

Parent Handbook

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**PARENT HANDBOOK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The Playpen Child Care Center parent handbook is used to outline the expectations, policies and procedure of the school that all families must understand and comply with. You have received this handbook as a partner in your child’s development at The Playpen Child Care Center. After reviewing this document, the consent form on the last page must be completed and handed back to administration. This consent form states that you understand and adhere to all expectations, policies and procedures of this learning environment. This handbook will be updated from time to time, and the most up to date copy will be made available to you. Thank you for being a part of The Playpen Child Care Center

Family.

**WHO ARE WE?!**

**MISSION STATEMENT**

At The Playpen Child Care Center, we believe each child has the potential to bring something unique and special into the world. By having a respectful and caring bond with both the student and the family, we as a school are able to create a strong foundation for a wonderful early childhood experience for our students. Through active exploration of the world around them, play, interaction with others, memorable experiences and hands-on learning activities, our student’s development and growth occurs every second of every day. Our mission is to provide a safe, nurturing, exciting quality learning environment for all of our students. Our love for children is the reason the school first opened, and the reason we remain open to this day. Committed to the families we serve, we strive to give parents the feeling that their child is in the care of the most loving, knowledgeable, and thoughtful caregivers, every day. Children deserve to feel special, love, adored, and cherished. They deserve to participate in experiences that will change their lives forever and The Playpen Child Care Center promises to provide the environment to make this come true!

**OUR VALUES**

Our vision is to provide a community where all students feel respected, loved, and encourage to become to best person they can be. Our vision is the backbone to our business, supporting children to develop into their fullest and greatest potential.

**Our values consist of the following but are not limited to:**

* **Quality** – We believe every child deserves excellence in early learning programs and services to make a difference in their lives and our community.
* **Inclusion** – all students are included into our learning environment. We welcome all with open arms, and love in our hearts.
* **Respect** – Respect is essential in building the relationships with our students and families that lasts a lifetime. Respect is a key component to our works as it helps to optimize the talents and diversity we bring into the school as partners in the child’s grows and development.
* **Accountability** – We pride ourselves to provide open communication with all partners of our business. This allows us to be transparent, open and honest with one another, and in turn provides the best environment for our students at home and at school.
* **Teamwork** – The combined action of both the educators and the families working together provides an effective and efficient working relationship. By acting together as a team, we are working together to provide the best for the best interests of a common cause, which is for our little ones!

**OUR GOALS**

The Playpen Child Care Center goals provide us a path to our desirable outcomes for our students. These goals provide direction and motivation for the quality of care and education we provide.

1. To provide a wide variety of developmentally appropriate practices, that children not only learn and develop from, but also enjoy.
2. To provide a flexible, calm and nurturing environment where affection is given freely and from the heart.
3. Independence is encouraged and expectations are clear for all students.
4. To meet the physical, emotional and social need of our students.
5. To provide an atmosphere of respect for self and one another.
6. To provide opportunities of cooperative play.
7. To create a happy, warm and exciting environment that is inviting, comfortable, and manageable for the children.
8. To support a caring staff who show genuine respect, love and encouragement for the children.
9. To offer individual guidance to children based upon careful observation of each child’s needs and in keeping with parent/guardian direction.
10. To ensure the safety and welfare of all children.

**A LOOK INTO OUR PROGRAM**

**WHAT WE DO AND WHAT WE BELIEVE**

At The Playpen Child Care Center, we believe each child has the potential to bring something unique and special into the world. By having a respectful and caring bond with both the student and the family, we as a school are able to create a strong foundation for a wonderful early childhood experience for our students. Through active exploration of the world around them, play, interaction with others, memorable experiences and hands-on learning activities, our student’s development and growth occurs every second of every day. We strive to have the upmost respect and love for all children who walks through our school’s doors. We are a family!

**DESCRIPTION OF AGE GROUPS**

**INFANTS (CURRENTLY NOT ENROLLING)**

**This age group begins at Two months to Twelve months old.**

In the infant classroom, we follow a wonderful daily flow. No matter what your baby’s individual sleeping and eating schedule is, we always come together to make wonderful memories. We enjoy story time together, outside walks, learning circle, sensory exploration and creative art. We also enjoy our days learning lots of songs, reading wonderful stories and interacting with our friends and teachers. We love discovering different textures, size of items, and shapes. We love learning about our weekly themes like shapes, colors, animals and people. Our little ones are always nurtured, cuddled, loved and adored and whenever they need something, we are there!

**TODDLERS**

**This age group begins at 12 months to 24 months old.**

In the toddler classroom, we explore anything and everything we possibly can. Our little one’s love wondering around the classroom learning through their senses. Our toddlers have a wonderful daily schedule of group time, outdoor play, meals and snacks, naptime and the most important and fun time of the day, PLAYTIME! During our group time we read books about transportation, family and kindness. We talk about our day, how we feel and what it means to be together in our bright and warm classroom. We enjoy our outdoor playtime and seeing the beautiful nature outside. Our weekly themes consist of exploring our homes, families, pets and animals. Singing and playing our days away is what makes our room so special!

**OLDER TODDLER**

**This age group begins at 2 years old to 3 years old.**

Our older toddlers love to dance, sing and play. We inspire them to explore the world around them and learn something from everything. Socialization is very important to our older toddlers as the begin to share, use their manners and learn to take turns. In this age group we begin to count numbers and have letter recognition. We enjoy singing our daily songs to teach us about the day of the week, the month and the year. We love diving into our art projects and seeing what we can create with an abundance of materials. We enjoy watching our teachers do exciting science projects and love to watch the students guess what will happen and see their eyes full of surprise! Getting outside and playing on the playground is a part of our everyday schedule. We also enjoy walks around the neighborhood and putting a smile on our neighbors faces!

**PRESCHOOL AND PRE-K**

**This age group starts at 3 years old and prepares the students for Kindergarten.**

In this age group we focus on our social emotional growth and explore who we are as beautiful, unique individuals. We learn how to work together and how to conquer objectives by ourselves. We enjoy writing our names, learning to read and exploring phonics. We enjoy extreme science projects that make us say “WOW!” and we dive into our sensory bin which helps enhance the learning theme we are studying that week. We often have guest speakers and love exploring the community to supplement our learning. We get outside often to move our bodies and strengthen our fine and gross motor muscles. This age group helps to prepare our students for the next grade which is Kindergarten. Our little ones are well on their way to a successful journey into the older ages!

**OUR CURRICULUM**

**DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE CURRICULUM**

At The Playpen Child Care Center, we provide our students with a developmentally appropriate curriculum that is based on South Carolina standards. NAEYC, which is the National Association for the Education of Younge Children, defines developmentally appropriate curriculum as, “NAEYC defines “developmentally appropriate practice” as methods that promote each child's optimal development and learning through a strengths-based, play-based approach to joyful, engaged learning.” We believe this to be the heart of our curriculum. Our weekly lesson plans are developed through our students interests and what grabs their attention. We love to study themes that get them excited, interested and progresses their natural cognitive development. We try our best to meet every child’s individual cognitive and development level and encourage and inspire them to continue to progress this growth.

**LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT**

Our developmentally appropriate experiences and activities, such as book reading, singing, art activities, games, and journaling represent meaningful learning opportunities which incorporate early literacy concepts and handwriting in various forms. Language development skills are developed through exposure to letter-sound connections, combining those sounds into meaningful words, and putting words together into sentences to communicate our thoughts, feelings and ideas. Our language activities foster your child’s handwriting abilities, phonological awareness, vocabulary, alphabet letters knowledge, and narrative skills.

**COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT: SCIENCE, MATH AND SOCIAL STUDIES**

Cognitive development means how children explore, think, create answers and figure things out. It is the development of knowledge, skills, and problem solving, which help children to think about and understand the world around them.

**Math**

Early math skills involve children learning the basic concepts of numbers, counting, simple addition and subtraction. We begin with learning how to count one by one using manipulative materials. We also learn how to recognize single and double-digit numbers, and once this skill is mastered, we learn how to add and subtract numbers. Visual representation is key as children learn how to build relationships between written numbers and represented items. Children also learn how to construct simple patterns and sort objects by color, shape, and size.

**Science**

Science helps children develop and understanding of scientific concepts and develop inquiry skills. Scientific development in young children consists of children using their senses in order to observe, compare, measure, make predictions, classify, and construct hypotheses. Students are born natural scientists. Students are eager and curious to explore the world around them. At The Playpen Child Care Center our job is to nurture their scientific spirit and provide students with the opportunity to enhance their scientific exploration experiences in and out of the classroom!

**Social Studies**

Social studies learning begins as children make friends and participate in decision-making in the classroom. Then it moves beyond the school into the neighborhood and around the world. Here at The Playpen Child Care Center, we explore different cultures, places, foods, music and backgrounds of beautiful people around the world. We take monthly virtual trips to different countries, where we interact with people who share insight into their traditional customs and culture. We love exploring the world and opening our eyes to the many different beautiful people and places on this planet!

**SOCIAL EMOTIONAL**

Children’s emotional well-being during their early years has a powerful impact on their social relationships. Children who are emotionally healthy are better able to establish and maintain positive relationships with adults and their friends. children are learning to talk about their feelings and the feelings of others. Social-emotional development involves more than just expressing emotions. It involves taking turns, becoming independent, following routines, interacting more with peers than just verbal communication, engaging in meaningful relationships, controlling and managing emotions, and developing a positive and loving self-image. These skills are crucial for children’s successful participation in all aspects of life, in school and home experiences, and for their overall positive self-growth.

**PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT: FINE AND GROSS MOTOR**

**Fine Motor:**

Fine motor skills involve movement of the smaller muscle groups in your child's hands, fingers, and wrists. While hand-eye coordination comes far more naturally to some, this is not true of all. Children have to learn how to control their muscle movement in their hands in order to obtain hand-eye coordination and more. There are specific ways we do this in the classroom such as having your child use scissors, color, play with Legos, draw pictures and more. These skills can turn into more advanced ones later on like when your child decides he/she wants to knit, play the guitar or type on the computer!

**Gross Motor:**

Gross motor skills involve movements of the large muscles of the arms, legs, and torso. Kids rely on gross motor skills for everyday activities at school, at home and in the community. It's these larger muscle groups that allow babies to sit up, turn over, crawl, and walk. By playing actively indoors and outdoors, each child develops muscle strength, endurance, agility, coordination, balance, and flexibility, as well as builds confidence and social skills.

**SENSORY EXPLORATION**

Sensory exploration is a child's way of examining, discovering, categorizing, and making sense of the world, and it's beneficial to provide them with opportunities for sensory play. Here at The Playpen Child Care Center the student participates in activities that allow them to explore different types of materials, and enhance their senses like music and dance games, sensory bin exploration, and playing with a variety of materials that smell, feel and taste very different!

**ART, MUSIC, DANCE AND CREATIVE EXPRESSION**

At The Playpen Child Care Center, we encourage and provide opportunities for our students to explore creative expressions such as art, music, dancing, and drama. The creative arts engage children’s minds, bodies, and senses and allows them to explore their imagination, sense of movement and rhythm, and their ability to express themselves through art. Teachers plan activities to introduce children to different kinds of art media, music, culture and dance to encourage the student’s development of creativity and imagination. Many opportunities are presented for exploration by playing with water, dirt, kinetic sand, many seasonal nature items, and various food items in the sensory table. The arts allow students to dive into different means of expressing themselves and have fun while doing so!

**ADMISSIONS**

**ENROLLMENT REQUIRMENTS**

To enroll your child at The Playpen Child Care Center your child must be between ages of 12 months and 5 years old.

**REGISTRATION DOCUMENTS**

The following forms must be completed to reserve your child’s spot at The Playpen Child Care Center

* Enrollment Application
* Registration fee
* First week/month Tuition
* Child’s Medical Information and Form
* Parent Contact Information Form

**ENROLLMENT FEES**

* $50 registration fee
* $175/$185 tuition deposit
* 1st month enrollment

**SPECIAL DISCOUNTS**

* 10% off sibling discount
* 10% off if you pay 1 full year of tuition

**SIBLING ENROLLMENT PROGRAM**

The Playpen Child Care Center requires advance notice of 3 months for the placement of a sibling into our program. Siblings are given priority into the school but are not guaranteed a spot. Families receive a 10% discount off of the lowest sibling’s monthly tuition.

**WAITLIST INFORMATION**

To join The Playpen Child Care Center’s waitlist, parents/guardians must give their name and child’s name and birthdate along with a good telephone number for communication.

**CLASSROOM PLAY DATE AND SCHOOL VISITATION**

The Playpen Child Care Center allows a one hour scheduled playdate onsite, one month prior to the child’s start date. This must be confirmed and scheduled with administration. It is the parent’s responsibility to schedule the play date so that the administer can confirm the proper day and time.

**ANNUAL ENROLLMENT FEE**

The Playpen Child Care Center requires a $50 reenrollment fee on the first of March. This confirms your child’s spot for the upcoming school year which starts the first week of September.

**ITEMS TO BRING ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL**

Your child must have the following on their first day of school

* Pair of closed toed indoor shoes
* Extra set of clothes brough in a Ziplock bag
* A blanket for nap time
* A soft toy if desired for nap time
* Proper outdoor wear
* Diapers
* Pacifier if needed

**UPDATING FORMS FOR YOUR CHILD’S FILE**

The Playpen Child Care Center requires all parents/guardians of enrolled students to keep their child’s forms up to date with their current medical and emergency forms. It is the parent’s responsibility to ensure all school forms are current and updated. Administration has the right to not allow the student into the school if any forms are missing from their file after 2 notices from administration.

**PAYMENT POLICIES**

**PROGRAM OPTIONS**

The Playpen Child Care Center offers full time care to all children ages 12 months to five years old.

**PROGRAM CHANGE OF DAYS ENROLLED**

If you wish to change the days your child is enrolled in the program, you must do so with approval from the director. Adding days to your current program, and or switching the day of the week your child is enrolled, depends on our current space availability.

**ADDED DAILY RATE**

**MONTHLY TUITION FEE**

If paying monthly, tuition is due a week prior to the closing of the current month.

**FIELD TRIP FEE**

**LATE PAYMENT FEE**

There will be a $25 late fee added to tuition that is not paid by 6pm, Friday.

**PAYMENTS THAT ARE RETURNED**

All returned check payments will incur a $35 return fee.

**EVALUATION OF TUITION RATES**

All families will be notified of any changes of tuition rates 3 months prior to when they come active. The enables are family time to be aware of the changes in prices and to contact administration with any questions.

**ABSENCE FEE**

The Playpen Child Care Center does not offer tuition refunds or make up days. Tuition will be the same regardless of child’s attendance.

**VACATIONS**

Families who choose to remove their child from the school for more than 3 weeks, must pay 60% of the child’s tuition to reserve their current spot.

**LATE PICK-UP CHARGE**

A charge of $1 per minute will be added to the tuition of any child due to late pick up. Charges begin at 6:00 pm and is due with the weekly tuition.

**HOLIDAYS**

The Playpen Child Care Center is closed for all major holidays. Weekly tuition is still due. New Year’s Eve, New Year, Memorial Day, 4th of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day.

**WEATHER POLICY**

The Playpen Child Care Center may close due to harsh weather conditions. No discounts are given. The owner/director of the school will monitor local news to address when the school must close early or cancel operations for that day and the parents will be notified through email or a direct phone call.

**WITHDRAWAL AND DISCHARGE POLICY**

**WITHDRAWING FROM THE CENTER**

If you wish to withdraw your child from The Playpen Child Care Center, a 30-day written notice is required. If you fail to provide a 30-day notice, this will result in not receiving the tuition deposit made upon enrolling your child.

**DISCHARGE POLICY**

The Playpen Child Care Center has the right to terminate a child’s enrollment under specific circumstances. These include any child who after many attempts does not progress in their behavior and whose behavior is affecting the large group as a whole. This also includes any child whose needs cannot be met by the school’s philosophies. Many attempts will be made prior to help the child thrive in our environment. These include observation notes, therapy referrals and tactics to be used at home and onsite at the school.

The following measures will occur prior to dismissal of a student from the school:

1. The teacher will document the student’s behavior by providing detailed notes, with dates and other insights into why the situation occurred and what happened.
2. The director, parents/guardians, and teachers will meet to discuss any behavior concerns.
3. A Behavior Plan for the Individual is created and agreed on by all parties including staff, parents and administration. Behavior therapist and consultants may be used to support the staff when working with the child.
4. Staff and parents/guardians will have frequent communication to evaluate the success of the behavior plan.

When the efforts to bring about change have been exhausted, parents/guardians and the director and owner will meet to determine the next course of action. The school and its staff reserve the right to determine any disputed factual matters regarding termination of enrollment.

**ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE**

**ARRIVAL PROCEDURE**

Upon arriving to the school, parents must pull up in the designated pick up and drop off spot in the front of the building. Parent’s must walk their child up to the classroom door and sign child in in the provided binder. The teacher will also sign the child in on the classroom roster and assist the child with putting their belongings away. Drop off time is between 6 am and 9 am.

**DEPARTURE PROCEDURE**

The allocated pick-up time is from 4pm to 6 pm daily. If you plan to pick up your child earlier, please notify administration 2 hours prior through email. Upon picking up your child, you are responsible for signing them out and grabbing they’re belongings. This includes nap time items, artwork and other personal items.

**PICK UP AUTHORIZATION**

For safety of the child, the only people authorized to pick up a child are those designated by the parent/guardian on the child’s approved pick-up list. If a child is to be released to anyone other than the person(s) listed, a written note authorizing pick up must be received prior to pick-up time.

**Pick Up Authorization Process:**

* Parents/guardians must inform The Playpen Child Care Center (call, leave a note at drop off) of the name of the person who is picking up their child on any day when they themselves are not.
* The “Authorized Pick-Up Person” **must be at least 18 years old**and may be asked to provide a photo ID to the staff.
* This authorization shall remain in force until edited or rescinded in writing by the signers of this authorization.

**GENERAL EMPLOYEE INFORMATION**

**STAFFING AT The Playpen Child Care Center**

The Playpen Child Care Center always provides sufficient number of staff, for the capacity of each classroom. This means that student to teacher ratios is always followed. A detailed staffing plan is maintained and kept in the office.

 **WHAT MAKES OUR STAFF SPECIAL?**

Our staff are able to demonstrate the skill and competence necessary to contribute to each child's physical, intellectual, personal, emotional, and social development.  Factors contributing to the attainment of this standard include:

* Emotional maturity when working with children.
* Cooperation with the purposes and services of the program.
* Respect for children and adults.
* Flexibility, understanding and patience.
* Physical and mental health that do not interfere with childcare responsibilities.
* Good personal hygiene.
* Frequent interaction with children.
* Listening skills, availability and responsiveness to children.
* Sensitivity to children's socioeconomic, cultural, ethnic and religious backgrounds, and individual needs and capabilities.
* Use of positive discipline and guidance techniques; and
* Ability to provide an environment in which children can feel comfortable, relaxed, happy and involved in play, recreation and other activities.

**GENERAL EMPLOYEE CLASSIFICATIONS**

The Playpen Child Care Center has the following employees on staff to ensure proper supervision and learning environment.

* **Owner:** The owner is in charge of and oversees all elements of the program. The owner handles all business in regard to the city and state. The owner oversees the business finances and the business as a whole.
* **Director:** The childcare director shall be responsible for the planning and supervision of the program and activities of the children; orientation to newly employed staff; on-site supervision of all staff; and in-service training.
* **Lead Teacher:** A lead teacher is responsible for the academic, social-emotional growth and development of children in their care who are in their care. The main focus for our lead teachers is to work with parents, administrators and other teachers to improve students' experience and meet teaching goals. Additionally, lead teachers plan, evaluate and improve the physical environment of the classroom to create opportunities that meet the changing needs of their students.
* **Assistant Teacher:** The assistant teacher will support the lead teacher in general supervision of the class, and the overall classroom management. The assistant teachers’ duties are the following but not limited to, assist in planning and implementing activities to meet the physical, emotional, intellectual and social need of students, assist in teaching social emotional management and independence, assist in the creation and planning of activities, class project, field trips, and other program activities, staying on task and following the daily schedule, and helping to communicate to parents.
* **Floater and Substitutes:** The floater/substitute position act as a support for all teachers in the classroom. This person is required to have all of the same qualifications as an assistant teacher and have the correct paperwork on file.

**YUMMY, IT IS TIME TO EAT!**

**PREPARATION OF FOOD**

Food services are prepared and provided by The Playpen Child Care Center.

**MEALTIMES**

Meals are served at 8:30am, 12:00pm, and 3:15 pm

**MENUS**

All food menus are posted in the kitchen, walkway entry, classrooms, and the office.

**WATER AND MEALTIME FLUIDS**

Drinking water is always freely available to all children at The Playpen Child Care Center.

The Playpen Child Care Center will provide milk to the students for breakfast and lunch. Water will be served with snack.

**CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL DIETS**

If a student has allergy or dietary restrictions, please inform the school immediately. Parents/guardians must notify administration in writing and this is kept in the child’s file. This information is also posted in The Playpen Child Care Center’s classroom for all to be aware.

Depending on the seriousness of the allergy and form of ramification used, parents may be asked to complete a Food Allergy Information form.

**FOOD FROM HOME**

If The Playpen Child Care Center is unable to provide the food needed for a special diet, meals or portions may be provided by the parent. This must be agreed upon by the parent and administration. Potentially hazardous and perishable food will be refrigerated upon arrival. Special foods provided by parents must be clearly labeled with the child's name, date, and identity of the food and will not be shared with other children. These special meals will not be shared with other students, and it is the parent’s responsibility to ensure the student has food at the school every day.

**SCHOOL CELEBRATIONS**

The Playpen Child Care Center loves to celebrate your little one during the school day! Parents/guardians must confirm this with administration one week prior to the celebration to go over any allergy restrictions the school has, and the amount needed to satisfy the classrooms capacity.

**GENERAL SCHOOL POLICIES**

**TYPE OF INSURANCE**

NEXT Liability Insurance

**STATE REGULATIONS AND LICENSING**

All The Playpen Child Care Center employees must be knowledgeable in the states childcare licensing rules and regulations. A copy of the state and local guidelines is kept in the school at all times, and each employee receives their own copy upon hire.

**SMOKING POLICY**

Marijuana, cigarettes, and other smokeless tobacco products are not allowed at The Playpen Child Care Center. Parents/guardians who smoke are strongly encouraged to not do so prior to picking up their child from school, as smoke stays on clothing and hair for some time. All parents and guardians must wash their hands after smoking prior to arriving to school.

**ALCOHOL POLICY**

If at any time we feel that a parent, guardian or anyone authorized to pick up or drop off the child is under the influence of alcohol and/or any other toxic substance, the school may refuse the release of the child and the school will contact another authorized person to come and collect the child, explaining the circumstances. In some cases, an incident of this nature could lead to a referral to our governing bodies and a call to social services.

**EQUAL EMPLOYMENT**

The Playpen Child Care Center provides equal employment opportunities to all employees and applicants for employment and prohibits discrimination and harassment of any type without regard to race, color, religion, age, sex, national origin, disability status, genetics, protected veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or any other characteristic protected by federal, state or local laws.

This policy applies to all terms and conditions of employment, including recruiting, hiring, placement, promotion, termination, layoff, recall, transfer, leaves of absence, compensation and training.

**\* SHRM Better Workplace Better World**

**NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY**

At The Playpen Child Care Center, we value all employees and job candidates as unique individuals, and we welcome the variety of experiences they bring to our company. As such, we have a strict non-discrimination policy. We believe everyone should be treated equally regardless of race, sex, gender identification, sexual orientation, national origin, native language, religion, age, disability, marital status, citizenship, genetic information, pregnancy, or any other characteristic protected by law. If you feel that you have been discriminated against, please let administration know immediately. Every complaint will be appropriately investigated.

**\* SHRM Better Workplace Better World**

**SEXUAL HARRASSMENT**

Sexual harassment constitutes discrimination and is illegal under federal, state and local laws. For the purposes of this policy, “sexual harassment” is defined, as in the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Guidelines, as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when, for example: a) submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual’s employment, b) submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting such individual, or c) such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual’s work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive working environment.

Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 recognizes two types of sexual harassment: a) quid pro quo and b) hostile work environment. Sexual harassment may include a range of subtle and not-so-subtle behaviors and may involve individuals of the same or different gender. Depending on the circumstances, these behaviors may include unwanted sexual advances or requests for sexual favors; sexual jokes and innuendo; verbal abuse of a sexual nature; commentary about an individual’s body, sexual prowess or sexual deficiencies; leering, whistling or touching; insulting or obscene comments or gestures; display in the workplace of sexually suggestive objects or pictures; and other physical, verbal or visual conduct of a sexual nature.

The Playpen Child Care Center encourages reporting of all perceived incidents of discrimination, harassment or retaliation, regardless of the offender’s identity or position. Individuals who believe that they have been the victim of such conduct should discuss their concerns with their immediate supervisor, any member of the personnel practices committee, human resources or any ombudsman. See the complaint procedure described below.

**CHILD NEGLECT AND ABUSE**

All The Playpen Child Care Center employees will be screened by the appropriate law enforcement agency using the South Carolina states background system. Adults will never be alone with children on premises unless they can be observed by others. All staff or volunteers ARE NOT EVER physically, verbally, or emotionally abuse or punish children.

At the first reasonable cause to believe that child abuse exists, the reporting adult will immediately inform the Director who will determine the action to take. An immediate phone call to the local law enforcement will be made by the reporting adult. A written report, as a backup to the phone report, will be completed and filed with the director or owner.

**SOCIAL MEDIA**

Social media includes online electronic tools to help students, parents, teachers, and staff communicate effectively. Specific examples of popular social media tools include Instagram. Facebook, and other Communication Apps.

Upon enrolling a child into the center, all parents are guardians must complete the social media consent form. This form is used as an approval on allowing a parent or guardians child to be seen on our social media platforms.

**CONFIDENTIALITY**

Childcare programs maintain **confidentiality** on a “need to know” basis. This information is shared only when it is necessary. This is important especially when there are specific health and safety concerns. State and Local Laws prohibit the sharing of information about children or employees without written approval from the parent, guardian or individual.

**HAZARDOUS ITEMS**

The Playpen Child Care Center has clear guidelines on the identification, use and storage of dangerous products, plants and objects. This policy aims to protect the employee, children, families and visitors from the risks associated with chemical products, medicines, other dangerous substances and dangerous equipment used in the school’s outdoor and indoor environments.

 **BITING**

Biting is a behavior that is often unexpected and one that can harm and frighten others. Biting is a natural developmental stage that many children go through. Most times it is a temporary behavior and one that is seen between the ages of 11 and 24 months old. Toddler’s bite others for many different reasons. A child might be teething, feel tired, angry, frustrated, or even bite when they are overly happy and excited. Biting may also be a way for a child to get attention from other adults or friends. Toddlers do not have strong verbal skills, are impulsive and lack strong self-control and it is important to remember that they are developing these abilities at their own pace. Biting can also occur for no apparent reason, happen quickly and can be shocking to observe. Our primary concern at The Playpen Child Care Center is the safety and health of the children and our staff. We take all biting situations seriously and use our knowledge as educators to handle these tough situations in positive, constructive and meaningful ways to stop them from occurring.

When it comes to a biting incident, our goal is to help identify what is causing the biting and resolve this issue immediately. The school will encourage the children to "use their words" if they become angry or frustrated. **The staff members will maintain a close and constant supervision of the children at all times.**

If a biting incident occurs, state regulations require that the parent of the child biting and the parent of the child who was bitten be contacted. Names of the children are not shared with either parent. **For every bite incident, two actions will occur**

1. **Parents will be contacted with a phone call.**
2. **An accident report will be completed and signed by the parent/guardian at pick up for the child who bit, and the child who was bitten.**

If the biting becomes excessive and the school’s techniques have been exhausted, The Playpen Child Care Center has the right to discharge the student. Please note, many measures will be taken prior to help the student prior to it getting to this point. These measures are outlined as follows:

**Procedure Employees will follow if Biting Occurs:**

We do not use techniques to alarm, hurt, or frighten children. The staff’s job is to keep the children safe and help a child that bites learn different, more appropriate behavior.

**For the child that was bitten:**

1. First aid is given to the bite. It is cleaned with soap and water. If the skin is broken, the bite is covered with a bandage.
2. Parents are notified with a phone call. If a parent cannot be reached, an email will be sent, and an additional phone call will occur until the parents are reached directly.
3. An accident report form is filled out documenting the incident for both children involved.
4. Parents/guardians will sign the form at pickup
5. This form is stored in the child’s file. Parents/Guardians can receive a copy of the form if asked.

**For the child that bit:**

1. The teacher will firmly tell the child “NO! DO NOT BITE!”
2. The child will be brought to an area of the classroom where they can talk with the teacher.
3. Parents are notified with a phone call. If a parent cannot be reached, an email will be sent, and an additional phone call will occur until the parents are reached directly.
4. An accident report form is filled out documenting the incident for both children involved.
5. Parents/guardians will sign the form at pickup
6. This form is stored in the child’s file. Parents/Guardians can receive a copy of the form if asked.

**Procedure if Biting Continues:**

1. The child will be shadowed to help prevent any biting incidents. This includes the teacher staying close by the child at all times and holding the child’s hand in moments where there is free play, outside time, high energy activities, or times where the child bite in the past.
2. The child will be observed by the classroom staff to determine what is causing the child to bite (teething, communication, frustration, etc.)
3. The director and administrative staff will also observe the child if the classroom staff is unable to determine the cause.
4. The child will be given positive attention and approval for positive behavior.
5. The teachers will also support the learning of appropriate behaviors with books, short acceptable educational video clips, puppet shows, and modeling interactive games and activities.

**Procedure if biting becomes excessive:**

1. If a child inflicts 3 bites in a one-week period, a conference will be held with the parents to discuss the child’s behavior and how the behavior may be modified.
2. An action plan will be created by administration, the teachers and the parents in which will be followed immediately in the classroom. This action plan can consist of shadowing and mirror techniques, half day exposure to school, or an agreed upon disciplinary approach.
3. At the end of the one-week action plan, if they child has 2 incidents of biting, suspension or discharge from the program will be decided by the administrator if they feel the behavior is disrupting the classroom, cannot be controlled and harming others.
4. Recommendations for therapy, alternative schooling and other ideas will be provided to the parents.

Please note, The Playpen Child Care Center will do it’s best to integrate and teach appropriate behavior choices for children who bite or harm others, but in some situations, the environment may not be the best for this child, and the teachers may have exhausted all resources.

**POTTY TRAINING**

**Stages of Potty Training**

The Playpen Child Care Center believes there are three steps to potty training or toilet learning. These stages are:

**First Stage: Interested in the Potty!**

This stage occurs when the child starts to communicate that they have gone potty in their diaper. They show interest in the potty by pointing, saying potty words, and being uncomfortable in their diaper. This is a great phase to start reading books about going potty and watching videos!

**Second Stage: Toilet Trained with Adult Support**

This occurs when the child is able to use the toilet, but it is the adult who gets the child to the bathroom on a set schedule. In summary, the adult initiates the use of the toilet by the child. During this stage, the child is full assisted by the adult. The adult walks the child to the toilet, sits them down, pulls up and down their pants, and helps with whipping. Accidents do occur frequently in this stage. This stage’s focus is to get the child used to going to the bathroom, being aware of this new and exciting adventure, and assisting them to do it properly!

**Third Stage: Potty Training**

The student is capable of using the toilet, mostly on their own and expresses the need to go potty on the toilet. They are communicating interest and taking action. The child is showing signs of readiness and is feeling independent to use the potty. Accidents occur very infrequently in this stage! They still may occur, so do not get discouraged.

**Signs of Readiness**

**Verbal Signs:**

* The child is able to speak in three-to-four-word sentences.
* The child is able to speak when his or her diaper is wet.
* The child is able to say they feel that they need to go potty or is wetting their diaper.
* The child tells you that he or she needs to go to the bathroom.

**Physical/Psychological Signs:**

* The child stays dry for longer periods of time
* The child is able to hold urine or bowel movements.
* The child has a somewhat consistent bowel movement schedule. This means their bowel movements are at somewhat regular times.
* The child can pull down and pull up pants and underwear
* The child asks and wants to wear underwear.
* The child initiates using the toilet by walking to it.
* The child can learn and initiate the following actions of going to the bathroom, pee, wipe, flush and wash hands.

**General Notes on Potty Training**

**The following notes are important to remember while potty training your child:**

1. Make potty training a POSTIVE EXPERIENCE for everyone!
2. Never make the child feel bad for having an accident. Remember, it is a process!
3. Positive reinforcements are beyond helpful in training
4. Make sure to pay attention to the child’s signs of readiness and be ready yourself!
5. Remember that all children potty train at their own speed.

**The Potty-Training Process at Home and School**

The Playpen Child Care Center requires the potty-training process to begin at home. The process should begin when the parents and child can be dedicated and there is not a lot of changes in the child’s life.

**The Process at Home:**

1. Notify the teacher of a schedule weekend you plan to start the process. Ensure that the teacher is aware and can start working with your child at school around the same time.
2. We recommend your child to stay in underwear for two to three consecutive days. This is because underwear feels different than a diaper on a child. They start to realize that the underwear cannot hold their urine/poo and they feel uncomfortable. Underwear helps produce the sensory signs of going to the bathroom on the toilet to maintain dry and clean underwear!
3. It is important that parents stay close to home and keep the child close to the bathroom while playing or participating in activities to ensure ease of use.
4. We recommend your child to wear comfortable, easy to remove clothing during this process.
5. Take your child to the bathroom every 2 hours, and reward them with cheering, or other positive reinforcement techniques even if they are just sitting on the toilet.
6. Read books throughout the process and watch clips to support this new and exciting milestone.
7. Staying consistent with the procedure at home is the most important step in this process.

**The Process at School:**

A successful weekend at home is defined by the child having 3 or less accidents and remain excited about the process. If your child goes more times during the weekend on the toilet, than in their underwear, this is a sign of success!

1. Notify the teacher that it was a successful weekend through a note in the app or face to face conversation.
2. Bring extra clothes and underwear in case of accidents.
3. Walk the child to the bathroom and show them how it looks just like the one at school. Stay a minute at the school to have the child sit down and become comfortable with a toilet outside of their home.
4. Talk with the child about how excited you are for them to use the potty at school.
5. The teachers will bring the student to the bathroom every 1.5 to 2 hours.
6. Notes on the potty-training process at school will be provided to the parent.

**The following Guidelines must be followed when children are potty training at school/wearing underwear:**

* No Overalls, pants that have a belt, pants that snap or any clothing that is hard to get out of quickly.
* Bring an extra pair of shoes if possible as they can get wet too.
* ALWAYS have extra clothes and underwear onsite at the school.
* Inform the teacher if your child prefers to sit or stand when using the toilet.
* Keep a small supply of pull-ups for nap time at the school.
* It is your responsibility to take home any soiled clothes to be cleaned and sanitized. Not the school!

**TRANSITIONING A STUDENT TO THE NEXT AGE GROUP**

Student’s will transition to the next age group when they are age appropriate, there is space available and all parties including parents, teachers and administration agree it is the right time for the child. We transition our students to the next age group in chronological age to make it fair for everyone.

Most transitions occur at the start of the new school year, which is in September, but some may be able to occur during the school year if a space becomes open.

The Playpen Child Care Center transitioning schedule is based off of how the students reacts to the new environment. On the first day, one of the student’s current teachers will walk the student over to explore their new classroom, see their new friends and meet their new teachers. The second day, the student will be walked to the next classroom by the same teacher but will have more time to explore on their own. If the child does well, the teacher will observe and allow for more time in their new classroom. If we see the child is having a hard time, they will be taken back to their current classroom and discuss how exciting it was in their new classroom. The next day the teacher will walk the student over again to see any progress. This will continue until the child is in a place where their current teacher is no longer needed by their side in their new classroom, and they feel comfortable and positive!

Parents will be notified with detailed messages through the school’s app on the students’ progress. We believe that slow and steady wins this race, and positive energy by both the new and the old teacher will help the student feel comfortable and confident in this exciting new adventure!

**SCREENS AND MEDIA**

The use of visual media, such as television, films, and videotapes, shall be limited to developmentally appropriate programming. Media may be used as a special event, or to achieve a specific goal, but not be used as a regular daily routine. TV, video, internet, or DVD viewing shall not be allowed during meal or snack time.

The director must approve all videos, and all screen time must be related to educational programming developed by the center

**ATTIRE FOR CHILDREN**

It is very important that your child wear clothing that is easy to manage and safe for the activities they will be participating in while at school. Dressing your child in simple, comfortable clothing that is washable. Please remember in choosing their clothing that children paint, glue and participate in large movement on a daily basis. Children must also be dressed appropriately for the weather. Children must wear comfortable shoes that are closed toed. No flip flops allowed for safety reasons.

Don’t forget to include a change of clothing to be left in your child’s backpack, in case of emergency. All clothing items must be labeled with the child’s name. The school is not responsible for any lost or damaged clothing items.

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

The Playpen Child Care Center hosts special events throughout the school year as an opportunity for our families to get together with our staff and have a wonderful time. You will be notified through email, 3 weeks prior to the event. Please note, alcohol and smoking are prohibited.

Your participation in these events bring a feeling of connectiveness and collaboration at our school!

**DISCIPLINARY POLICY**

The Playpen Child Care Center uses praise and positive reinforcement as effective methods of behavior management. When children receive positive feedback, they develop problem solving abilities, self-discipline strategies, and a stronger sense of self love. Based on this belief, the school uses a positive approach to discipline.

**WHAT WE DO!**

* Communicate to children using positive statements.
* Communicate with children on their level.
* Talk with children in a calm quiet manner.
* Explain unacceptable behavior to children. ¨ Give attention to children for positive behavior.
* Praise and encourage the children. ¨ Reason with and set limits for the children.
* Apply rules consistently.
* Model appropriate behavior.
* Set up the classroom environment to prevent problems.
* Provide alternatives and redirect children to acceptable activity.
* Give children opportunities to make choices and solve problems.
* Help children talk out problems and think of solutions.
* Listen to children and respect the children’s needs, desires and feelings.
* Provide appropriate words to help solve conflicts.
* Use storybooks and discussion to work through common conflicts.

**WHAT WE DO NOT DO!**

* Inflict corporal punishment in any manner upon a child which includes any physical force to the body.
* Use any strategy that hurts, shames, or belittles a child.
* Use any strategy that threatens, intimidates, or forces a child.
* Use food as a form of reward or punishment.
* Use or withhold physical activity as a punishment.
* Shame or punish a child if a bathroom accident occurs.
* Embarrass any child in front of others.
* Compare children.
* Place children in a locked and/or dark room.
* Leave any child alone, unattended or without supervision.
* Allow discipline of a child by other children.
* Criticize, make fun of, or otherwise belittle a child’s parents, families, or ethnic groups.

**WHAT WE DO WHEN PROBLEMS OCCUR**

When a more serious or consistent disciplinary policy occurs, a conference will be scheduled with the teachers of the classroom and the students’ parents. Observations, accident reports and other important documentation relating to the events will be presented and used as evidence.

**ASSESSMENTS, OBSERVATIONS, EVALUATIONS**

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| **ASSESSMENTS AT The Playpen Child Care Center** |

The Playpen Child Care Center reserves the right to conduct developmental assessments of children’s growth and progress, to determine appropriate placements and programming.

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| **PROFESSIONAL EVALUATIONS** |

The Playpen Child Care Center may ask parents to share professional evaluations when necessary to determine how best to meet the needs of their child. This information helps us to provide the best care possible for your child’s unique growth and development.

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| **PARENT AND TEACHER CONFERENCES** |

Parent-Teacher conferences occur multiple times during the year. These meetings provide parents with insight into their child’s growth and development while enrolled at the school, and insight into what parents can do at home to support what is occurring at school. PTC’s also provide a chance for the teacher and the parents to form a more personal relationship to ensure the school is meeting the family’s standards and so that the teacher can understand the family setting the child has outside of the school’s doors.

Parents will be aware of their schedule Parent Teacher Conference Time one month prior to the scheduled meeting.

**EMERGENCY PREPARDNESS**

**EMERGENCY CONSENT FORMS**

Emergency consent forms are completed by the parents or guardians upon enrolling their child(ren) at the center. A copy of these forms is located in every classroom, and always available on the school app.

**EMERGENCY HANDBOOK ONSITE**

The Playpen Child Care Center has an emergency procedure handbook created to define policies and protocols in emergency situations. This handbook is reviewed often, and all staff upon hire will be trained

**EMERGENCY PROCEDURES**

**IMMEDIATE MEDICAL ATTENTION**

If a child or a staff member receives an injury while at school, an accident report is completed. The report includes information regarding the time and date of the injury, what happened, how it was treated, and a signature of the witnessing teacher. This report is provided to parents before the child leaves the center and is also recorded in the center's medical logbook.

**FIRE**

Fire drill will be practiced at random times of the day. The drills will occur one to two times a month. at least once a month. Evacuations maps are posted throughout the school and easy to access and see at all times. All employees and students will be prepared for the drills, and review what happens during a drill often so that all are prepared! It is important that all remain calm and keep their heads during any emergency drill!

* The director or owner will inform the staff in advance that a drill will occur later in the week.
* The staff will talk to their students about the alarm, rules and procedures to take while evacuating the building.
* The director or owner will sound the alarm, and the school will take action and do the evacuation procedure.
* Children will proceed immediately to their designated outside school meeting spot.
* If possible, one staff member should try to grab the attendance sheets, emergency contact list, and cell phones with them.
* The staff will take attendance of the students and check off their attendance sheets or communication app.
* If safe, the director or owner will quickly check hiding spaces in the school for any lost children. They will also check for any sources of smoke or fire during a real emergency fire situation.
* The director or owner will then meet the rest of the students and employees at the designated area.
* The director or owner will review attendance by checking the sign in and out sheets, or other documentation for student’s attendance (the school’s communication app).
* The director or owner will time the drill to see how long it took to evacuate the building.
* The director or owner will confirm with local law officials when it is safe to return to the building. The director or owner will assist with children who need support to return to the building like children of the younger ages.
* The director or owner will complete the first drill log with the following information: date and time of the drill, number of students, number of teachers, and the length of time it took for the students and teachers to evacuate the building.
* Parents will be notified a fire drill occurred on this day.

**TORNADO**

Tornado drills will occur twice a year, at most times during the spring and summer as tornados occur during the warmer months. Evacuations maps are posted throughout the school and easy to access and see at all times. The Playpen Child Care Center employees and students will be prepared for the drills, and review what happens during a drill often so that all are prepared! It is important that all remain calm and keep their heads during any emergency drill!

* The director or owner will inform the staff in advance that a drill will occur later in the week.
* The staff will talk to their students about the alarm, rules and procedures to take during shelter in place.
* The director or owner will sound the alarm, and the school will take action and do the shelter in place/lockdown procedure.
* Children will proceed immediately to the designated lockdown site/shelter in place designated spot.
* If possible, one staff member should try to grab the attendance sheets, emergency contact list, and cell phones with them.
* Students will take the safety position by kneeling on their knees and elbows with their foreheads on the floor and covering their heads with their hands.
* The staff will take attendance of the students and check off their attendance sheets or communication app while also comforting students to take the proper safety position.
* If safe, the director or owner will quickly check hiding spaces in the school for any lost children.
* The director or owner will meet at the shelter in place designated spot to review attendance by checking the sign in and out sheets, or other documentation for student’s attendance (the school’s communication app).
* The director or owner will time the drill to see how long it took for the students to take shelter.
* The director or owner will confirm when it is safe to leave the shelter in place designated spot. The director or owner will assist with children who need support to enter back into the program main area.
* The director or owner will complete the first drill log with the following information: date and time of the drill, number of students, number of teachers, and the length of time it took for the students and teachers to evacuate the building.
* Parents will be notified a drill occurred on this day.

**MISSING CHILD**

If a child is not accounted for at any time, the staff member responsible for the child should:

* Search the premises for the missing child. Each area that a child could potentially hide should be searched, as well as the outdoor areas of the facility.
* The staff member should also double-check to confirm the location of the child by checking the sign-in and sign-out log.
* If the child is not located after all potential hiding spots and immediate outdoor areas have been searched, the facility director should be notified that the child is missing.
* Begin Lock Down procedure. All exits must be monitored by employees letting no one in or out of the facility.
* The staff member responsible for the child will call 911, since he/she will have the best knowledge of what the child was wearing that day, along with other distinctive features.
* The facility director will notify the guardians of the child that the child is missing from the facility.
* While the police are in route to the facility, the staff will continue to search the facility for the missing child. The staff should look in every cabinet, closet, cubby, and every other location where a child may hide.
* The facility director will stay on the facility premises at all times to be the contact person for the police department, as well as the missing child’s guardians.
* The police should be asked to activate Amber Alert by the facility director.

**POISON PROCEDURE**

* The Poison Control Center phone number will be posted on the list of emergency numbers by the telephone.
* Poison emergencies or requests for poison information will be made by contacting the Poison Control Center Hotline at 1-800-252-2022 first – unless the person who has been poisoned is unconscious, not breathing, having trouble breathing or is having convulsions. If any of these conditions are present, we will call 9-1-1 first.
* Chemicals, medications, pesticides, paints, cleaning agents and other potentially harmful substances will be stored in locked areas that are inaccessible to children.
* Toxic substances will be stored away from food and food preparation areas.
* All chemical products and medications shall be stored in their original containers with original labels intact.
* Poisonous plants are not permitted in the center
* Staff must identify plants and determine “safe” prior to bringing to the facility. If the plant is not on the poisonous plant list, please contact the poison control center (1-800-252-2022 or 1-800-942-5969) for guidance.
* Food-handling staff will be trained in and follow Integrated Pest Management practices for prevention of pests.
* If additional pest control is necessary, only a licensed exterminator will apply pesticides.
* Pesticides must be EPA approved with natural pesticides that are non-toxic to humans.
* Pesticides and other potentially toxic chemicals will not be applied while children are present. Application shall be in a manner that prevents skin contact and other exposure and minimizes odors. A staff member will observe the application of the chemicals and verify that they are applied according to instructions on the label.
* The Program Director will notify parents and staff before using pesticides.
* Following use of pesticides or other potentially toxic chemicals the treated area shall be ventilated for the period recommended on the product label or by a nationally certified poison control center before being reoccupied.
* All staff purses and personal belongings will be securely stored to prevent access by children. Purses and other personal belongings may contain items unsafe for children including medications, lighters, pocketknives, and etc.

**ILLNESS POLICIES**

The following criteria will be considered in determining if your
child must go home:

a fever of 100 degrees or more

* inflammation of the eyes (excessive redness, glassy or discharge)
* vomiting
* more than one incidence of diarrhea or loose stool which is not contained within clothing
* communicable disease as defined by the Department of Health Services/Center for Disease Control
* unknown rash
* excessive nasal discharge
* pain

If your child is sent home due to illness, he cannot return to preschool until he has been free from symptoms for 24 hours without the use of a fever reducer. This is to allow your child time to recover and stop the spread of illness to the other children and staff.

After your child has been ill, it is important to adhere to the following guidelines when determining whether or not your child is ready to return to school.

* Mood, appetite, behavior and activity are again normal
* No fever for 24 hours without a fever reducer
* Antibiotics (have been used for a full 24 hours
* Vomiting cleared for 24 hours
* diarrhea cleared for 24 hours
* Frequent coughing, excessive nasal discharge resolved
* Pain resolved

It is your responsibility to notify the school if your child has a communicable disease or infestation such as: measles, mumps, chicken pox, or head lice. A child may be readmitted without a statement from a physician only if the child has been absent for a period of time equal to the longest incubation period of the disease as specified by the Department of Health and Social Services. The local Health Department will immediately be notified of all communicable diseases and a note will be posted in the parent information center when there has been exposure to a communicable illness in the center.

Children returned to the center with signs of illness or communicable disease will be refused entry into the preschool.

**Please consult with your Director if you need additional information.**

**MEDICATION POLICIES**

This policy was written to encourage communication between the parent, the child’s health care provider and the childcare provider to assure maximum safety in the giving of medication to the child who requires medication to be provided during the time the child is in childcare.

**Important General Notes:**

* Whenever possible, it is best that medication be given at home. Dosing of medication can frequently be done so that the child receives medication prior to going to childcare, and again when returning home and/or at bedtime. The first dose of any medication should always be given at home and with sufficient time before the child returns to childcare to observe the child’s response to the medication given. The childcare provider must be notified by the parents that a dosage at home was given, and at what time it was administered to the child.
* Medication will only be accepted into the school if the proper documentation is completed and all policies and procedures for accepting medication are followed.
* Medication will only be used for the student whose name is documented and the medication has been approved for.
* Medication will not be shared.
* Medication will be always kept in a locked container.
* Medication will be administered in a manner that protects the safety of the child.
* Medications given in the Center will be administered by a staff member designated by the Center Director and will have been informed of the child’s health needs related to the medication and will have had training in the safe administration of medication

**Communication Agreement Between Parents and School Regarding Medication**

Information exchange between the parent/guardian and childcare provider about medication that a child is receiving should be shared when the child is brought to and pick-up from the Center. Parents/guardians should share with the staff any problems, observations, or suggestions that they may have in giving medication to their child at home, and likewise with the staff from the center to the parent/guardian.

The Director or Director Designee is always authorized to contact the pharmacist or health care provider for more information about the medication the child is receiving and in the event that a situation arises that requires immediate attention to the child’s health and safety particularly is the parent/guardian cannot be reached.

**Accepting Medication**

* All medication will be accepted in its original container. Medication that is not in its original container will not be accepted.
* Medication will not be used beyond the date of expiration.
* Consent forms from parents and doctors will be completed prior to arriving at the school and complete.
* The child’s name must be written on all items.

**Storing Medication**

* Medications will be safely stored away from children and in a locked container/storage area.
* Medication containers must have child-protection caps.
* Medications will be kept in a well-lighted area.
* Medication will not be kept in rooms where food is prepared or stored, unless refrigerated in a separate locked container.

**Empty/No Longer Needed Medication**

* When a child no longer needs the medication, the unused portion or empty bottle will be returned to the parent.
* If a medication is close to expiration, the director will notify the parents to bring in new medication prior to the official expiration date.
* If the medication is empty, it will be discarded in a room where children are not present.
* All medication lids will be closed and locked whether the medication is empty or full

**PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION**

**Forms Required to Administer Prescription Medication**

* Parents must complete a consent form to allow the school to administer medication to their child.
* The school must receive a doctor’s note. This can be in the form of a letter, labeled on the container/bottle or labeled on the packing.
* The administering of medication will be recording in a log with the date, times administered, dosage given. prescription name and signature of the person who administered medication.

**Receiving the Prescription Medication:**

* Prescription medication will ONLY be accepted only in its original container.
* Prescription medications will be labeled with the full pharmacy label. This label must be on the packaging of the medication or attached directly to the medication bottle.

 The pharmacy label must clearly state:

* physician’s directions for use
* physician’s name and phone number
* child’s first and last name
* the date the prescription was filled
* The expiration dates
* specific instructions for storing the medication

**Administering Prescription Medication:**

* Only the designated staff member will administer medication.
* Prescription medication will be administered as required by a physician.
* Prescription medication will be used only for the child named on the label.
* The administration of all medications will be recorded in a medication administration log.

**NON- PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION**

**Forms Required to Administer Prescription Medication**

* Parents must complete a consent form to allow the school to administer medication to their child.
* The administration of all medications will be recorded in a medication administration log with the date, times administered, dosages, prescription name and the name and signature of administering the medication.

**Receiving Non-Prescription Medication:**

* Non-Prescription medication shall be accepted only in its original container. Medication that is not in its original container will not be accepted into the school.
* Non-Prescription medication shall be clearly labeled with the child's first and last name.
* The container shall be in such condition that the name of the medication and the directions for use are clearly readable.

**Administering Non-Prescription Medication:**

* Only the designated staff person will administer medication.
* Non-Prescription medication shall be used only for the child who is confirmed to receive it.
* Non-Prescription medication may be dispensed in accordance with manufacturer’s instructions.
* The administration of all medications will be recorded in a medication administration log with the date, times administered, dosages, prescription name and the name and signature of administering the medication.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECIEPT OF PARENT HANDBOOK**

**Today’s Date:**

* We \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the parents of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_have received a copy of The Playpen Child Care Center Parent Handbook.
* I agree and understand the policies and procedures listed in this handbook and will comply with the school’s rule and regulations.
* I understand that this policies and procedures listed in this handbook are subject to change to reflect the needs of the program.
* I understand I will be made aware of these changes in a timely fashion, and I will always adhere to the most up to handbook.

**Parent/Guardian Signature Date**

**Parent/Guardian Signature Date**