



Robyn's Nest
Preschool and Playcare Center
Providing Quality Child Care Since 1992

A Great Place To Grow



Family Handbook

www.robynsnestspokane.com

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About Us

Our History

Robyn's Nest Preschool and Playcare Center was founded in 1992 by Robyn Willits. Originally a small home-based preschool, Robyn's Nest expanded in 2006 to its current location where it continues to serve over 60 children on a daily basis.

Our Vision

Robyn's Nest Preschool and Playcare Center aspires to be the premier choice of children and families in the Spokane area for high-quality, play-based early childhood education and child care services.

Our Mission

The mission of Robyn's Nest Preschool and Playcare Center is to provide safe, affordable, nurturing, child-centered, high-quality education in an environment that fosters a child's individual success and a lifelong love of learning through a play-based curriculum and collaboration with families and the community. We provide a broad range of stimulating, interactive, hands-on learning materials and experiences that promote each child's social, emotional, physical, cognitive, and creative development. Our approach is hands-on with an emphasis on active learning, problem-solving, and helping children become independent, self-confident, and inquisitive learners. We are committed to the children and families we serve and believe that together we can support each child in achieving their full potential.

Our Goals

Endeavor to Achieve Excellence. Creating a high-quality early education environment is all about thoughtful design. Every aspect of our program, from the teachers to the materials, is carefully selected and routinely evaluated to ensure excellence.

Provide Individualized Care for Each Child. Our caring, experienced staff are here to guide children's learning and offer personalized attention in a safe, loving, and encouraging educational environment. Carefully designed classrooms and curriculum enable each child to reach their full potential during every stage of development and smoothly transition into a school environment or society itself.

Offer Engaging and Enriching Curriculum. Our goal is to create an environment that infuses play with rich learning experiences which help your child build self-confidence, social skills, creativity, and academic readiness.

Collaborate with Families and the Community. We believe that collaborative relationships with families and the community are fundamental to achieving quality outcomes for children. We are committed to creating a mutually respectful and inclusive atmosphere where families and staff work together to support their child's success.

Continuously Improve our Program. We will persist in our efforts to continuously improve our program to meet and exceed state licensing standards and the needs of the children and families we serve.

"The day we stop exploring is the day we commit ourselves to live in a stagnant world, devoid of curiosity, empty of dreams." – Tyson

Our Philosophy

At Robyn's Nest we believe that **"play" is the highest form of learning**. Our goal is to provide an environment that infuses play with rich learning experiences helping your child build self-confidence, social skills, and academic readiness. Our classrooms are designed to create a safe, nurturing, and fun atmosphere for each age group. Our caring, experienced staff is here to offer personalized attention and support for your child

Access and Admission

Normal Hours of Operation

The Center is open Monday through Friday from 7am to 5pm.

Center Access

Families entrust their children to us on a daily basis. Therefore, their safety and security are at the top of our priority list. All exterior entry doors require a PIN code to gain entry. Only current clientele and staff will be issued valid PIN codes. Each PIN code is unique and specific to the individual. All entry and exit data are tracked by our computer system.

Guest Entry

Only current clientele and staff will be issued valid PIN codes to exterior entry doors. All others must **ring the guest bell** to be permitted access to our facility. It is vital that families do not give out their PIN code to friends and family members even if they are listed as authorized release persons.

Please do not give others your door code or allow children to play with the entry keypads!

Permission for Free Access (for Enrolled Families)

Since your child's adjustment is important, families are encouraged to make at least one visit with their child prior to the first full day of attendance. Families are welcome to come and visit their child during open business hours, but please try to be considerate of scheduled rest periods. If you must come in/out of classroom during this time we ask that you try to minimize the disruption.

Drug-Free Environment

We are committed to fostering and maintaining a healthy and safe environment for everyone. Staff, family members, and guests are prohibited from smoking and/or vaping in the Center or on its grounds. At no time shall anyone ever use, consume, sell, manufacture, or be under the influence of any alcohol or illegal drugs on Center property.

If we have reason to believe that any persons picking up a child is under the influence of drugs or alcohol, an emergency contact will be called to pick up the child. The incident will also have to be reported to Child Protective Services.

Non-Discrimination Policy

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or

email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Enrollment Process

Openings

Openings are generally filled on a first-come first-served basis. However, priority will be given to siblings of currently enrolled families, those who have previously attended our Center, and those on our Center's waitlist. While we do accept families on State Subsidy (WCCC), please keep in mind that the number of openings allotted to subsidized families is very limited and preference will be given to private pay clients when openings become available.

Wait List

Our Center strives to accommodate all requests for the registration of a child. Unfortunately, we have a limited number of spots in our child care program and are not always able to immediately accommodate every family's child care needs. Therefore, we have developed a wait list for when the maximum capacity of a classroom has been reached or families desire to enroll on a future date.

Families can request that their child(ren) be added to our waitlist in-person or complete the wait list form available on our website (www.robysnestspokane.com). **There is no fee associated with being on our wait list.**

Waitlist information is kept for approximately 90-days (longer for those seeking care on a specified future date). Preference will be given to siblings of currently enrolled families, families who have previously attended our Center, and those referred by past/current clients or staff. Otherwise, new contacts will be added to the list in the order they are received. Each time a family contacts our Center it will be noted. Those who keep in close contact with our Center regarding their child care needs may get bumped up on the list (pending Director approval).

When our Center gets an opening, we will attempt to contact all families on our wait list that meet that opening's criteria in order. Families may request to be re-added to our waitlist at any time.

Introductory Tour

All families are required to come in for an in-person introductory tour before they will be considered for enrollment. We have many reasons for this, but first and foremost, is that we like the chance to get to meet each family and learn about their specific child care needs before we agree to provide care. It also gives families the opportunity to see our program in action, review basic Center policies, and decide if we are the right fit for them. We run an excellent program, but that doesn't mean that we are necessarily the right program for every family.

Reserving a Spot

Once a family has completed their introductory tour, they may elect to reserve a spot in our Center for their child(ren) by paying a **non-refundable** initial deposit. This deposit will be applied towards their child's tuition.

Initial Deposit

The purpose of the initial deposit is to hold a place for your child, guaranteeing them a place in our Center. If, for reasons that are of no fault of the enrolling family, our Center must deny the child a place, the deposit will be fully refunded.

The initial deposit for families paying out-of-pocket (private pay) is equivalent to one week's tuition plus the annual registration fee. This will hold a spot for up to **two weeks** or until an agreed upon pre-specified date. A \$50 initial deposit is required for families paying tuition through State Subsidy (state pay). This will hold a spot for up to **48 hours**; long enough for the state to email us confirmation of a full-time authorization.

Again, **all deposits non-refundable** and will be applied towards the cost of tuition.

Enrollment Paperwork

Families will be given an enrollment package after they have paid their initial deposit. Families must complete and return all enrollment forms **prior to their child's first day in care.**

Enrollment Records

General Requirements

Families must complete and return all enrollment forms **prior to their child's first day in care**. It is extremely important that the information in your child's records is accurate and kept up to date. Our Center will ask families to verify the accuracy of contact information an additional two-three times per year.

Access and Confidentiality

Children's records will be kept for the period of time designated by the State after enrollment ends. Only authorized family members, key staff, state officials, and those appointed by a court of law may access children's records.

Our Center aims to ensure that all families can share their information in the confidence that it will only be used to enhance the welfare of their children.

Contact Information (WAC 110-300-0460)

Families are required to provide the following contact information upon enrollment and report any changes to administrative staff as they occur.

- The name, address and home and business telephone number of the parent/guardian and other person to be contacted in case of an emergency
- The name, address and phone number of the person authorized to remove the child from the Center, and
- The name, address and phone number of the child's health care provider and dentist (if the child has a dentist).

Health Care Information (WAC 110-300-0460)

Families must also supply the following health history information:

- The date of the child's last physical exam or the date the child was last seen by a health care provider (Must be within the last 12 months.)
- Any allergies, expected symptoms and method of treatment if necessary
- Any health and developmental concerns or issues
- Any life threatening medical condition that requires an ICP, and
- A list of current medications used by the child

Immunization Records (WAC 110-300-0210)

State law requires that immunization records are maintained for each child enrolled in the Center. Please be prepared to provide this information about your child upon enrollment. If you would like, you may ask your health care provider to fax immunization records directly to the Center. Our fax number is (509) 928-0559.

Children who are behind on their immunizations may be temporarily excluded from care.

CACFP Enrollment Application

Our Center participates in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) The federal government requires us to have all families complete an Enrollment/Income-Eligibility Application upon enrollment and annually thereafter. (It's the bright yellow form in your enrollment package.) Collecting this information allows our Center to be reimbursed for a portion of our food-related expenses. It is extremely important that families take the time to see if they qualify for free and reduced meals as it dramatically effects the amount of our reimbursement.

Other Authorizations (WAC 110-300-0460)

Families must acknowledge that they have reviewed this handbook and other Center policies annually. They are also asked to authorize the Center to transport, photograph, and obtain emergency medical treatment for their child as well as consent for their child to participate in water activities.

Tuition and Payment Policies

Tuition Rates

Please contact our Center or visit our website for current rate information. Rates are based upon providing full-time care, up to a maximum of 50 hours per week. Families may choose to attend part-time, however, **we do not offer a part-time rate**. A **10% sibling discount** is offered for families with multiple children (applied to eldest child). Families will be given a minimum of 30 days' notice prior to any changes to our tuition rates.

Tuition Policies

Our Center's tuition and payment policies are included in our enrollment packet. All families must sign and return the Tuition and Payment Policies Agreement prior to enrollment and annually, every September, thereafter. Please read it carefully as all policies will be strictly enforced.

Tuition Payments

To minimize administrative costs, **the Center requires all tuition payments to be made via Tuition Express**. Other forms of payment, including credit, debit, cash, and check, will only be excepted for the initial deposit. A Tuition Express Electronic Funds Transfer Authorization (ACH) form will be provided with each family's enrollment packet and must be completed and returned prior to the child's first day in care.

All tuition payments must be made through Tuition Express via Electronic Funds Transfer. All Tuition is due in advance of services rendered. Tuition fees are not subject to proration for illness, absence, holidays, or emergency closure of the Center. **Tuition is not reduced as a result of Center closures.**

Payment Schedules

All families are expected to pay as contracted, prior to services being provided. For your convenience, we offer the following payment schedules (billing cycles):

- **Monthly**, on the first business day of each month
- **Bi-Weekly**, every other Friday
- **Semi-Monthly**, (for clients on WCCC only) on or before the 5th and 20th of each month

Annual Registration Fee

A non-refundable annual registration fee of **\$50.00** is due at the time of enrollment will be added to the first payment in January annually thereafter. Families who have paid a registration fee within 90 days of that date (after October 1st) will not be required to pay again until the following year. However, if a child is withdrawn from the program and subsequently re-enrolls, a new registration fee will be due at that time.

This fee is currently covered by WCCC for those clients who receive assistance.

Late Pick-Up Fee

A late pick-up fee of \$1.00 per minute will be assessed for any child in attendance outside the Center's normal operating hours. This fee does not constitute an agreement to provide care outside of standard hours service.

Annual Sunscreen Fee

Our Center provides a hypo-allergenic sunscreen for a small fee from Memorial Day to Labor Day. A fee of **\$10.00** will be added to the first payment in June for each child enrolled even if the family opts to supply their own sunscreen. Families are strongly encouraged to apply sunscreen prior to dropping their child off at the Center. Center staff will apply sunscreen prior to afternoon recess when going outdoors for a period of more than fifteen minutes AND the outside temperature exceeds 75 degrees. Children enrolled in Camp Alliwannado will get multiple sunscreen applications throughout if they have longer periods of sun exposure.

Summer Camp Fee

A non-refundable Summer Camp fee of \$50 is required by April 1st to reserve a spot for existing clients. Families who are not currently enrolled will also need to pay for their child's first weeks' tuition. **Please note: camp fees are not covered by State Subsidy.**

Tuition and Payment Policies

Tax Documentation

The Center will provide all **CURRENT ACCOUNTS** with written documentation of child care expenses, including payment receipts and year-end tax statements. Yearly tax statements will be available for pick-up in the front office by January 31st of the following year.

Clients can view their account activity at any time by selecting the “accounting” option on the check-in computer. Monthly statements can be printed or emailed upon request.

Our Tax ID Number is: 26-0597362

Withdrawal from Care

Two weeks’ written notice is required before withdrawing your child from the Center. Withdrawal slips are available in the front office.

Families will still be held liable for payment of two weeks’ notice even if their child does not attend. State Subsidy families who fail to give proper notice will be charged the going rate for days not covered by their authorization.

Due to limited storage, personal items (ie: clothing, diapers, bottles, medications, etc...) left at the Center are only kept for **5 days** after your child’s last day in attendance. The Center reserves the right to withhold items left on delinquent accounts.

Termination of Services (WAC 110-300-0485)

Child care services may be terminated immediately for any of the following reasons (but not limited to):

- Failure to meet or comply with the expectations, policies, and requirements set forth in this handbook.
- Failure to comply with tuition and payment policies; including, but not limited to, failure to pay as agreed.
- Failure to comply with this Center’s health and illness policies.
- Failure to comply with current mask mandates and COVID-19 protocols issued by governing agencies.
- Failure or refusal to cooperate with addressing behavioral issues or concerns.
- Repeated failure to pick children up from care at scheduled times.
- Inappropriate conduct by adult family members; including threats, profane language, rude or aggressive behavior, or inappropriate physical contact with staff or the children in our care.
- Making false or defamatory statements about the center or its staff members either verbally or in writing.
- Providing false information either verbally or in writing.

If services are terminated for any reason, tuition will not be refunded.

Expulsion from Care (WAC 110-300-0340, 0486)

On rare occasions, our Center may find it necessary to expel a child from care. In these instances, families will be notified about the circumstances and reasons for expulsion in writing and, when possible, at a face-to face meeting with the Center Director.

The decision to expel a child from care does not come lightly. Please see the **Behavior Management and Discipline** section of this handbook for more details regarding our discipline procedures and the steps our Center takes to avoid expulsion.

If your child is expelled from care, tuition will not be refunded.

Attendance Policies

Schedule

In order to provide children with a stable daily routine, we ask that your drop-off and pick-up times be consistent and as agreed. Families are required to provide an anticipated attendance schedule as part of the enrollment process. Washington State Licensing requirements mandate that all children must be picked up within the scheduled hours so that proper staff-to-child ratios can be maintained.

Monthly Schedules (State Subsidy Clients Only)

Families who pay their tuition through state subsidy are required to submit and sign an anticipated monthly attendance schedule for their child prior to the first day of each month.

Maximum Hours in Care (WAC 110-300-0455)

Washington State Law states that a child may only be in care for up to a maximum of ten hours each day.

Late Drop-Off

In order to get accurate meal counts and maintain proper staffing ratios, we require that all children are dropped off by **no later than 10am**. We will make the occasional exception if your child will be late due to a doctor's, dentist's, or other appointment if it has been pre-arranged. This can be done by completing a **Schedule Change** slip (available at the check-in counter) or by notifying the Center either in person or by phone prior to 10am. Families who fail to do so may not be able to drop off their child(ren) for the day.

Late Pick-Up

A late pick-up fee will be assessed for any child in attendance outside the Center's normal operating hours. This fee does not constitute an agreement to provide care outside of standard hours service. If families fail to contact the Center and the Center is unable to contact an authorized individual to pick up the child after 30 minutes, Social Services will be contacted. Repeated late pick-ups may result in termination of care.

HINT: Door codes stop working 5 minutes after we close. If your door code doesn't work, you're late.

Absences and Vacations

Unfortunately, we are unable to offer unpaid vacation time or absence days. However, advance notice of any planned vacations or absences is greatly appreciated.

Center Closures

The Center will be open whenever possible on any regularly scheduled day, during normal business hours. However, occasionally severe weather or other conditions may prevent the Center from opening on time or at all. As a general rule, if the Central Valley School District is closed, it is highly likely the Center is as well. The Center will do its best to notify families of unexpected closures via the website, social media, and/or local news programs. If it becomes necessary to close the Center early, parents/guardians will be notified and be responsible for arranging for their child's early pick up.

Our Center will be closed in recognition of most major federal holidays. In addition to holiday closures, we dedicate time every year for professional staff development and training, deep cleaning, and routine maintenance. The Center will be closed on these days. A complete list of scheduled closure dates is available each year by October 1st for the following calendar year.

Tuition is not reduced as a result of Center closures.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Closures (effective 9/1/2020)

If our Center has COVID-19 outbreak (one or more positive cases) and the health district requires that we close a particular classroom or the whole Center for a designated period of time, tuition payments must still be made. This ensures that the Center can keep our lights on and our staff employed, so that we are ready to go when are permitted to re-open.

Check-In and Check-Out Requirements

Electronic Attendance Records

Because our Center accepts state subsidized families, Washington State Licensing regulations requires our Center to use a verified electronic attendance records system. We use the Procure Parent Engagement system. This software uses electronic signature capture and a personal identification number (PIN) to ensure authenticity. All individuals who will be regularly or repeatedly dropping off or picking up children from our Center must be registered in Procure.

Door Codes (PINS)

The Procure Parent Engagement system will randomly assign all individuals listed as authorized release persons with a 4-digit code upon enrollment. Door code PINS are specific to each individual and allow us to precisely track every person who enters our facility. For security reasons door codes are normally only assigned to parents and/or guardians.

DO NOT SHARE YOUR DOOR CODE/PIN WITH OTHERS!!

If families have other individual(s) who pick up or drop off on a regular basis, they can request to have that individual's PIN code activated for door entry. Door codes will provide access to any of our exterior entry doors during normal business hours.

Signing In and Out of Care

Upon arrival at the Center, all parents or authorized individuals must check child(ren) in/out of care using one of the following options:

Contactless Check-In/Out. Parents/Guardians can check children in/out of care from their car (must be within 500ft of the Center) by using the Procure Parent Engagement App on their phone or by scanning one of the QR codes located throughout our facility.

Check-In Kiosk. A check-in kiosk is located inside the main entry. All parents/authorized individuals can use their Procure PIN on this device to check children in/out of care. If you don't know your PIN code, just ask!

Physical Sign-In/Out Sheet. If the sign-in computer is unavailable, or an unregistered guest drops-off or picks-up, we will require a **physical signature** on the attendance sheets located on a clip board in the main entry. We ask that individuals only use this method if they are not listed as a permanent authorized pick-up in Procure.

Authorized Release Persons

This is a secure facility. Entry past the check-in area will be restricted to individuals listed as authorized release persons in your child's file. If families wish to have someone else pick their child up from care, they need to complete a **Temporary Pick-Up Authorization** slip available at the check-in counter (look for the bright green form). In a pinch, families can call in the request. Photo identification will be required.

Please note: Unless we have a restraining order on file, any parent or guardian is legally allowed to pick up their child from care.

Audits

Our Center's attendance records are subject to audits by various governing bodies including, the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF), Working Connections Child Care (WCCC), and the Department of Social and Health Services. Children's attendance records will be kept for the period of time designated by the State after enrollment eases. Any fines directly related to a client's failure to correctly follow the procedures listed in this policy will be forwarded to the offending party.

About Our Program

We Believe...

Children have the right to learn in a nurturing, safe environment where they and their families feel welcome, comfortable, and secure. Our goal is to provide an environment that infuses play with rich learning experiences helping your child build self-confidence, social skills, and academic readiness. As early educators, we aspire to not only to help children learn the fundamental skills necessary to succeed in life but to instill in them a life-long love of learning.

Designing the Right Environment

Creating an active and engaging learning environment is all about thoughtful design. Our goal is to create a Center culture that reflects the children as individual learners while showing respect towards their families and cultures. From the moment they walk through the door, children and families should experience a warm, welcoming, home-like feel, building a sense of community and security. This sentiment is accomplished, in part, by having a child-centered focus throughout the entire facility and emphasizing a sense of softness in color, furnishings, lighting, and displays.

We designed all our classrooms around the nine basic interest areas or learning Centers outlined in the *Infant/Toddler and Early Childhood Environment Rating Scales* (Harms, Clifford, & Cryer, 2017/2014). The classroom materials are thoughtfully organized, easily accessible, and presented in a manner that invites children to immediately begin exploring with their bodies and minds. We firmly believe that a high-quality early learning program should provide children with easy access to an ample rotation of clean, beautiful, open-ended materials. Doing so provides the opportunity for children to make choices, engage in their own interests, and be active participants in their own learning.

Engaging Curriculum

For curriculum planning to be relevant and reflect the needs of children, educators must pay close attention to the children and their evolving interests. Young children learn from the concrete to abstract, not the other way around. They are active, eager learners, and they learn best through what comes naturally: **PLAY!** We believe that it is our job as educators to intricately weave intentional learning experiences into play and everyday life experiences through the use of open-ended questions, concept development, and creative problem-solving.

We base our lesson plans upon the interests of the children, the developmental learning objectives for each particular age group, and individual child observations/assessments. Often, they revolve around a theme. A theme can come from topics being studied within the class like a book, experience, or local event, or be inspired by seasonal, cultural, or other influences. Themes encourage the children to learn through play in both their hands-on learning experiences and their environment. The focus here is not on rote memorization and scripted lessons, but rather on teaching social, emotional, physical and cognitive skills.

It is important to remember that children learn most effectively through engagement with peers and materials when they have a choice. Our role is to provide meaningful educational experiences that focus on what children value, and to observe, support and facilitate deeper learning. It is also to create a classroom community where children feel safe to make mistakes, take risks, and fail all while continuing to persevere at a task. And sometimes, it is just a matter of using developmentally appropriate practices to take advantage of one of life's many teachable moments to extend learning.

About Our Program

Outdoor Play

Growing bodies need room to run and play. After all, not everything in life can be learned within the four walls of a classroom. We strive to provide ample opportunities for the children to get outside and stretch their legs and imaginations so please dress your child for ALL weather conditions; we will be going outside.

If we are unable to go outside due to inclement weather (or smoke) alternate large-motor activities will be provided indoors.

Off-Site Activities (Field Trips)

Mighty Lion, Super Star, and Camp Alliwannado children will frequently participate in off-site activities. Students will either walk or be transported using our Center activity bus. Families will be notified in advance and will be required to sign a written consent form.

Water Activities

Water play is an essential sensory experience for young learners and a welcome respite on hot summer days. Indoors or out, water play releases energy. It can be both invigorating or relaxing and calming for young children. It's an amazing sensory experience introducing them to textures (slippy, slimy...) and temperatures. It will also help master the pincer grip which will enable them to hold a pencil correctly at school. Not to mention that it's just good clean fun.

Water activities will be supervised at all times. Water play containers will be emptied after each use and stored in a manner that prevents the collection of water when not in use. At least one additional staff member than would otherwise be required will attend off-site experiences that have access to bodies of water four or more inches deep (for example, a park with a lake or stream). A certified life guard will also be present when children are swimming, or the water is more than twenty-four inches deep.

Animal Interactions

Families should be advised that we will occasionally participate in activities that involve animals. If your child has allergies or another potential health risk associated with animals, please notify your child's teacher. See our **Animal Policy** in this document for further information.

Religious and Cultural Activities

We respect each child's right to practice and share their family's culture and chosen religion so long as it does not bring physical harm to the child or other children in the Center. Feel free to talk to your child's teacher or the Center Director about ways we can incorporate your customs and traditions into our curriculum.

Holidays, Birthdays and Other Celebrations

Our Center celebrates New Year's Day, Groundhog's Day, Dr. Seuss's Birthday, Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, Easter, Mother's Day, National Teddy Bear Picnic Day, Father's Day, Grandparent's Day, the 4th of July, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and many other special occasions in a non-religious manner.

Birthdays are very special days, therefore or near your child's birthday we will throw a party to celebrate! There's no need to bring a thing! We will supply everything necessary to make your child's day one to remember. A birthday crown, balloon, and gift are given to the birthday child as we sing them a special birthday tune. Each member of your child's class will receive a special snack. And just to make the day a little sweeter—your child will get a custom "just-for-me" cake from Just American Desserts to take home. **This service is provided at no extra charge to families!**

Our Classrooms

Baby Bears Classroom Toddlers (12-30+ months)

Toddlerhood is a time of astonishing growth. In the short span of a year or so, your child experiences an explosion of language, along with dramatic advancement in fine and gross motor control, problem-solving ability, independence, and social interaction. Our Baby Bears classroom offers an environment where toddlers can safely explore, investigate, and nurture these skills.

There is no other way to put it - toddlers are busy, busy, busy. They are constantly on the move trying out their newly acquired skills of walking, climbing, saying “no”, and getting out every toy they can find. Our teachers will provide opportunities to encourage and expand this blossoming independence throughout the day.

The teacher-to-child ratio for this classroom is 1:7, with a maximum group size of 14. However, we prefer to only enroll a maximum of 12 children in this classroom and generally have an additional teacher scheduled to assist during busy times like diaper changes, meals and outdoor play. Our goal is to provide a safe, secure “home away from home” where your little one can learn, play and grow under the close guidance and supervision of their teachers.

Little Monkeys Classroom Early Preschool (30 months - 3+ years)

In the dynamic environment of our Little Monkeys classroom children begin to acclimate to a schedule within a whole group setting. Our child care approach for two- and three-year-olds is based upon their natural curiosity and willingness to try new things. Hands-on learning and play keep children actively engaged and continuously interested in understanding more about themselves, their friends and family, and the world around them.

As Little Monkeys grow, they gain a more profound sense of independence and confidence in their abilities. New skills may include handwashing, self-feeding, fine motor coordination, and toilet training. In addition to basic skills, your child learns about self-direction, self-reliance and self-esteem.

The teacher-to-child ratio for this classroom is 1:10, with a maximum group size of 20. However, we prefer to only enroll a maximum of 17 children in this classroom. An additional teacher is scheduled to assist during the busiest part of the day. This helps circle time, small groups, toilet training/diaper changes, meals and outdoor play go a little smoother.

Mighty Lions Classroom Potty-Trained Preschool and Pre-Kindergarten (3½ - 5 years)

We believe academic learning is most effective when it is playful and exploratory. Our Mighty Lions teachers skillfully weave in academic goals and objectives as they build on what children can do and challenge them to try new things. Through a balance of child-directed and teacher-initiated activities children are encouraged contribute their own ideas and use their own problem-solving strategies to express their own individuality, as well as appreciate the unique traits of others.

Our full-day program and small group size offer the opportunity for individual attention and preparation for elementary school. A healthy balance of academics and socialization are the perfect steppingstone for a positive school experience.

The teacher-to-child ratio for this classroom is 1:10, with a maximum group size of 20. Similar to our other classrooms, an additional teacher is scheduled to assist during the busiest parts of the day.

Our Classrooms

Super Stars Classroom Before and After School Care (K-12 years)

School-age children want to feel all grown up, yet they still crave comfort and security. They want to be heard, listened to, and respected, and have the ability to influence the decisions regarding the course of their day. So, instead of just “boring old daycare” our Super Stars program is designed to support their expanding interests, both before and after school.

Our program maintains an atmosphere that encourages flexibility and allows for freedom of choice within appropriate guidelines. Our goal is to promote experiences and opportunities that enhance rather than duplicate that of the school day. Super Star teachers will provide a balance of organized and self-selected activities where children may choose to complete homework, play games, create crafts, read books and more all in a positive, supportive atmosphere.

Camp Alliwannado School-Age Summer Program (K-12 years)

When summer arrives at our Center, the Super Stars classroom is transformed into the ultimate summer camp! Camp curriculum includes engaging weekly themes and abundant on and off-site experiences.

This is a full-time summer camp that takes the place of our Super Stars program during the summer months. Priority enrollment is given to children currently enrolled in our Super Stars classroom, siblings of other children enrolled at our Center, and children who have previously attended our Center. Any other available openings will be posted by June 1st each year. Due to high demand, families enrolling in this program will be required to sign a contract agreeing to pay the tuition fees for the **entire summer break** (through Labor Day) regardless of attendance or early withdrawal.

A non-refundable Camp fee of \$50 is required by April 1st to reserve a spot for existing clients. Families who are not currently enrolled will also need to pay for their child's first weeks' tuition. **Please note: camp fees are not covered by State Subsidy.**

The teacher-to-child ratio for school-age programs is 1:15.

Daily Routine

Sample Classroom Schedule

Classroom schedules are frequently changed and updated to meet the needs of the children in our care. Families can find the current daily schedule prominently posted in each of our classroom. Below are simplified examples from a few of our classrooms. Please feel free to talk to your child's teacher if you have any questions about your child's day.

Baby Bears

7:00am	Free Choice of Centers <small>(all centers open except sand/water)</small> 90 min
	Clean-up. Wash our hands.
8:30am	Breakfast
9:00am	Individual Toileting / Diapering Wash our hands.
9:00am	Circle Time
9:15am	Art and Sensory
10:00am	Morning Snack
	Clean-up. Wash our hands. Get ready to go outside.
10:30am	Outdoor Play 30 min <small>sand/water table available (weather permitting)</small>
	Put away our things. Wash our hands.
11:00am	Free Choice of Centers 30 min <small>(all centers open including sand/water)</small>
11:00am	Individual Toileting / Diapering Wash our hands.
	Put away our things. Wash our hands.
11:30am	Lunch
	Clean-up. Wash our hands.
12:00p	Rest/Quiet Activity Offered
2:00pm	Individual Toileting / Diapering Wash our hands.
2:30pm	Afternoon Snack
	Clean-up. Wash our hands. Get ready to go outside.
3:00pm	Outdoor Play 30 min <small>sand/water table available (weather permitting)</small>
	Put away our things. Wash our hands
3:30pm	Music and Movement
4:00pm	Circle Time
4:00pm	Individual Toileting / Diapering Wash our hands.
4:15pm	Free Choice of Centers 45+ min <small>(all centers open except sand/water)</small>
	Clean-up. Get ready to go home.

Little Monkeys

7:00am	Free Choice of Centers 90 min <small>(all centers open except sand/water)</small>
	Clean-up. Wash our hands.
8:30am	Breakfast
	Individual Toileting / Diapering Wash our hands.
9:00am	Circle Time
9:30am	Small-Group Activities
	Clean-up. Get ready to go outside.
10:30am	Outdoor Play 30 min <small>sand/water table available (weather permitting)</small>
	Put away our things. Wash our hands.
11:00am	Free Choice of Centers 30 min <small>(all centers open including sand/water)</small>
	Individual Toileting / Diapering Wash our hands.
	Put away our things. Wash our hands.
11:30am	Lunch
	Clean-up. Wash our hands.
12:00pm	Rest/Quiet Activity Offered
	Individual Toileting / Diapering Wash our hands.
2:30pm	Afternoon Snack
	Clean-up. Wash our hands. Get ready to go outside.
3:00pm	Outdoor Play 30 min <small>sand/water table available (weather permitting)</small>
	Put away our things. Wash our hands
3:30pm	Free Choice of Centers 90+ min <small>(all centers open except sand/water)</small>
	Individual Toileting / Diapering Wash our hands.
	Clean-up. Get ready to go home.

Mighty Lions

7:00am	Free Choice of Centers 90 min <small>(all centers open except sand/water)</small>
	Clean-up. Wash our hands.
8:30am	Breakfast
	Clean-up. Wash our hands.
9:00am	Circle Rug "Morning Meeting"
9:30am	Small Groups
	Clean-up. Get ready to go outside.
11:00am	Outdoor Play 30 min <small>sand/water table available (weather permitting)</small>
	Put away our things. Wash our hands.
11:45am	Lunch
	Clean-up. Wash our hands.
12:15pm	Circle Rug Activity
12:30pm	Quiet / Rest Time
2:00pm	Free Choice of Center 45 min <small>(all centers open including sand/water)</small>
	Put away our things. Wash our hands
2:45pm	Afternoon Snack
	Clean-up. Get ready to go outside
3:30pm	Outdoor Play 30 min <small>sand/water table available (weather permitting)</small>
	Put away our things. Wash our hands.
4:00pm	Free Choice of Centers 60 min <small>(all centers open except sand/water)</small>
	Clean-up. Get ready to go home.

Rest Periods (Nap Time)

A supervised daily rest period will be offered to all children five years and under and for older children who show a need for rest. Quiet activities will be provided children who do not require rest. Children 29 months and under will be allowed to follow their own sleep schedule as needed.

Toddler Care

Diapers and Baby Wipes

Families are to supply all diapers, which must be disposable for sanitation reasons. Children who will be checked hourly and/or changed at least every two hours unless they are napping. Please bring enough diapers to last at least one full week. This saves a lot of time and hassle for both families and staff.

Families will be notified when they need to restock. **Families will not be allowed to leave their child in care if they do not have enough diapers to get through the day.**

Kirkland baby wipes are offered at no charge. However, if your child has sensitive skin you are free to provide wipes at your own expense

Ointments, Creams and Powders

Diaper ointments, creams and powders are considered medications and must be processed through the Administrative Supervisor/Center Director. **DO NOT bring these items directly to the classroom.** Families must complete a **Medication Authorization** so that we can administer them in accordance with manufacturers' directions. Families will receive a written record at the end of each day stating when and how medication was dispensed.

Diapering Policy

Children will not be left unattended on the diaper-changing table. Safety belts will not be used (they are neither washable nor safe). **The diaper changing table will only be used for diapering** (toys, pacifiers, papers, dishes, etc., will not be placed on diapering surface). The diaper changing surface will remain impervious to moisture and intact (no tears, rips, duct tape).

Diapering Procedures

The following diapering procedure will be posted (**All About Diapering ITERS-R**) and followed at our Center:

- **Wash Hands.**
- Gather necessary materials.
- Place child gently on table and remove diaper. Child is not left unattended.
- Dispose of diaper in container with cover (foot pedal type).
- Clean the child's diaper area from front to back, using a clean, damp wipe for each stroke.
- Apply topical cream/ointment/lotion when written consent is on file.
- **Wash Hands (remove gloves if worn and then wash hands).** A wet wipe or damp paper towel may be used for this hand washing only.
- Put on clean diaper. Dress child.
- **Wash child's hands** (May use a wet wipe for young infants).
- Disinfect changing pad.
- **Wash Hands.**

*** If gloves are used, all of the above steps must still take place ***

Toddler Care

Potty Training Policy

It has come to our attention that our past policies regarding potty training have not proved as effective as we would have liked. In other words, we ended up with a lot of three-year-olds that refused to use the potty because their pull-ups were so darn comfy. Having so many older kids still in diapers takes large amounts of time away from other preschool orientated activities.

So, starting at 30 months of age children will be introduced to the potty at designated toileting times. Don't worry, we are not expecting dramatic results here - we just want to familiarize them with the process. Results will be documented on your child's daily report and success will be rewarded.

While no child will be punished or humiliated for an accident, they will be asked to assist in the cleanup efforts. Our hope is that it will be a some-what unpleasant and icky experience that they won't really want to repeat intentionally. Thus, motivating them to try to get to the potty quicker in the future.

Families of potty trainers will be expected to send several pairs of underwear, plastic pants and clothing for us to keep on hand and **replenish these items promptly**. Soiled items will be sent home daily for laundering.

A child will be considered fully potty trained after they have been "accident free" (only 1-2 accidents) for four consecutive weeks. Families who have pre-paid at a higher rate will receive a credit applied to their account.

Teething Medication

We can administer Infant's Motrin (Ibuprofen) in accordance with manufacturers' directions if parents/guardians complete a **Medication Authorization** form. Other teething aids such as: Infant's Tylenol (Acetaminophen), teething tablets and Baby Orajel require a licensed health care provider's written prescription along with the parent/legal guardian's consent.

Pacifiers

Pacifiers are a great comfort item and help soothe the discomfort of teething. Pacifiers are stored in a special case specifically manufactured to minimize cross contamination and are sterilized regularly. We will wean toddlers of pacifier use before they transition to the Little Monkey's classroom.

Missed Meals

Since, the DCYF mandates that we follow individual sleep schedules for children under 30 months of age, occasionally a child will sleep through a meal. When it is possible to safely save a meal or snack until the child awakes, we will. Otherwise, if the next scheduled mealtime is more than 30-minutes away we will serve a nutritionally comparable substitute.

Classroom Supplies List

Baby Bears Classroom Toddlers (12-30 months)

- One week's supply of diapers (minimum)
- 2 complete changes of clothes
- Shoes and appropriate clothing for outdoor play
- Diaper ointments, creams and powders (must be checked in through front office)
- Teething aids such as Infants Motrin or Ibuprofen (must be checked in through front office). The use of teething tablets, Orajel, Tylenol and Acetaminophen require a doctor's note.
- Pacifier (if used)

Little Monkeys Classroom Early Preschool (30 months - 3+ years)

- One week's supply of diapers/pull-ups (minimum)
- 2 complete changes of clothes if in diapers / **3-4 complete changes of clothes if potty-training**
- Plastic pants and extra underwear if potty-training
- Diaper ointments, creams and powders (must be checked in through front office)
- Shoes and appropriate clothing for outdoor play
- NO PACIFIERS are allowed in this classroom

Mighty Lions Classroom Potty-Trained Preschool and Pre-Kindergarten (4-5 years)

- 1-2 complete change of clothes
- Shoes and appropriate clothing for outdoor play

Super Stars School-Age (K-12 years)

- A complete change of clothes
- A backpack (non-roller) to keep school supplies in.

Camp Alliwannado Summer Program School-Age (K-12 years)

- A complete change of clothes (Campers will change into their camp shirts at the start of each day)
- Closed-toe shoes for hiking (required).
- A swim suit (required) and water shoes (preferred, but not required)
- Please note: Campers are supplied with a camp shirt, water bottle, towel, small backpack, and additional sunscreen as part of their Camp fee.

Items from Home

Over-the-Counter (OTC) and Prescription Medications

All medications, whether over the counter or prescription, must be checked in through the front office. This includes common over-the-counter items such as cough drops, diaper creams, lotions, and lip balms.

Families will need to complete a Medication Authorization form so that we can administer these items in accordance with physician's/manufacture's directions. See the Center **Health Care Policy** for further details.

Car Seats, Backpacks and Bags (Including Diaper)

For the safety of all the children in our care items such as car seats, boosters, backpacks, and bags (including diaper) are not allowed in classrooms. For your convenience, you may check these items with front office staff upon drop-off. Please make sure items are labeled for easy identification.

Shoes and Clothing

Health codes stipulate that children need to wear a covering on their feet (i.e.: socks, shoes, etc.) to help prevent the spread of fungal infections and injuries. Please **NO FLIP-FLOPS!**

Dress your child so that they are free to play on the floor or outside. Keep in mind that children feed themselves and enjoy messy play, messy art activities, and just getting plain messy!

Families are to provide 1-2 complete changes of clothes for their child to be left here. **Please label all clothing** with your child's first and last name for easier identification and check often for size. Families will be asked to replace these items after accidents or as their child grows and weather conditions change.

Blankets

Our Center provides each child in care with a micro-fleece blanket upon enrollment. This is done for storage reasons and to limit the risk of head lice. If you feel that your child must have their blanket from home, it must be able to fit into our blanket storage cubbies (about the size of a shoe box) and remain at the Center for laundering.

Toys, Food and Other Items

Both Little Monkeys and Mighty Lions have assigned days and times for "sharing". Check the posted weekly curriculum or ask your child's teacher when their turn is. **Please only allow your child to bring items on this day.**

If your child chooses to bring something, it must be with the understanding that **we cannot be held responsible for its safe return.** Please do not send jewelry or toys with small parts which may pose a choking hazard to younger children. Figurines and **playthings that promote violence are also not permitted.** All items must be able to easily fit in your child's cubby for storage when not in use. If you are not sure, please ask your child's teacher.

Some children in our care have highly sensitive food allergies and even the mere contact with a surface that has touched a particular food item can cause an anaphylactic reaction. Any outside food or drink will be discarded immediately unless it has been prearranged with the Center Director or cook.

Items such as candy, including gum, money and portable electronic devices are not allowed at the Center. School-Age children who bring these items will be asked not to remove them from their backpacks.

Lost and Found

Each classroom has a bin for unclaimed items located near the children's cubbies. Please check this frequently for lost/missing belongings. Due to limited space, items may be disposed of or donated after 30 days.

Food and Nutrition

Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)

Our Center serves meals and snacks according to the guidelines set forth by the USDA Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP).

Children are served the required minimum portion size of each menu item. If a child completes their entire meal, they are allowed to ask for a second serving of one or all components of the meal so long as sufficient time remains in the meal period.

If a child refuses to eat we will offer the meal or snack again two more times. If they still refuse to eat, they may be asked to remain seated at the table until meal service is complete (depending on the meal). Please understand, **we will not force children to eat!** We will, however, indicate on your child's daily report how much of each meal and snack your child ate.

Menus

Menus are on display in the front lobby. Copies are available upon request or can be downloaded from our website. Please keep in mind that we revise our menus annually and occasionally have to make substitutions due to market availability. A separate summer menu cycle runs mid-June through the end of August.

As of March 1, 2014 our menu is considered to be "Nut Free." We do not serve any products that contain peanuts or tree nuts and try our best to exclude the purchase and use of food that may be processed at a facility where the equipment may have been used to process nut products. We also ask that no outside food is brought into our Center without our Center Director's and/or cook's prior approval to limit other accidental exposures.

Outside Food and Drink

Some children in our care have highly sensitive food allergies and even the mere contact with a surface that has touched a particular food item can cause an anaphylactic reaction. Any outside food or drink will be discarded immediately unless it has been prearranged with our Center Director and/or cook.

Food Allergies

If your child has been determined by a doctor to be disabled, and the disability would prevent your child from eating the regular meals at the Center, you must have your child's doctor complete a **CACFP Medical Disability Statement** that describes the disability and prescribes the alternative foods needed, verifying that special meal components are needed due to a disability. We will then work with clients on a case-by-case basis to make sure their child is receiving nutritionally balanced meals while in our care.

Children's food allergies will be posted in locations where food is prepared and served.

Milk and Milk Substitutions

Children who are 12-24 months old will be served unflavored whole milk. Children two years of age and older will be served unflavored low-fat (1%) or fat-free milk.* Breastmilk is considered an allowable fluid milk of any age.

*Low-fat (1%) or fat-free flavored milk may occasionally be served to children six years of age and older during special events such as field trips. In compliance with new FSN regulations, effective October 1, 2017, only fat-free flavored milk will be served.

If your child cannot drink cow's milk due to medical or other special dietary needs but does not have a diagnosed medical disability, you may complete a **Request for Fluid Milk Substitution form**. Our Center currently provides a **USDA approved soy milk alternative** that is nutritionally equivalent to cow's milk. Families may request to provide other USDA approved lactose-free options at their own expense.

Food and Nutrition

Opting Out of Center Meals (WAC 110-300-0190)

If, for whatever reason, families are required to (or desire to) opt out of our Center's food program and provide their own meals, they can do so with the understanding that **all meals, snacks, and beverages must still comply with all current USDA CACFP guidelines, meal patterns, and serving sizes.** See below.

BREAKFAST MEAL PATTERNS Serve Milk, Grains*, Vegetables or Fruit

COMPONENT	AGES 1-2	AGES 3-5	AGES 6-18	ADULTS
Milk	1/2 cup	3/4 cup	1 cup	1 cup
Vegetables, Fruit or Both	1/4 cup	1/2 cup	1/2 cup	1/2 cup
Grains	1/2 oz eq	1/2 oz eq	1 oz eq	2 oz eq

* Meat and meat alternates may be served in place of the entire grains component at breakfast a maximum of three times per week. oz eq = ounce equivalents

LUNCH & SUPPER MEAL PATTERNS Serve all 5 components

COMPONENT	AGES 1-2	AGES 3-5	AGES 6-18	ADULTS
Milk	1/2 cup	3/4 cup	1 cup	1 cup*
Meat & Meat Alternates	1 oz	1 1/2 oz	2 oz	2 oz
Vegetables	1/8 cup	1/4 cup	1/2 cup	1/2 cup
Fruit	1/8 cup	1/4 cup	1/4 cup	1/2 cup
Grains	1/2 oz eq	1/2 oz eq	1 oz eq	2 oz eq

*A serving of milk is not required at supper meals for adults oz eq = ounce equivalents

SNACK MEAL PATTERNS Serve 2 of the 5 components

COMPONENT	AGES 1-2	AGES 3-5	AGES 6-18	ADULTS
Milk	1/2 cup	3/4 cup	1 cup	1 cup
Meat & Meat Alternates	1/2 oz	1/2 oz	1 oz	1 oz
Vegetables	1/2 cup	1/2 cup	3/4 cup	1/2 cup
Fruit	1/2 cup	1/2 cup	3/4 cup	1/2 cup
Grains	1/2 oz eq	1/2 oz eq	1 oz eq	1 oz eq

oz eq = ounce equivalents

Families will need to complete a form "opting out" of ALL Center provided meals and agree to the following terms:

- Our Center is a **NUT FREE** facility, therefore all meals, snacks, and beverages provided must be NUT FREE.
- All items must be labeled with your child's first and last name.
- Commercially prepared items must be served by the expiration/use by date.
- Teachers are not allowed to microwave food. All items must be able to be served cold or at room temperature.
- At least one snack per day must include a fruit or vegetable (WAC 110-300-0185).

Families should note that per WAC 110-300-0190, our Center must supplement any meal that does not satisfy USDA CACFP guidelines. Since our Center does not receive any USDA funding for supplementing meals of non-participants, families will be required to enroll their child in the CACFP if there are ongoing or repeated issues of missing components.

Our Teaching Staff

About Our Teachers

Every one of our teachers goes through the same rigorous hiring process to ensure their dedication and passion — and their ability to meet the developmental and emotional needs of your child. We confirm all professional references and conduct national criminal background screenings. Each member of our staff meets or exceeds the qualification requirements set by state law. Staff also complete a full orientation and attend a comprehensive training program.

Teacher Qualifications (WAC 170-295-1010 thru 1120)

All lead teachers are required to complete 30 hours of training through the Washington State Training and Registry System (STARS) in their first three months of becoming a teacher and ten hours every year thereafter. We encourage our teachers to take college courses in Early Childhood Education and/or Child Development.

All of our teachers are required to have:

- A cleared federal criminal history background check
- State driver's license or other photo identification
- basic first aid training
- infant/child and adult CPR training
- blood borne pathogens / HIV training
- food and beverage service worker's permit
- a negative tuberculosis skin test
- proof of MMR and COVID vaccines (or legal exemption status)

Professional Development

Every year, we set aside time for developing and elevating our employees' professional skills. We strongly believe training allows our teachers to better assist you and your child. This continued commitment to our own education lets us provide outstanding quality care in our Center. Additionally, the time we spend on our professional development lets us meet the states' child care licensing regulations for ongoing training.

Don't forget! Check our Center Events Calendar to see when training days are scheduled, so you can make alternate child care arrangements.

Consistency/Continuity of Care

Consistency/Continuity of care is a term used to describe programming and policies that ensure children are consistently engaged in high-quality early learning experiences with consistent caregivers who are sensitive and responsive to a young child's signals and needs. It is our Center's policy to assign teachers to work with a consistent group of children whenever possible with a goal of building long-term, trusting relationships.

Our Center believes that for young children to grow and thrive, they need to form stable relationships with caring adults who are invested in their healthy social, cognitive, physical and language development. This begins with the immediate family and extends to other family members, neighbors, early care and education providers, health-care providers and other community members. When caregivers foster relationships with young children that are nurturing, individualized, responsive, and predictable, they are supporting the development of healthy brain architecture that provides a strong foundation for the child's immediate and future learning, behavior and health.

Child Abuse Reporting Requirements

Robyn's Nest staff are mandated reporters. We are required by law to report any signs of neglect, exploitation or abuse of any child in our care. We also required to report individuals who arrive at this Center under the influence of alcohol or drugs to the authorities.

Partnering with Families

Honoring Diversity

Every child care center includes a diverse group of children. Even when all the children seem to come from similar family structures and backgrounds, the children will all have individual capabilities, interests, needs, skill levels, and physical characteristics. At our Center, diversity is valued and celebrated. Our Center believes that each child is a unique individual and that all children deserve to be nurtured, loved, and provided equal opportunities to learn.

Inclusion

Every child is different. Some children have disabilities that are identified at birth; other children have disabilities that are not identified until later. It is important to remember that children learn at different rates and in different ways and that the benefits of inclusion extend beyond just benefiting children with disabilities.

Our philosophy of inclusion involves the careful assessment of the needs of each child and the application of measures that will meet those needs. Our Center believes all children deserve to be in a high-quality and developmentally appropriate child care program. We recognize that each child is an individual and that each child must be allowed to develop at his or her own pace. We believe it is our responsibility to provide (and modify) the classroom environment and curriculum to meet the individual needs of all the children in our care.

Family Engagement and Partnerships

We believe that in order to serve young children well, child care providers must develop a meaningful partnership with the families they serve. Positive partnerships in which families feel supported, valued, and respected help young children to flourish. Since families are a child's first teacher, a child's home life and culture are part of who they are as an individual. It is my pleasure to recognize, incorporate, and celebrate special cultural events and family traditions into our center curriculum so we can honor them together.

Our Center has an open-door policy. Family members are always welcome and urged to spend time in their child's classroom if they can. They are also highly encouraged to take the time to talk to their child's teacher when they drop-off and pick-up their child or to connect via email regarding any questions or concerns they may have. A good line of communication is essential to providing quality child care.

In each classroom families will find a **Family Connection Center** resource board. Items such as daily weekly curriculum outlines, learning center arrangements, and copies of monthly newsletters can be found here along with a variety of local community resources options.

Family Conferences

Family involvement is extremely important to the success of children enrolled at our Center. As such, 2-3 times per year families will be offered the opportunity to have individual Family-Teacher conferences with our staff either on-site or over the phone.

During these meetings we will review with parents/guardians the contents of their child's Individual Child Portfolio including CDC Developmental Milestones Checklists and recent samples of their child's daily work. We will also address any questions and/or concerns that families or staff may have and confirm that the information in your child's file, such as emergency contact numbers and medical/immunization history, is accurate.

Communication with Families

Digital Daily Reports (via the Procure Parent Engagement App)

Your little one is changing and learning new things every day. That's why our teachers keep you involved with daily updates on your child's activities, developmental changes, milestones, and moods with digital daily reports via the Procure Parent Engagement App. Other information, such as diaper changes and toileting, meal consumption, medication administration, behavioral incidents, and accident/injury reports are also tracked. This App is a great way for families and teachers to quickly communicate throughout the day.

Information on how to access the Procure Parent Engagement App will be provided upon enrollment. Families can opt to adjust the settings to receive notifications and updates as they occur or as an end-of-day summary. The App also notifies families of any minor behavioral incidents or injuries that may have occurred while in care. These reports become part of your child's permanent file. Hard copies are available to families upon request.

Monthly Newsletters

Our Center provides a monthly newsletter to keep families informed of upcoming events and new and changing policies. Monthly newsletters are posted on the Procure Parent Engagement App, our Center's website, Facebook page, and in each classroom. Hard copies are also available in the main lobby - just ask!

Questions and Concerns

From time-to-time families may have a question or concern regarding their child's care, development, behavior or some other classroom matter. Please feel free to speak to your child's teacher. They spend the most time with your child and are dedicated to providing the best child care experience possible for your child. If they are unable to help you, or you are still concerned or unsatisfied, don't hesitate to speak to the Administrative Supervisor/Center Director.

Please understand: We know that emotions run high in matters that involve the care and treatment of your children. We promise to try our best to answer your questions to the best of our ability and to work with you to come up with a solution that works for everyone involved. However, threats, profane language, rude or aggressive behavior, or inappropriate physical contact with staff or the children in our care will not be tolerated. Any such actions will result in the immediate termination of service and be reported to the proper authorities.

Center Website

We recommend that all families frequently visit our Center's website (www.robynsnestspokane.com) to keep up to date on current Center policies, newsletters, and events.

Social Media

Our Center uses Facebook and other social media to share photos, updates and other information with our families and the community. We recommend that enrolled families follow us so that they stay informed throughout the day.

Conflict of Interest

We love to stay in touch, however, in an effort to maintain the professional status of Center staff and prevent any potential conflict of interest, babysitting and communication done outside of the Center (ie: texting, Facebook, Instagram, etc..) between staff members and clients is not permitted. Please feel free to contact staff in person or in any of the ways listed below:

Phone: 509.928.4034
Fax: 509.928.0559
Email: admin@robynsnestspokane.com
Website: www.robynsnestspokane.com
Facebook: [facebook@robyns.nest.playcare](https://www.facebook.com/facebook@robyns.nest.playcare)

Behavior Management and Discipline

Discipline Philosophy

We believe that all domains of learning are supported during play and through strong, positive interactions with adults. Promoting healthy social and emotional development, including self-control, is one of the fundamental responsibilities our program.

The early years are a critical time for children to learn to control their thoughts, feelings, attention, impulses, and behavior. They are learning how to get along with others and how to be a friend. Children are not born with these skills. Families and caregivers must teach social and emotional skills just as they teach washing hands or learning colors and shapes. We know that when children are given the opportunities and support to develop (learn, practice, discuss, etc.), self-control and other social and emotional skills, it gives them the foundation needed for academic and life success.

When any child in our program, including ABC students, presents with challenging behavior, teaching staff shall follow the standards of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC):

- Observe the children, and then identify events, activities, interactions, and other factors that predict and may contribute to challenging behavior.
- Rather than focus only on eliminating the behavior, teaching staff shall focus on teaching the child social, communication, and emotional regulation skills and using environmental modifications, activity modifications, adult or peer support and other teaching strategies to support the child's appropriate behavior.
- Teaching staff shall respond to challenging behavior, including physical aggression, in a manner that provides for the safety of the child and the safety of others in the classroom. Our response will be calm, respectful and provide the child with information on what is acceptable behavior and what is not.
- We will document the challenging behaviors and the intervention methods that were attempted in a Behavioral Incident report. This record will be kept in your child's permanent file.
- Teacher-family discussions regarding a child's behavior shall be held in private and shall focus on working as a team to develop and implement an individualized plan that supports the child's inclusion and success.

Conscious Discipline

The heart of our Center's discipline philosophy is to encourage self-control, self-esteem, and respect for all children and adults. For this reason, we are training our staff to implement the principles of "Conscious Discipline" by Dr. Becky Bailey. This program takes a different approach to traditional classroom management. It is based on the basic idea that developing discipline with children instead of applying discipline to them, will help them become more emotionally healthy and happy adults.

The program is designed to help teachers take everyday discipline issues and turn them into teachable moments that convey the importance of impulse control, anger management, and conflict resolution. Conscious Discipline gives children the tools to understand that their emotions are not only important and deserving of attention, but they are also controllable and the power to control them lies within the child. We are striving to teach children how to progress from physical or verbal aggression to calm self-regulation, how to make better choices with cooperation and compassion, and the importance of respecting and empathizing with others.

Behavior Management and Discipline

Discipline Procedures

We have found that behavior concerns usually indicate that a child needs more time, support, and practice to develop their social and emotional skills. When serious concerns arise, we will partner with families and professionals who specialize in supporting children's social and emotional health.

When a child continues to be unable to control their actions and are upset, angry, or being disruptive, they may be sent to or asked if they would like to go to the "Cozy Area or Zen Zone." These are quiet spots in which they can allow themselves to take the time to relax, breathe, and try to get their emotions under control. Teachers will continue to watch children while they are in the "Cozy Area or Zen Zone" to make sure they are not hurting themselves or others. They will encourage the child to talk about their feelings and help with calming techniques so the child will be able to return to the classroom setting.

If a child is unable to use these calming techniques and continues to be disruptive, the teacher will then notify the office and the Center Director will be called in to help the child. We might also reach out to parents/guardians so they can speak with the child and/or be notified of the circumstances.

If further guidance is required, actions taken will always be individualized, consistent, and appropriate to each child's level of understanding. **No physical punishment of any kind will be administered Robyn's Nest staff on this property. In addition, staff may not yell at, shame, or humiliate a child in any way.** (Our staff is permitted to briefly yell or use a loud voice to get children's attention or in emergency situations where they feel the child or others might be in imminent danger.) Our goal is to correct children's behavior in a way that will help mold and perfect a child's mental faculties or moral character.

In most cases, instances of inappropriate behavior are used as learning experiences and do not require documentation. However, more significant, or on-going behavioral concerns, as well as those that cause injury to the child or others, will be documented. Families will be required to review these reports upon pickup.

If the child's behavior does not improve or prevents us from being able to properly care for the other children, families will be called to pick up their child from care and they will be excluded for the remainder of the day.

The Center may decide to permanently expel a child if:

- The child exhibits behavior that presents a serious safety concern for that child or others.
- The Center is not able to reduce or eliminate the safety concern through reasonable modifications.
- The Center is not able to meet the child's current emotional and/or developmental needs without additional staff.

Prohibited Behaviors (WAC 110-300-0331)

In accordance with WAC 110-300-0331, our teaching staff must supervise and protect children from the harmful acts of other children. We must immediately intervene when teachers become aware that a child or children are teasing, fighting, bullying, intimidating, or becoming physically aggressive.

Our Center will not tolerate:

- Profanity, obscene language, "put downs", or cultural or racial slurs.
- Angry or hostile interactions.
- Threats of physical harm or inappropriate physical contact such as spanking, biting, jerking, kicking, hitting, slapping, grabbing, shaking, pulling hair, pushing, or shoving.
- Throwing objects at others with the intent to cause damage or harm.
- Spitting.

Behavior Management and Discipline

Biting Policy

Evidence suggests that up to a quarter of all children will bite others at some stage. Babies and toddlers bite for a variety of reasons, such as teething or exploring a new toy or object with their mouth ("mouthing"). As they begin to understand cause-and-effect, they also might bite a person to see if they can get a reaction.

Biting also can be a way for toddlers to get attention or express how they're feeling. Frustration, anger, and fear are strong emotions and toddlers lack the language skills to deal with them. So, if they can't find the words they need quickly enough or can't articulate how they're feeling, they may resort to biting as a way of saying, "Pay attention to me!" or "I don't like that!"

Biting tends to occur most often between the first and second birthday. Biting is a normal part of early childhood development, however, severe bites that break the skin or biting that continues past two and a half years of age are not appropriate. Per DCYF regulations, all incidents of biting will be documented.

Our Center has a duty to protect the safety of *all* children enrolled. If multiple bites and/or aggressive incidents occur, families will be called to pick up their child from care and they will be excluded for the remainder of the day.

The Center may decide to permanently expel a child if:

- The child continues to present a safety concern to themselves or others, and
- The teaching staff, in conjunction with the child's family, are unable to significantly reduce or eliminate the frequency and/or severity of biting through reasonable modifications.

Physical Removal of Children (WAC 110-300-0331)

If a child continues to be disruptive after teaching staff have exhausted the strategies outlined in our Discipline Procedures, we may decide to separate the child from the other children so that they may regain control of him or herself. Physical removal will be determined by that child's ability to walk. If the child is willing and able to walk, teaching staff may hold the child's hand and walk them to the Office. If the child is not willing or able to walk, teaching staff will pick up the child and carry them to the Office.

Use of Physical Restraint (WAC 110-300-0335, 0450, 0490)

In emergency situations, teaching staff may use limited physical restraint when: protecting a child from injuring themselves or others, obtaining possession of a weapon or other dangerous object, or protecting property from serious damage. All incidents of physical restraint will be documented. The report will note the date, time, staff involved, duration, and what happened before, during, and after the child was restrained. If necessary, a written plan will be developed to address underlying issues and reduce need for further physical restraint. A copy of this plan will be forwarded to DCYF (WAC 110-300-0355).

Use of Corporal Punishment (WAC 110-300-0450)

Corporal punishment is when a person in authority uses physical force with the intention of causing pain for disciplinary purposes. **The use of corporal punishment is not permitted in our Center.**

Behavior Management and Discipline

Damage and Destruction of Property

Our classrooms are filled with high-quality materials, toys, and equipment which children are encouraged to play with and explore. When new toys and materials are introduced to the classroom, teaching staff will demonstrate appropriate ways to use the items. The idea is to teach the children the concept of respecting the materials, not to limit creative ways of using the materials. We expect there to be a certain amount of wear and tear and know that even well-loved toys can break during normal play and accidental misuse.

However, intentional damage of items or the facility past two and a half years of age is not appropriate. When children intentionally break or mistreat items resulting in damage to materials, toys, equipment, and/or facility, families will be expected to reimburse the Center for repairs and/or replacement costs. These charges will be added to the family's next billing cycle.

Expulsion Policy (WAC 110-300-0340, 0486)

On rare occasions, our discipline strategies may be ineffective in addressing some children's behavioral issues. Regrettably, in these instances, our Center may find it necessary to expel a child from care. In these instances, families will be notified about the circumstances and reasons for expulsion in writing and, when possible, at a face-to-face with the Center Director.

Instances that may result in expulsion include:

- The child exhibits behavior that presents a serious safety concern for that child or others.
- The Center is not able to reduce or eliminate the safety concern through reasonable modifications.
- The Center is not able to meet the child's current emotional and/or developmental needs without additional staff.

In the event of expulsion, the Center Director will inform families of the availability of information on community-based resources that might benefit the child.

Transitions

Separation Anxiety

Sometimes the pain of separation seems to hurt us, as adults, more than our children. Don't worry, separation anxiety for both the child and their families is a normal reaction. Leaving the familiar faces of family or past caregivers and entering into a new environment can be difficult for anyone. Try to keep in mind that your children learn through consistent experience that each goodbye, as hard as it may be, will be followed by your happy return. Families will find most children quickly adapt to their new surroundings, but feel free to call to check-up on them. Our teachers will be more than happy to keep you updated.

Advancing to Next Classroom (“Bumping Up”)

Most children will make several “bumps” or transitions during their time at our Center moving up from one classroom to the next. This process is easier on some than others. While most children quickly adapt to a new room, especially if it is in the same facility with familiar teachers and friends, others have a bit more difficulty. Adapting to transition and overcoming change may take time for some, both young and old. Remember transition times are learning times for our children and us and that becoming comfortable in a new classroom is an ongoing process, not just a single event. As always, our experienced teachers will be there to gently ease families through the whole process.

Kindergarten

Preschool children make the transition into kindergarten more successfully when their child care facility, school and family prepare for it together. By coordinating transition efforts, preschool and elementary programs can help children maintain and maximize the gains they made in preschool.

At Robyn's Nest, our preschool teachers will develop an individual portfolio that families can choose to share with their child's new kindergarten teacher. Portfolios contents will vary depending on the length of time your child has attended our Center. However, they will generally contain items such as photos, samples of daily classwork, art and recent CDC Developmental Milestones Checklists. We suggest bringing it to your child's kindergarten evaluation prior to the start of the school year.

The Center will provide families with information about the kindergarten enrollment process in the spring of each year. At that time, we will ask families to confirm which school their child will be attending and if they plan on continuing child care in our Super Stars program come fall.

We will make every effort to make the transition to kindergarten as seamless as possible for both the child and their family.

Transportation

About Our Bus

Transporting little passengers is a big job and we take it very seriously. Our Center's 2019, 14-passenger activity bus's construction standards represent the very best in safety, quality, and dependability. Safety features include individual adjustable seatbelts, rear view reverse cameras, emergency exits, and a "no child left behind" safety notification system. The vehicle is insured, routinely inspected by staff for safety concerns, and receives thorough professional maintenance inspections quarterly.

Cell Phone Usage

Our bus driver carries a cell phone for navigation and emergency purposes only. We do not allow them to make calls or text while driving.

Transportation to Local Schools

We currently transport to **Broadway** and **Progress Elementary** using our Center's activity bus. Central Valley School District provides transportation to **Opportunity Elementary** from a bus stop located directly in front of our Center. Children will be supervised by our teaching staff until they are released into the custody of a bus driver or duty officer.

If we are transporting your child to school, please make sure they are here by 8:30am (9:30am Thursdays).

If your child is not in attendance in the morning, we will assume that we are not picking them up from school unless families notify us otherwise.

If we are not picking up your child, regardless of reason, it is extremely important that we are notified prior to 2:30pm. Failure to do so can cause delays, frustrating both the duty officers at the schools and our driver, as we cannot leave until every child is accounted for.

Off-Site Experiences (Field Trips)

Our Center believes that learning should not be confined to within the four walls of our facility. Therefore, children ages three and up may frequently visit the library or participate in other off-site activities. Depending on the weather and site location, staff may opt to walk or transport children using our activity bus. Families will be notified in advance and will be required to sign a written consent form.

Emergency Evacuations

In the event of an emergency evacuation, we will consult with local authorities to determine the safest means of transportation to evacuate all the children to a safe location. Once the safety of the children has been assured, families will be notified of the evacuation site location and the procedure for getting their child.

Animal Policy

General Practice

Having a pet in the classroom can be an educational as well as a fun experience. An animal friend in the classroom can help children learn compassion, responsibility, and many scientific concepts. All our classrooms typically have a pet fish, hermit crab, or other small animal (hamster, gerbil, etc..) as classroom pets.

From time-to-time Ms. Robyn, our owner, may bring in her (hypoallergenic) Goldendoodle, Yeti, to visit our Center or attend an off-site field trip as part of his service dog training. Other times, we may schedule a field trip to an animal shelter, such as S.C.R.A.P.S. or the Humane Society, or visit a pet store. Any time there is contact with animals, children are educated on animal safety, such as appropriate touch and proper hand washing procedures.

When children have contact with animals:

- appropriate safety precautions or alternate activities will be observed for children who have an Individual Care Plan (ICP) on file for specific animal allergies/interactions.
- we will organize children into small supervised groups
- animals will not be allowed in food preparation areas
- children will wash their hands after handling animals; and
- vaccination records, including proof of current rabies shots, will be kept on file at the Center.

In addition, no animal showing signs of illness will be brought into the facility. Unfortunately, due to DCYF regulations, animals will not be allowed in direct contact with children under 30 months of age.

Health Risks

While our goal is to provide a positive interaction between children and animals, families need to understand that just like children, animals may occasionally misbehave by scratching, biting, or knocking down their playmates.

If your child has animal allergies or if you do not wish to accept the potential risks of having your child participate in activities that involve animals, you must complete an ICP to be kept in your child's file and classroom. Those children with an ICP on file will be given an alternate activity during those times.

Pesticide Policy

General Practice

It is the preference of the owners of this facility to use only organic, non-toxic lawn care products on our play areas and front courtyard where children may potentially come in contact with them. Unfortunately, like most child care Centers we deal with the combination of children and food, therefore we sometimes have problems with bees and sugar ants. We have contracted with **Crosstown Pest Control** to spray around the exterior of our facility and put out non-toxic traps when these insects become a nuisance.

Spraying will be done so that there is at least 48-hours between the application and children returning to the site (ie: Friday evening after hours). A notice containing the following information will be placed at the Center entrance least 24-hours prior to product application:

- product name of the pesticide being used
- date and time of application
- location where the pesticide will be applied
- pest to be controlled
- name and number of a contact person at the facility if you have a question.

In addition, to notify people that a pesticide has been used, a marker will be placed at each primary point of entry to the Center grounds. This marker will be:

- a minimum of four inches by five inches
- printed in colors contrasting to the background; and
- left in place for at least twenty-four hours following the pesticide application or longer if a longer restricted period is stated on the label.

This marker will also include:

- a headline that states "This landscape has recently been sprayed or treated with pesticides"
- who has treated the landscape; and
- who to call for more information.

If your child is sensitive to pesticides or is prone to allergic reactions to chemicals, please note this on the **Health Care Information** section of your child's enrollment package and notify the Center Director so that we may take the necessary precautions.

Administrative Notices, Policies, and Postings

Child Care and Business Licenses

Our Center's child care and business licenses are posted in the main office.

Liability Insurance Coverage

State law requires our Center to hold a current liability insurance policy. Our Center drivers and vehicle are insured as well.

Hold Harmless Agreement

Our Center does its best to provide a safe and supervised environment. However, accidents and injuries do happen. Families are required to agree not to hold JD Willits, Inc./Robyn's Nest owners, employees, and agents liable for accidents, injuries, or damages that occur while on the premises or during off-site activities when they enroll.

Inspection Reports and Compliance Agreements

Our center is subject to inspection by state and local health, fire, licensing and building agencies. Regulations and inspections pertain to staff qualifications, the facility and playground, nutrition, health and safety matters, record-keeping, and child-to-staff ratios. Copies of inspection reports, and any corresponding corrective action reports, are available to view upon request.

Smoking, Vaping, and Cannabis Policy

While we understand that smoking cannabis and tobacco products are legal in Washington State, it can generate an odor that is offensive to others. We ask that consumers be considerate of those around them, especially individuals who have allergies and breathing issues, and refrain from smoking or vaping on our premises and directly prior to entering our facility.

Health Care Policy

Emergency Phone Numbers

The following emergency phone numbers will be posted by the telephone in the main office.

Emergency/Police/Fire:	9-1-1
Poison Prevention Center:	(800) 222-1222
Health Specialist: Kate Quinn	(509) 363-3305
Spokane Regional Health District	(509) 324-1511
Communicable Disease Reporting	(509) 869-3133
DCYF Licensor: Karen Cole	(509) 789-3828
Nurse Consultant: Katrina Munro, RN	(509) 328-1488
Child Protective Services:	(509) 363-3333 Daytime (800) 562-5624 Evenings/Weekends
Hospitals:	
Sacred Heart Medical Center	(509) 474-3344
Valley Hospital and Medical Center	(509) 924-6650

Emergency Procedures

Minor Emergencies and Basic First Aid

When children are in our care, staff with current training in Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and First Aid are with each group or classroom. Documentation of staff training is kept in personnel files.

When an injury/Incident occurs, staff trained in first aid will take the appropriate steps:

- Gloves will be used if any body fluids are present.
- Staff will refer to the child's emergency form and call parents/guardians, emergency contacts or health care provider as necessary.
- Staff will record the incident on an **Accident/Injury Report**, which will be kept in each classroom. The form will include the date, time, place and cause of the illness or injury, if known. A copy will be offered to the parent/guardian the same day and another copy placed in the child's file. The original will be placed in the **Accident/Injury Log**, which will be located in the main office.
- Incident/Injury reports will be reviewed daily by the Administrative Supervisor. The Center Director will be notified if the logs indicate any trends. Corrective action will be taken to prevent further injury or illness. All reports are considered confidential.

First Aid kits are inaccessible to children and are located in the main office, Center vehicles, and field trip backpacks when traveling off-site.

Our First Aid Kits contain the following:

- First Aid Guide
- Sterile gauze pads
- Small scissors
- Adhesive tape
- Band-Aids (different sizes)
- Roller bandages
- Large triangular bandage
- Gloves
- Tweezers for surface splinters, and a
- CPR mouth barrier

All first aid kits will be checked by Administrative Supervisor/Center Director and restocked **each month**, or sooner if necessary.

Health Care Policy

Emergency Procedures

Life-Threatening Emergencies

- If more than one staff person: one staff person will stay with the injured/ill child and send another staff person to call 911. If only one staff person: person will check for breathing and circulation, administer CPR for one minute if necessary, and then call 911.
- Staff will provide first aid as needed. Gloves will be worn if any body fluids are present.
- A staff person will contact the parent/guardian(s) or the child's alternate emergency contact person.
- A staff person will stay with the injured/ill child, including transport to a hospital if necessary, until a parent, guardian or emergency contact arrives.
- The incident will be recorded on an Incident/Injury Report and Log as described in "Minor Emergencies".
- Serious injuries/illnesses, which require medical attention, will be reported to the licensor immediately, or as soon as reasonably possible.

Care of Children with Special Needs (ICPs)

Children with special needs will be required to have a written Individual Care Plan (ICP) to be followed in emergency situations. This would include chronic conditions (such as asthma and allergies) or other health concerns, especially those that require the use of rescue medications such as inhalers, nebulizers or EpiPens. ICPs must provide the lists symptoms or conditions under which the medication will be given.

Families who indicate health care concerns on their child's enrollment forms may be required to provide an Individual Care Plan. **ICPs must be completed and signed by a Health Care Provider and the parent/guardian** and must be renewed annually or as indicated by the Health Care Provider (this time will vary with the age of the child and how long the child has been on the medication).

Consent for Emergency Medical Treatment

Families are required to give consent for emergency medical treatment as part of the enrollment process.

Policy and Procedures for Excluding Ill Children

When Children must be Excluded from Care

Staff will check children daily for signs of illness. Children with any of the following symptoms will not be permitted to remain in care:

Fever of at least 100°F **and** who also have one or more of the following:

- Diarrhea or vomiting
- Earache
- Headache
- Signs of irritability or confusion
- Sore throat
- Rash
- Fatigue that limits participation in daily activities

Health Care Policy

Policy and Procedures for Excluding Ill Children (continued...)

Children with any of the following symptoms will not be permitted to remain in care:

- **Vomiting** within the past 24 hours
- **Diarrhea:** 3 or more watery stools within a 24-hour period or any bloody stool
- **Rash**, especially with fever or itching
- **Eye discharge or conjunctivitis (pinkeye)** until clear or until 24 hours of antibiotic treatment
- **Open or oozing sores**, unless properly covered **and** 24 hours has passed since starting antibiotic treatment, if treatment is necessary
- **Head lice.**
- **Scabies.** May return 24 hours after treatment.
- **Severe Coughing**
- **Green or heavy mucus coming from nose**
- **Sick appearance, not feeling well and/or not able to keep up with program activities**

If a Child Becomes Sick While in Care

Children with the above signs and symptoms will be separated from the group and cared for in front office area. Parent/guardian or emergency contact will be notified and will be expected to have an authorized individual pick up your child within **30 minutes**. A staff member will fill out an illness form that states why the child was sent home and when he/she can return. If your child should become ill during the day, you will be notified.

Exclusion/Readmission of Ill Children and Staff

We have a minimum 24-hour “illness free” policy. This means that if your child is sent home during the day, they will not be allowed to come back the next day even if they are on medication!

Children with head lice or nits will be initially excluded for **72 hours. Children must be nit and lice free in order to return to care!!!**

Staff members will follow the same exclusion criteria as children.

Staff Health

Staff and volunteers must provide documentation of a negative tuberculin skin test (Mantoux method) before their employment begins. It must be dated within the past 12 months prior to being hired.

Staff members do not need to be retested for tuberculosis unless they have an exposure. Our Center will comply with all recommendations from the local health jurisdiction (TB is a reportable disease).

Staff must provide proof of having received MMR and COVID vaccinations (or legal exemption status).

Staff who have a communicable disease are expected to remain at home until the period of communicability has passed.

Health Care Policy

Communicable Disease Reporting

Families will be notified when children have been exposed to a communicable disease. Licensed child care facilities are required to report [communicable diseases](#) to their local health department (WAC 110-300-0500).

Immunizations

To protect all children in our care and our staff, and to meet state health requirements, we only accept children fully immunized for their age*. We are required to keep a current Certificate of Immunization Status (CIS) on file to show the Department of Health and the Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) or other government health agencies, as needed. The state also requires our Center to file an annual Immunization Status Report to verify that we are in compliance with State immunization requirements.

Immunization records will be reviewed and updated quarterly by Center Director.

Children need to be immunized for the following:

- DTaP (Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis)
- IPV (Polio)
- PCV
- MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella)
- Hepatitis B
- HIB (Hemophilus Influenza Type B)
- Varicella (Chicken Pox)

*Children may attend child care without an immunization when the parent/guardian **and** health care provider complete Certificate of Exemption. Children who are not immunized will not be accepted for care during an outbreak for diseases which can be prevented by immunization. This is for the un-immunized child's protection and to reduce the spread of the disease. Examples are a measles, chickenpox, or mumps outbreak.

Contact or Exposure to Body Fluids

Even healthy people can spread infection through direct contact with body fluids. Body fluids include blood, urine, stool (feces), drool (saliva), vomit, drainage from sores/rashes (pus), etc. **Gloves will always be used when blood is present.** When anyone has been in contact with body fluids, or is at risk for being in contact with body fluids, the following precautions will be taken:

- Any open cuts or sores on children or staff will be kept covered.
- Whenever a child or staff comes into contact with any body fluids, the area (hands, etc.) will be washed immediately with soap and warm water and dried with paper towels.
- All surfaces in contact with body fluids will be cleaned immediately with soap, water and disinfected with an agent such as bleach in the concentration used for disinfecting body fluids (1/4 cup bleach per gallon of water or 1 Tbsp/quart).
- Gloves and cleaning material used to wipe up body fluids will be put in a plastic bag, closed with a tie, and placed in a covered waste container.

Heath Care Policy

Handwashing Practices

Staff will wash hands:

- Upon arrival at the site
- Before and after handling foods, cooking activities, eating or serving food
- After toileting self, children or diaper changing
- After handling or coming in contact with body fluids such as mucus, blood, saliva or urine
- Before and after giving medication
- After attending to an ill child
- After smoking
- After being outdoors
- After feeding, cleaning or touching pets or animals
- As needed

Children will be assisted or supervised in hand washing:

- Upon arrival at the site
- Before and after meals or cooking activities (in separate sink from the food preparation sink)
- After toileting or diapering
- After handling or coming in contact with body fluids such as mucus, blood, saliva or urine
- After outdoor play
- After touching animals
- Before and after water table play

Hand washing procedures are posted at each sink and include the following:

- Soap, warm water (between 85° and 120°F) and individual towels will be available for staff and children at all hand washing sinks, at all times
- Turn on water and adjust temperature
- Wet hands and apply a liberal amount of soap
- Rub hands in a wringing motion from wrists to fingertips for a period of not less than 10 seconds
- Rinse hands thoroughly
- Dry hands, using an individual paper towel
- Use hand-drying towel to turn off water faucet(s)

Heath Care Policy

Cleaning, Disinfecting and Sanitizing Practices

Cleaning will consist of washing surfaces with soap and water and rinsing with clean water.

Disinfecting/Sanitizing will consist of using a 8.25% bleach/water solution as follows:

Disinfecting: Diapering areas, body fluids, bathrooms and bathroom equipment.	Amount of Bleach: 1 ½ teaspoons 2 Tablespoons	Amount of Water: 1 quart 1 gallon
Sanitizing: Table tops, dishes, toys, mats, etc.	Amount of Bleach: 1/4 teaspoon 1 teaspoon	Amount of Water: 1 quart 1 gallon

Cleaning, Disinfecting and Sanitizing Schedule

- **Tables** used for food serving will be cleaned with soap and water, rinsed, and then **sanitized** with bleach solution before and after each meal or snack.
- **Kitchen** will be cleaned daily and more often if necessary. Sinks, counters, and floors will be cleaned and **sanitized** daily. Refrigerator will be cleaned and **sanitized** monthly or more often as needed.
- **Bathroom(s)** will be cleaned and **disinfected** daily or more often if necessary. Bathroom sinks, counters, toilets and floors will be cleaned and **disinfected** at least daily.
- **Furniture, rugs and carpeting** in all areas will be vacuumed daily. This includes carpeting that may be on walls or other surfaces than the floor. Carpets will be cleaned monthly in infant areas and every three months in other areas (or more frequently as needed).
- **Hard floors** will be swept, mopped, and **sanitized** daily.
- **Utility mops** will be washed, rinsed and **sanitized**, and then air dried in an area with ventilation to the outside.
- **Toilet seats** will be cleaned and **disinfected** daily and when needed.
- **Mouthed toys, or** toys otherwise contaminated by body secretion or excretion, including machine washable toys and cloth books, will be washed with soap and water, rinsed and **sanitized** in between use by different children. A system for ongoing rotation of mouthed toys will be implemented in infant and young toddler rooms. **Only washable toys will be used.**
- **Toys** (that are not mouthed toys) will be washed, rinsed, **sanitized** and air-dried weekly.
- **Cloth toys and dress up materials** will be laundered monthly or more often when needed. If they cannot be washed in the washing machine, they will be hand washed in hot soapy water, rinsed and then dipped into a solution of 1 Tablespoon of bleach per gallon of water for 1 minute and allowed to air dry.
- **Bedding:** sheets will be washed after each use, blankets will be washed weekly or more frequently when needed, at a temperature of at least 140°F, or with **disinfectant** in the rinse cycle. Mats will be cleaned and **disinfected** after each use. Bedding will be stored in a way that one child's bedding does not touch another child's bedding.
- **Children's belongings** will be stored separately to prevent the spread of diseases or parasites.
- **Laundry** will be washed as needed at a temperature of at least 140 degrees or with added disinfecting agent such as bleach.
- **Water tables** will be emptied and **sanitized** after each activity period or more often as needed. Children will wash hands before and after play and be closely supervised.

Heath Care Policy

Cleaning, Disinfecting and Sanitizing Schedule (continued...)

- **General cleaning** of the entire Center will be done as needed. Wastebaskets (with disposable liners) will be available to children and staff and will be emptied daily or when full. Door handles and faucets are cleaned and sanitized at least daily and more often when children/staff are ill.
- **Vacuumping and mopping** of the Center will be done daily or more often as needed.

Cleaning Supply and Chemical Storage

Cleaning supplies and other potentially hazardous chemicals are stored in the original containers, inaccessible to children and separate from food and food area. Our cleaning supplies are stored in the hall janitorial supply closet or in locked cabinets in classroom bathrooms which are ventilated to the outside.

Nap Equipment (WAC 110-300-0265)

Sheets will be washed after each use. Blankets will be washed weekly or more frequently when needed, at a temperature of at least 140°F, or with **disinfectant** in the rinse cycle. Mats will be cleaned and **disinfected** after each use. Bedding will be stored in a way that one child's bedding does not touch another child's bedding.

Medication Management

General Practice

For the health and safety of all children in our care all medications, including diaper creams and ointments, must be checked in through the front office.

State law indicates that medication, even non-prescription, cannot be given to a child in a child care program without **PRIOR written consent** from the child's parent/legal guardian. If your child should require the administration of medication during child care hours you will need to fill out a **Medication Authorization** form which will be kept in your child's permanent file.

This form will include the child's name, the name of the medication, reason for the medication, dosage, method of administration, frequency (can NOT be given "as needed"), duration (start and stop dates), special storage requirements, and any possible side effects (use package insert or pharmacist's written information).

Parent/Guardian Consent

A parent/legal guardian will be the sole consent to medication being given, without the consent of a health care provider, **if and only if** the medication meets all of the following criteria:

- The medication is over-the-counter and is one of the following:
 - > Antihistamines
 - > Non-aspirin pain relievers
 - > Non-narcotic cough suppressants
 - > Decongestants
 - > Ointments or lotions intended to reduce or stop itching or dry skin
 - > Diaper ointments and non-talc powders, intended only for use in the diaper area
 - > Sun screen for children over six months of age
- The medication is in the original container and labeled with the child's name; *and*
- The medication has instructions and dosage recommendations for the child's age and weight; *and*
- The medication is not expired; *and*

Health Care Policy

Medication Management (continued...)

- The medication duration, dosage and amount to be given does not exceed label-specific recommendations for how often or how long to be given.

For sunscreen and diaper ointment, the written consent may cover an extended period of time up to 6 months.

For all other medications the written consent may only cover the course of the illness.

**We will not dispense Acetaminophen or Ibuprofen (Tylenol or Motrin)
for the sole purpose of lowering a child's temperature.**

Health Care Provider Consent

A licensed Health Care Provider's consent, along with parent/legal guardian consent, will be required for prescription medications and all over-the-counter medications that do not meet the previous criteria (including vitamins, supplements, fluoride, and teething medications).

A Health Care Provider's written consent must also be obtained to add medication to food or liquid.

A licensed Health Care Provider's consent may be given in 3 different ways:

- The health care provider provides written instructions (along with the child's name, name of the medication, dosage, frequency (can NOT be given "as needed"), duration and expiration date); *or*
- The health care provider's name is on the original pharmacist's label (along with the child's name, name of the medication, dosage, frequency (can NOT be given "as needed"), duration and expiration date); *or*
- The health care provider signs a completed Medication Authorization Form.

Medications for Chronic Conditions

For chronic conditions (such as asthma), the parent/legal guardian written consent must be renewed on a regular basis (this will vary with the age of the child and how long the child has been on the medication). An individual care plan must be provided that lists symptoms or conditions under which the medication will be given.

Storage

All internal medications are kept in a locked cabinet in the Center Director's office. External medications, such as ointments and creams are stored out of reach in each child's classroom.

Emergency Supply of Medications for Chronic Illness

For medications taken at home, we ask for a three-day supply to be kept with our disaster kit in case of an earthquake or other disaster

Medication Administration Procedure

- Wash hands before preparing medications.
- Carefully read labels on medications, noting: child's name, medication name, amount to be given, time and dates to be given (can NOT be given "as needed"), how long to give, and how to give (e.g. by mouth, to diaper area, in ear, etc.)

Information on the label must be consistent with the Medication Authorization Form.

Health Care Policy

Medication Administration Procedure (continued...)

- Prepare medication on a clean surface away from diapering or toileting areas.
- Do not add medication to the child's drink or food (health care provider authorization required).
- For *liquid* medications, use clean medication spoons, syringes, droppers or medicine cups that have measurements on them (not table service spoons) provided by parent/legal guardian.
- For *capsules/pills*, medication is measured into a paper cup and dispensed as directed by the Health Care Provider/legal guardian.
- Wash hands after administering medication.

Self-Administration by Child

Our facility does not allow children to self-medicate by administering their own medications. All medications will be administered by Robyn's Nest staff.

Staff Documentation

All staff will be trained how to administer medications as part of their New Staff Orientation process by a lead teacher, the Administrative Supervisor, or Center Director. A written record of training will be kept in staff's file.

Each time a medication is given staff will complete and sign a Medication Dispensed form with their full signature. This form will include the time, date and dosage of the medication given along with any side effects observed. This form will be scanned into the child's digital file and the information will be transferred to the child's Medication Log. The original will be sent home with the child's parent/guardian.

If, for some reason, staff is unable to dispense a medication, they will provide a written explanation why it was not given.

Injury Prevention

- The child care site will be inspected at least quarterly for safety hazards by Center Director. Staff will review their rooms daily and remove any broken or damaged equipment.
- The playground will be inspected daily for broken equipment, environmental hazards, garbage, animal contamination, etc. and required depth of cushion material under and around equipment by classroom teachers.
- Toys will be age appropriate, safe, in good repair and not broken.

Emergency & Disaster Response Plan

Our Address: 12103 East Valleyway Avenue
Spokane Valley, WA 99206

Nearest Cross Street(s): Pines and Valleway

Our Phone: (509) 928-4034

**In case of emergency:
call 911**

Together with the Washington State Department of Health, we have developed the following Emergency & Disaster Response Plan designated for response to fire, natural disasters, and other emergencies. Our plan addresses what we are going to do if there is a disaster, if a local emergency plan is in place, such as at a local school district, we will coordinate those procedures and actions in developing our own plan.

- Keep calm - children take their cues from the adults around them.
- Assess the situation.
- Take action to ensure the safety of children and staff

PLEASE NOTE:

**It is impossible to predict every type of emergency that may occur.
This plan has been designed to be a reference guide for staff responding to an incident.
Situations differ—staff are expected to use their best judgement.**

Children with Special Needs

Be aware of any:

- **ALLERGIES** to food items or environment
- **MEDICATIONS** that need are taken regularly or in the event of an emergency
- **PHYSICAL** disabilities or limitations (such as asthma)*
- **MENTAL** disabilities or limitations*

Review and follow Individual Care Plans

***These symptoms may increase in intensity under stressful circumstances**

Earthquake

If indoors:

- Quickly move away from windows, unsecured tall furniture, and heavy appliances.
- Everyone **DROP, COVER, & HOLD.**
 - > **DROP** to floor
 - > **COVER** head and neck with arms; take cover under sturdy furniture or against internal wall
 - > **HOLD** on to furniture if under it and hold position until shaking stops
- Keep talking to children in calm manner until safe to move.
- Do not attempt to run or attempt to leave building while earth is shaking.

If outdoors:

- Move to clear area, as far as possible from glass, brick, and power lines.
- **DROP & COVER.**

Emergency & Disaster Response Plan

Earthquake (continued...)

After earthquake:

- Account for all children, staff, and visitors.
- Check for injuries and administer first aid as necessary. Call 911 for life-threatening emergency.
- Expect aftershocks.
- Determine if evacuation is necessary and if outside areas are safe. If so, **EVACUATE** building calmly and quickly.
- Escort children to designated meeting spot outside and account for all children, staff, and visitors.
- Shut off main gas valve if you smell gas or hear hissing sound.
- Monitor radio for information and emergency instructions.
- Stay off all phones (for 3-5 hours) unless someone has a life-threatening emergency.
- Remain outside of building until it has been inspected for re-entry.

Fire

- Activate fire alarm or otherwise alert staff that there is a fire (yell, whistle).
- **EVACUATE** the building quickly and calmly:
 - > If caught in smoke, have everyone drop to hands and knees and crawl to exit.
 - > Pull clothing over nose and mouth to use as a filter for breathing.
 - > If clothes catch fire, **STOP, DROP, & ROLL** until fire is out.
 - > Take attendance sheets and emergency forms, if immediately available.
 - > Have (designated) staff person check areas where children may be located or hiding before leaving building.
- Gather in meeting spot outside and account for all children, staff and visitors.
- Call 911 from outside of building.
- Do not re-enter building until cleared by fire department.

Fire Evacuation Plans are posted in each classroom.

Monthly fire drills are conducted monthly.

Severe Storm

- Be aware of any –
 - STORM WATCH:** storm may affect area
 - STORM WARNING:** storm will soon be in or already is in area
- Determine if program should be closed.
- Notify parents/guardians to pick up or not drop off children if program is to be closed.
- Monitor radio for storm updates and emergency instructions.
- Use telephone for essential communication only.

Windstorm

If indoors:

- Move away from windows. Cover windows with shades or blinds, if available.
- Consider moving to interior rooms/hall and lower floors.

If outdoors:

- Move indoors, avoiding any downed power lines or trees.

Emergency & Disaster Response Plan

Lightning

If indoors:

- Avoid use of telephone, electrical appliances, and plumbing as much as possible. (Wires and metal pipes can conduct electricity.)
- Move away from windows. Cover windows with shades or blinds, if available.

If outdoors:

- Seek shelter inside and enclosed building.

Bomb Threat

- Move away from windows. Check caller ID if available. (Write "BOMB threat" on piece of paper, along with phone number on which call was received.)
- **Before you hang up**, get as much information from caller as possible.

Ask caller:

- > Where is the bomb?
- > When is it going to explode?
- > What will cause the bomb to explode?
- > What does the bomb look like?
- > What kind of bomb is it?
- > Why did you place the bomb?

Note the following:

- > Exact time of call
- > Exact words of caller
- > Caller's voice characteristics (tone, male/female, young/old, etc.)
- > Background noise
- Do not touch any suspicious packages or objects.
- Avoid running or anything that would cause vibrations in building.
- Avoid use of cell phones and 2-way radios.
- Confer with police regarding evacuation. If evacuation is required, follow **EVACUATION** procedures.

Power Outage

Determine why power is out.

- **If electrical problems are in building, take out flashlights and prepare to EVACUATE.**
- **If severe weather caused outage:**
 - > Take out flashlights. (Do not use candles or any alternate lighting source with a flame.)
 - > Account for all children, staff, and visitors.
 - > Report power outage to power company and hard-wired phone.
 - > Do not call 911, except to report an emergency.
 - > Turn off or disconnect any appliances, electrical equipment, or electronics that were in use.
 - > Leave one light on to indicate when power returns.
 - > Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed.

If weather is cold:

- Ensure everyone is wearing several layers of warm, dry clothing.
- Have everyone move to generate heat. (Lead the class in physical activity or movement games.)
- Never use oven as source of heat.
- Never burn charcoal for heating or cooking indoors.
- Only use an available generator outdoors and far from open windows and vents.

Emergency & Disaster Response Plan

Power Outage (continued...)

If weather is hot:

- Move to lower floors, if possible.
- Remove excess layers of clothing.
- Ensure everyone drinks plenty of water.

Tsunami

Our Center is not located in a Tsunami hazard area.

Our Center is **2376 feet** above sea level and **275 miles** from the coast

But knowing basic information about tsunamis never hurt anyone. A tsunami is a series of waves that may continue for hours.

- Be aware of signs that a tsunami may be approaching:
 - > Noticeable rapid rise or fall in coastal waters.
 - > Strong earthquake lasting 20 seconds or more near the coast.
- In case of strong earthquake lasting 20 seconds or more near the coast:
 - > Drop, cover, and hold
 - > When shaking stops, **EVACUATE** quickly to higher ground away from coast

If you learn that an area has experienced large earthquake, even if you do not feel shaking, listen to local radio station or NOAA Weather Radio for information from the Tsunami Warning Centers.

TSUNAMI WARNING: Tsunami expected. Full evacuation suggested.

TSUNAMI WATCH: Danger level not yet known. Stay alert for more information and prepare to evacuate.

Volcano

- Monitor radio for information and emergency instructions.
- If there is ashfall in your area, be prepared to stay indoors.
- **EVACUATE** if advised to do so by authorities.

If indoors:

- Close all windows and doors.
- Closely monitor anyone who has asthma or other respiratory difficulties - follow care plan.
- Ensure that infants and those with respiratory difficulties avoid contact with ash.

If outside:

- Cover nose and mouth.
- Wear goggles to protect eyes.
- Keep skin covered with clothing.
- Avoid driving in heavy ashfall - driving will stir up ash and stall vehicles.
- Clear roofs of ashfall. (Do not allow accumulation of more than 4 inches.)

Be aware that volcanoes are often accompanied by:

Earthquakes Ashfall and acid rain Landslides and rockfalls Mudflows and flash floods Tsunamis

Emergency & Disaster Response Plan

Landslide or Mudflow

LANDSLIDES are generally associated with heavy rainfall and rapid snowmelt.

MUDFLOWS are fast-moving landslides that usually begin on steep hillsides.

(Volcanic eruption may also cause mudflows.)

- Recognize signs of slides:
 - > Unusual sounds outside, such as rumbling, trees cracking, or rocks colliding.
 - > New cracks appearing in building.
 - > Fences, poles, trees tilting or moving.
- **EVACUATE**, if possible. If too late to evacuate:
 - Indoors:**
 - > Take cover under sturdy furniture.
 - Outside:**
 - > Get out of path of slide.
 - > Run to high ground (uphill), away from slide.
 - > If debris approaching, run for cover of trees or building.
 - > If escape not possible, curl into ball and protect head.
- Account for all children, staff, and visitors.
- Check for injured or trapped persons near slide area, but stay clear of danger and await rescue personnel.
- Stay away from slide area - additional slides may follow.
- Be alert for flooding, which may follow slide.

Missing or Kidnapped Child

Missing Child

- Search program site, including all places a child may hide and nearby bodies of water.
- Contact parent(s)/guardian(s) to determine if child is with family.
- Call 911 with:
 - > Child's name and age
 - > Address of program
 - > Physical description of child
 - > Description of child's clothing
 - > Medical condition of child, if appropriate
 - > Time and location child was last seen
 - > Person with whom child was last seen
- Have child's information, including photo, available for police when they arrive.
- Continue to search in and around site for child.

Kidnapped Child

- Call 911 with:
 - > Child's name and age
 - > Address of program
 - > Description of child's clothing
 - > Medical condition of child, if appropriate
 - > Time and location child was last seen
 - > Person with whom child was last seen
- Have child's information, including photo, available for police when they arrive. Parent(s)/guardian(s) should be contacted by police to explain situation.

Emergency & Disaster Response Plan

Missing or Kidnapped Child

Help to prevent kidnapping:

- Do not release child to anyone other than designated parent, guardian, or emergency contact.
- Call 911 if adults or children express concern about a person at or near program site.
- Encourage parents and guardians to make you aware of any custody disputes, which may put child at risk for kidnapping.

Flood

FLOOD WATCH: flooding may occur in your area.

FLOOD WARNING: flooding will occur or is occurring in your area.

If flooding is in area:

- Determine if program should be closed.
- Notify parents/guardians to pick up or to not drop off children if program is to be closed.
- Monitor radio for storm updates and any emergency instructions.

If facility is in (imminent) danger of being flooded:

- Escort children to designated meeting spot.
- Search all areas, including bathrooms, closets, playground structures, etc., to ensure that all have left the building.
- Account for all children, staff, and visitors.
- Leave note at program site indicating where you are going.
- **EVACUATE** to safe location on higher ground, taking:
 - > Attendance sheets
 - > Emergency contact information
 - > First aid kit
 - > Critical & rescue medications (including asthma meds, EpiPens) and forms
 - > Cell phone
 - > Food, water, and diapers
 - > Battery-operated radio
- Do not try to walk or drive through flooded areas.
- Stay away from moving water and downed power lines.
- Once out of danger, contact parents/guardians or emergency contacts. If unable to get through, phone out-of-area emergency contact 911 to let them know of your location.
- If you have come into contact with floodwaters, wash hands well with soap and water.
- Throw away food that has come into contact with floodwaters.

Consult with local health department regarding cleanup measures.

Heat Wave

- Limit outdoor play when heat index is at or above 90° Fahrenheit.
- Ensure everyone drinks plenty of water.
- Remove excess layers of clothing. (Encourage parents/guardians to dress children in lightweight, light-colored clothing.)
- Keep movement to a minimum.

Emergency & Disaster Response Plan

Heat Wave (continued...)

- Be alert for signs of:

HEAT EXHAUSTION:

cool, moist, pale, or flushed skin

heavy sweating

headache

nausea

dizziness

exhaustion

normal or below normal body temperature

administer first aid

take steps to cool person down

and call for help, if necessary

HEAT STROKE:

very high body temperature (>102° F axillary)

hot, red skin either dry or moist from exercise

changes in consciousness

weak rapid pulse

rapid, shallow breathing

vomiting

Call 911 immediately and

take steps to cool person down

Children may not adapt to extremes of temperature as effectively as adults because they produce more heat (relatively) than adults when exercising and have a lower sweating capacity.

Contagious Disease/Pandemic Flu

- Wash hands well and often.
- Remind parents/guardians that emergency contact information must be current and complete.
- Enforce exclusion policies for children and staff - insist that sick children and staff stay home or go home.
- Have and follow a plan to keep ill children away from well children while they are waiting to go home.
- Keep an illness log of sick children and staff - those sent home and those kept home.
- Close rooms as necessary due to staff illness (to maintain safe ratios).
- Reinforce teaching about good respiratory etiquette:
 - > Use a tissue (or a sleeve, in a pinch) to catch a sneeze or cough.
 - > Throw used tissues into a hands-free trash can.
 - > Wash your hands after using a tissue or helping a sick child.
- Monitor local and state Public Health websites and other news media for current pandemic flu status information, recommendations, and instructions.

Lockdown

- Lock outside doors and windows.
- Close and secure interior doors.
- Close any curtains or blinds.
- Turn off lights.
- Keep everyone away from doors and windows. Stay out of sight, preferably sitting on floor.
- Bring attendance sheets, first aid kits, pacifiers and other comforting items, and books to lockdown area, if possible.
- Maintain calm atmosphere in room by reading or talking quietly to children.
- If phone is available in classroom, call 911 to ensure emergency personnel have been notified.
- Remain in lockdown until situation resolved.
- Notify parents/guardians about any lockdown, whether practice or real.

Emergency & Disaster Response Plan

Dangerous Person

If a person at or near your program site is making children or staff uncomfortable, monitor the situation carefully, communicate with other staff, and be ready to put your plan into action.

- Immediately let staff know of dangerous or potentially dangerous person.
- Initiate **LOCKDOWN**.
- Call 911 from a safe place.

If the person is in building:

- Try to isolate the person from children and staff.
- Do not try to physically restrain or block the person.
- Remain calm and polite; avoid direct confrontation.

If children are outside:

- And dangerous person is outside: quickly gather children, return to classrooms, and initiate lockdown procedures. If this is not possible, go to off-site evacuation location.
- And dangerous person is in the building: quickly gather children and go to off-site evacuation location.

If children are inside:

- Keep children in classrooms and initiate **LOCKDOWN**.

Chemical or Radiation Exposure

- If emergency is widespread, monitor radio for information and emergency instructions.
- Prepare to **SHELTER-IN-PLACE** or **EVACUATE**, as per instructions.
- If exposed to chemical or radiation outside:
 - > Remove outer clothing, place in a plastic bag, and seal. (Be sure to tell emergency responders about bag so it can be removed.)
 - > Take shelter indoors.
 - > If running water/shower is available, wash in cool to warm water with plenty of soap and water. Flush eyes with plenty of water.

Please see Public Health - Seattle & King County's Radiological Emergencies web site at:
<http://www.metrokc.gov/health/radiation/> for additional information on responding to a radiation emergency.

Shelter-In-Place

- Gather everyone inside.
- Shut down ventilation system, fans, clothes dryer.
- Close doors and close and lock windows.
- Gather all children, staff, and visitors in room(s) with fewest doors and windows toward Center of building.
- Bring attendance sheets, first aid kits, and emergency supplies.
- Account for all children, staff, and visitors.
- Close off non-essential rooms. Close as many interior doors as possible.
- Seal off windows, doors, and vents as much as possible.
- Monitor radio for information and emergency instructions.
- Phone out-of-area emergency contact.

Emergency & Disaster Response Plan

Evacuation

On-Site:

- Escort children to designated meeting spot, taking:
 - > Attendance sheets
 - > Emergency contact information*
 - > First aid kit*
 - > Rescue medications (including EpiPens and asthma inhalers) and necessary paperwork*
 - > Cell phone
 - > Food, water, and diapers*.
- Search all areas, (bathrooms, closets, play structures, etc.), to ensure that all have left the building.
- Account for all children, staff, and visitors.

Off-Site:

- Escort children to designated meeting spot.
- Search all areas, including bathrooms, closets, playground structures, etc., to ensure that all have left the building.
- Account for all children, staff and visitors.
- Leave note at program site indicating where you are going.
- **EVACUATE** to safe location, taking:
 - > Attendance sheets
 - > Emergency contact information*
 - > First aid kit*
 - > Critical and rescue* medications (including EpiPens and asthma inhalers) and necessary paperwork
 - > Cell phone
 - > Food, water, and diapers*
 - > Battery-operated radio.

Once out of danger, contact parents/guardians and/or emergency contacts. If unable to get through, phone out-of-area emergency contact or 911 to let them know of your location.

Evacuation Locations

On-Site: Across street along white picket fence, 12104 East Valleyway Avenue

Off-Site: Spokane Valley Library, 12004 East Main Avenue or other site as determined by local authorities. Evacuation site will be posted at facility.

Include in “grab and go” bag in hallway Janitorial Supply closet for quick and easy access.

Staff Responsibilities

Administrative Supervisor / Center Director:

- Accounts for all children, staff, and visitors
- Determines when or if evacuation is necessary
- Maintains emergency contact information
- Coordinates with local authorities
- Responsible for rescue medications and Individual Care Plans

Emergency & Disaster Response Plan

Staff Responsibilities (continued...)

Teaching Staff:

- Account for all children in classroom
- First aid kit
- Flashlight
- Other evacuation supplies, ie: clothing and diapers

Drivers:

- Transportation arrangements, if necessary

Cook:

- Emergency supply of food and water

Emergency Supplies on Hand

Keep adequate emergency supplies on hand, including:

- 3-day supply of food and water for children and staff
- Battery-operated radio
- First aid supplies
- Cell phone
- Extra batteries (all sizes)
- Change of clothing for each child in care (provided by family)
- Extra diapers