

TEXAS ADDENDUM

CADENCE EDUCATION FAMILY HANDBOOK

BREASTFEEDING

Parents/Guardians have the right to breastfeed and/or to provide breastmilk for their child(ren) in school. A location will be made available at all schools for the purpose of breastfeeding and will include a comfortable, adult-sized chair.

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

The Department of Social Services performs such duties as are authorized by state regulations. The Department has the authority to interview children or staff and to inspect and audit childcare school records without prior consent. The School shall comply with the Department and we shall make provisions for private interviews with any child(ren) or staff and the examination of all records relating to the operation of the School. Furthermore, the Department has the authority to observe the physical conditions of the child(ren), including conditions that could indicate abuse, neglect or inappropriate placement.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLAN

Evacuation: (A) In the case of an emergency, our first responsibility is to move the children to a designated safe area, known to all employees, caregivers, and volunteers; (B) Children will be evacuated in an organized way, on foot to the relocation site; Children who need special assistance will be provided for by a designated adult. Evacuation cribs and strollers will be used for children who are under 24 months or children with certain impairments; (C) An emergency evacuation and relocation diagram is posted near an exit in each classroom and office space; (D) Essential documentation will be kept in evacuation bags and ready at all times and will include: (1) Parent and emergency contact telephone numbers for each child in care; (2) Authorization for emergency care for each child in care; and (3) A face-to Name transition sheet for children in care.

Communication: The emergency telephone number that is on file with us will be taken to the evacuation site by your child's teacher - **please make sure that this information is always up to date.** A staff member will communicate information regarding the emergency, with parents and local authorities (such as fire, law enforcement, emergency medical services, health department), as well as Child Care Licensing;

HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

Hand-washing and personal hygiene are expected in every program. Immunizations are not just for children. Our employment policy for keeping up to date on vaccinations help protect employees and children from vaccine-preventable diseases that can be transmitted in a childcare setting, including influenza, pertussis (whooping cough), and varicella.

LICENSING

Our schools are fully licensed and inspected on a regular basis to ensure that it is in compliance with regulations. Your school's current license is on display as well as the most recent Licensing inspection report. Parents may review a copy of Minimum Standards at any time or access them online at https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Care/documents/Standards_and_Regulations/746_Centers.pdf

A gang-free zone is a designated area around our center where the prohibited gang-related activity is subject to increased penalty under Texas law. The specific locations include daycare centers. The gang-free zone is within 1000 feet of the childcare center. For more information about what constitutes a gang-free zone, please consult sections 71.028 and 71.029 of the Texas Penal Code. Gang-related criminal activity or engaging in organized

criminal activity within 1000 feet of the center is a violation of this law and is therefore subject to increased penalty under state law.

The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) has a central place to report:

- Child abuse and neglect.
- Abuse, neglect, self-neglect, and exploitation of the elderly or adults with disabilities living at home.
- Abuse of children in child-care facilities or treatment centers.
- Abuse of adults and children who live in state facilities or are being helped by programs for people with mental illness or intellectual disabilities. These are run by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) or the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS).

Texas law says anyone who thinks a child, or a person 65 years or older, or an adult with disabilities is being abused, neglected, or exploited must report it to DFPS.

A person who reports abuse in good faith is immune from civil or criminal liability. DFPS keeps the name of the person making the report confidential. Anyone who does not report suspected abuse can be held liable for a misdemeanor or felony.

Time frames for investigating reports are based on the severity of the allegations. Reporting suspected abuse makes it possible for a family to get help.

For more information on training or prevention please contact the school

Call: **1-800-252-5400**. If you can't use the Texas Abuse Hotline you can:

Report online at www.TxAbuseHotline.org*External Link*

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

All children will participate each day in:

- Two occasions of active play outdoors when weather permits.
- Two or more structured or teacher-led activities or games that promote movement over the course of the day.
- Continuous opportunities to develop and practice age-appropriate gross motor and movement skills.

Physical activity may take place in the classroom or on the playground, when weather permits.

Children will be expected to participate in all physical activity unless provided with a doctor's note. We will provide indoor and outdoor activities to develop gross and fine motor skills. When children participate in physical activity every day, multiple health benefits accrue. Regular physical activity builds healthy bones and muscles, improves muscular strength and endurance, reduces the risk for developing chronic disease risk factors, improves self-esteem, and reduces stress and anxiety. Beyond these known health effects, physical activity may also have beneficial influences on academic performance. In addition, cognitive skills and motor skills appear to develop through dynamic interaction. Research has shown that physical movement can affect the brain's physiology.

Infants will be given opportunities for physical activity, including supervised tummy time.

Toddler age children will participate in a minimum of 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous active play each day.

Preschool and Pre-Kindergarten children will participate in a minimum of 90 minutes of moderate to vigorous active play each day.

School age children who are in attendance for a full day will participate in a minimum of 90 minutes of moderate to vigorous active play each day. School age children who are only in attendance after-school will participate in a minimum of 30 minutes of moderate to vigorous active play each day.

Physical activity may take place in the classroom, the back school age room, during field trips or on the playground, when weather permits.

When participating in physical activity, children's clothing should protect them from sun exposure and permit easy movement (not too loose and not too tight) that enables full participation in active play. Footwear should provide support for running and climbing. Hats may be worn to protect children from sun exposure.

Examples of appropriate clothing/footwear include:

- Gym shoes or sturdy shoe equivalent
- Clothing for the weather, such as a lightweight, breathable jacket without any hood and neck strings.

Examples of inappropriate clothing/footwear include:

- Footwear that can come off while running or that provide insufficient support for climbing.
- Clothing that can catch on playground equipment, such as those with drawstrings or loops.

When weather conditions prohibit outdoor play, physical activities will occur in the classroom during the scheduled outside time. Classroom teachers have activities planned for "rainy days".

Weather permitting 40-95 degrees (this includes the wind chill and heat index not exceeding these temperatures and the air quality not exceeding a moderate level) After a rain/snow/ice no standing water or muddy areas.

POLICIES

Policies are reviewed annually and updated if necessary.

REPORTING CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

By law, our staff and faculty must and will advise appropriate local and state authorities of any suspected child abuse regarding any child coming into our facility. DFPS information can be found at https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Care/ or by calling 512-438-4800. To submit a child abuse report, call the hotline at **1-800-252-5400**

SCREEN TIME

Children under the age of two will have no screen time or electronics. Children over age two will have limited screen time not to exceed 1 hour.

TEXAS SWIMMING POOL ADDENDUM

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POOL/WATER PLAY SAFETY

Cadence Swimming Pools

Cadence schools with onsite pools have specific safety standards that must be met at all times. These safety standards are the responsibility of all employees at a location with a pool on the grounds. Parents as well are asked to follow all school rules regarding water play. Please speak with your school director for any specific or additional requirements.

Pool Safety Requirements

Pool fence and gate structure requirements must be maintained per local code and licensing regulations. Underwater drains and outlets must have secure safety covers to prevent entrapment, and required life-saving equipment and first aid materials must be kept conspicuous, accessible and in good condition.

Instruction signs: “No Running”, “No Lifeguard on Duty”, “Hours of Use” and pool rules must be posted conspicuously around the pool and enforced by all staff members.

Required Safety Practices for Pool Use

A Pool Safety Checklist will be completed daily, prior to pool use. Children are never left unattended in the pool area, and staff are required to actively supervise children in the pool. At least one employee with current pediatric CPR/First Aid certification must be present at all times when children are present in the pool area. Additionally, a “Water Watcher” must be assigned any time children are in the water, even if there is a lifeguard present. The Water Watcher observes the entire pool area, including the pool deck and water, from a position on the pool deck. This Water Watcher switches every 15 minutes with another responsible adult.

The pool gate must be locked at all times when not being used, and staff must check the lock, tugging on the gate to ensure that both the gate and the lock are properly engaged.

Water Play Safety (Other than Swimming Pools)

Seasonally, prior to using a Splash Pad or playground sprinklers, a maintenance check of all equipment is completed. Defective equipment will be discarded.

If mini-pools, water bins, or any container with standing water is used, close adult supervision is required. Water play containers are separated in a manner to prevent diapered children from sitting in water that others are splashing in with hands and toys, and all containers and mini-pools are emptied immediately after use.

Sun protection for all children is required, following state regulations regarding sunscreen application. Sun hats and water shoes are recommended.