early morning when the sun is less intense.

During severe weather children will stay indoors and participate in a gross motor activity when any of the following conditions are present:

- Rain, ice or snow
- Approaching severe weather including the presence of lightning and/or thunder

 Temperature below 32 degrees for children 2 and older or below 40 degrees for children under the age of 2

The equipment is unsafe due to snow or ice during the winter months accommodations will be made for limited outdoor time when:

• Children may have snow "play days" if all parents were notified in advance and all children have adequate clothing, mittens, boots, etc.

During the summer months, Celebree School TWC will utilize following guidelines:

- On code red days, due to extreme heat and/or poor air quality all children will remain indoors to participate in gross motor activities.
- When temperatures are above 90 degrees, all outdoor activities should be limited to 10 minutes.
- Water will be always available to the children.
- Sunscreen will be applied before going outside during the summer months.

### **Screen Time**

Celebree School TWC provides a activity-focused early learning environment. We believe children learn best through active participation, hands-on experiences, interactive conversation, and exploration. Celebree School TWC follows the recommendations established by the American Academy of Pediatrics, which has found that too much television viewing has been linked to poor performance in school, overweight children, and the establishment of poor dietary habits. As such, children at Celebree School TWC under the age of two will not have access to any digital media viewing.

For children age two and older screen time is limited to 60 minutes per week and no more than 30 minutes at a time. Passive screen time is not permitted within the school; all screen time is facilitated screen time and only used to support the lesson plan for all children over the age of 2. Teachers are actively engaged with children before, during and after facilitated screen time.

Computer use is limited to 15-minute increments per child not to exceed 30 minutes weekly and for the purpose of enhancing educational experiences only. School-age children who are completing homework or supervised enrichment activities will have additional access to computers and digital resources as needed. Parental controls are in place on all computers. Teachers will supervise the use of computers to protect from exposure to inappropriate websites.

We ask that all personal electronics and screen type devices not be brought to the school. This includes but is not limited to iPods, iPads, and tablets of any kind. Celebree School TWC is not responsible for the replacement or repair of any such personal devices brought into our school.

# Family's Resources for Licensing and Policies

Families are invited to review policies that govern all early childhood programs. You can contact the local licensing office and review policies online at:

- Minimum standards can be found at <a href="https://www.hhs.texas.gov">https://www.hhs.texas.gov</a>
- Texas Abuse and Neglect Hotline; Phone: 1-800-252-5400 or online <a href="https://www.txabusehotline.org">https://www.txabusehotline.org</a>
- HHSC website (To access local Licensing): tps://www.hhs.texas.gov

## Gang-Free and Bully-Free Zone

Under the Texas Penal Code, any area within 1,000 feet of a child care center is a gang-free zone, where criminal offenses related to organized criminal offenses related to organized criminal activity are subject to harsher penalties. Keeping children safe is one of our top priorities. Bullying of any form is not permitted at Celebree School TWC. We will make every effort to correct bully-type behaviors. If the behavior does not improve, suspension and/or removal from our program may occur.

# **Communicating with Families**

## **Open Door Policy**

Celebree School TWC promises to provide the kind of care and education you want for your child. Since you should be involved every step of the way, families are welcome to visit at any time to observe or participate in special activities. It is our goal to provide open and frequent communication with you as we partner to ensure your child's success. School management is available at any time for questions, concerns, or to hear about how your family is enjoying the Celebree difference. A scheduled appointment with school management is an effective way to assure that you will have the management's undivided attention during your meeting.

# **Daily Communication**

Teachers of all children in our school maintain an online daily report to properly account for your child's day. The daily report contains age dependent information such as what and how much a child ate during snack and meal times, if a child napped and for how long, special notes to remind parents of upcoming events, what was taught in reference to the lesson plan, and what your child's experiences were throughout the day. It is our goal and responsibility to ensure consistency during the transition between Celebree and home. Upon enrollment into our school, families will receive information to set up Celebree Ecosystem powered by Teaching Strategies, our online parent communication tool.

If it won't interrupt the care of other children in the classroom, teachers are available during drop-off and pick-up to answer any questions or concerns that may arise. A scheduled parent, teacher, and director meeting can be arranged if additional time is needed.

# Family Teacher Conferences

Families are invited to participate in conferences with the classroom teachers to discuss their child's achievements and development. These conferences are held twice a year typically in the late fall (December) and late spring (June). During this time you will be able to:

- Share insights about your child
- Find out about your child's learning and progress through our online assessments
- Review your child's online portfolio
- Discuss any challenges your child is having or any of your own concerns
- Ask for extra help for your child such as potty training, etc.
- Discuss and plan future learning opportunities for your child

It is also important to note that a family may schedule a meeting at any time with their child's teacher. Likewise, a teacher may schedule a meeting with a family if they have concerns or issues. Teachers strive to keep open communication with all families.

# **Family Information Board**

The school's family information board is located in **the entrance hallway** of the school. It contains the following: illness policy, discipline policy, safety policy, monthly newsletter, upcoming SFC meeting information, and community events and resources.

- Each classroom also has an information board located on the outside of the classroom door which contains the weekly lesson plan and a bio for your child's teacher
- Inside each classroom there is a family board that contains the classroom daily schedule, newsletter, and snack menu.

# **Community Resources**

In order for Celebree School TWC to achieve its program goals of diversity, inclusion, successful transitions, robust curriculum and social/emotional healthy children and families, we establish and maintain reciprocal relationships with community agencies and institutions that help us achieve our goal.

Celebree School TWC believes its role is gathering information about community services and informing and assisting families in gaining access to these services. Celebree School TWC will compile and maintain current local resources available to families in the community, particularly those with disabilities and special health care needs and based off the interests and needs of our school family. These resources include, but are not limited to:

- Local service providers for health, mental health, women services, and oral health
- Community providers of nutrition, child welfare, and parenting programs
- Basic needs, such as housing and childcare subsidies
- Cultural or linguistical services for dual language households
- Special family needs such as educational or behavioral supports
- Critical needs that includes local shelters and food pantries
- Hotlines and websites

A copy of the Community Resource Guide will be kept in close proximity to family information board and will be updated as new data becomes known to Director and staff through continuing education and licensing partnerships, local Child Care Resources and Referral Centers. Monthly newsletters, online parent communication tools, bulletin boards, School Family Committee meetings and other such messaging are additional ways these resources will be communicated. In addition, availability and accuracy of information will be reviewed during the schools' quarterly compliance and operational excellence visits as conducted by the Celebree leadership team.

# **Monthly Newsletter**

The school management creates a monthly all school newsletter to be distributed to all families on or before the first of each month. This newsletter will contain news, updates, upcoming school events, new additions to the school, birthdays of the children and staff (optional), and a monthly snack menu. You can also find a copy of the newsletter on the family information board located in the main hallway of the school.

In addition, each classroom will provide its families with classroom newsletters that highlight that month's curriculum focus, age specific community events and resources, classroom reminders and a monthly developmental tidbit.

# **School Family Committee (SFC)**

Involving families in our school is a top priority. This helps children, families, and our teachers make a strong connection between home and school. We are an extension of the family. We strive to develop

a partnership where sharing support, ideas, and genuine love for children is of the utmost importance. We encourage families to participate in our School Family Committee (SFC).

The SFC is made up of families, teachers, and administrators of Celebree School TWC. The goal of the committee is to meet the needs of the Celebree family to include children, families, teachers, and administration. The SFC supports the school by welcoming new families, planning special events, supporting teachers, participating in fundraising events, and discussing the growth of the school, via accreditation expectations and program improvement plans. The Committee will annually review the schools effectiveness of meeting the needs of the children and the families. This will be accomplished by reviewing family surveys, teacher surveys, the annual CLASS score, the annual Accreditation Brand Standard Score. This annual review is used to inform the program's continuous quality improvement plan that is then shared with the staff, parents and stakeholders.

Please see the Director to share your interest in being a part of the SFC.

In addition, there will be various opportunities for families to meet with and engage other Celebree families and community partners. These may include in-school activities, out of school family events, parent resource nights, and other activities that align with the Celebree mission and values.

### Celebree Website

The Celebree website can be accessed by visiting www.Celebree.com. The website contains valuable information such as the Celebree history, how to contact us, a virtual tour, parent resources, curriculum information, updates on upcoming Celebree locations, and much more.

## **Program Evaluation**

We value your input regarding the care you and your child receive at Celebree Schoo TWCI. In our effort to continually improve, we will conduct quarterly surveys one of our means of evaluating our program. In addition to this survey we will solicit your feedback by way of informal conversations and family conferences.

#### Satisfaction and Resolution

All concerns should be addressed as soon as possible. Often, a family's concern can be an opportunity for program improvement. It is usually best to discuss a concern directly with the person who can address the situation. In some cases, the teacher would be the person who can help find a resolution; in other cases, it may be the School Director or the Assistant Director. **Families are encouraged to make an appointment** with the appropriate person and to openly discuss the matter of concern so that we may work together toward resolution. If your management team is not able to resolve the concern to your satisfaction, please feel free to contact the owners.

Any health and safety concerns should be brought to the attention of a member of the school management team immediately.

Celebree school TWC does not, "discriminate, invoke a penalty against, or take any other retaliatory action against a student or parent or guardian of a student who files a complaint alleging that the program or school discriminated against the student, regardless of the outcome of the complaint.", as stated in the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

# Volunteering

Due to the highly secure facility that we offer, security background checks needed, and to protect the children in our care, we are unable to accept regularly scheduled volunteers into our schools. We do

encourage families to participate as field trip chaperones, help in the classroom during parties and holiday celebrations, as a guest speaker or reader, and/or to provide demonstrations of a skill.

# **General Policies**

## **Outside Employment of Celebree Teachers**

Celebree does not condone or recommend any employee for private care. If a parent contracts an employee for private care, Celebree School TWC will not accept liability for care services provided outside of our standard business hours or off Celebree School TWC premises. A waiver will be signed by the family and our employee prior beginning services with the family. This form will remain at the school.

# **Confidentiality Policy**

To protect the rights of your child and your family, children's records are only available to the school's administrators, authorized staff of Celebree, the state licensing branch, and the child's parent(s) or legal guardian(s). Confidential or sensitive information will only be shared with employees of Celebree who have a "need to know" in order to most appropriately and safely care for your child. Confidential or sensitive information about staff, other parents and/or children will not be shared with parents, as Celebree strives to protect everyone's right of privacy. Confidential information includes, but is not limited to: names, addresses, phone numbers, disability information, custody agreements, and health related information of anyone associated with Celebree.

## **Family Code of Conduct**

It is our goal to provide a safe and loving environment in which a child can grow, learn and develop. Achieving this ideal environment is not only the responsibility of the employees of Celebree School TWC, but also of each family member or adult who enters the school. We require all adults to conduct themselves in a manner that fosters this ideal environment.

The actions that hinder a positive environment are but are not limited to the following:

- Swearing or cursing
- Threatening of employees, children or other parents
- Physical or verbal punishment of your child or other children in the school
- Smoking or vaping
- Confrontational interactions at the school that include disrespectful demeanor

Celebree School TWC will deny access to a parent or other adult if the behavior of that person poses a risk to the children or employees.

# Clothing

In order to foster independence and self-help skills, we ask that you send your child to the school in clothes that they can manage independently. Three sets of changes of clothes and a pair of socks and shoes are require and they should be labeled. We recommend that your child wear tennis shoes or shoes with rubber soles. For your child's safety, please do not send your child in flip flops or open toe shoes as we do not permit this type of shoe on the playground. As soon as infants start trying to stand, we ask that they wear non-slip, developmentally appropriate shoes to support their safety and growth.

# **Notice of Policy Changes**

Celebree School TWC provides a family handbook to uphold our promise to educate families on our unique program offering. This handbook is subject to change without notice. Updated policies will be distributed to families from the school management. Additionally, the Handbook is reviewed annually and if updates are made will be shared with our families.

# **Thank You!**

Thank you, our continuing and newest Celebree family member, for choosing us to protect, educate, and nurture your most precious gift...your child. We are committed to providing you and your child with the best family child experience. We will hold ourselves accountable to our commitments of upholding the Celebree brand. We hope that this is the start of a long relationship with your family and the Celebree family. The door is always open for your feedback and suggestions as to how we can improve your experience at Celebree School TWC.