



PRIME TIME

**PARENT
HANDBOOK**

Fall 2016

Contents

Introduction3

Mission Statement.....3

Objective and Goals3

Eligibility4

Notice to Parents4

Activities.....5

Outdoor Policy5

Intersession6

All Day Care6

Parent Involvement7

Snacks and Meals7

Sick Children8

Medication and Procedures8

Discipline.....9

Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS).....10

Pick-Up of Children.....10

Absences.....11

Withdrawals.....11

Payment.....11

Return Check Policy12

Partial Weeks13

Late Check-out.....13

Change of Program.....13

School Year Fees.....14

Special Discount for Active Military14

Child Care Subsidies & Financial Assistance.....14

Inclement Weather Policy15

Insurance Information.....16

Confidentiality and Ethics in Reference to Children’s Records16

Last Day of Program.....19

Summary of North Carolina Child Care Laws and Rules.....19

Introduction

Welcome! Thank you for allowing us to care for your child this year! This handbook has been designed to give you an overview of the Prime Time Program policies, procedures, goals, and philosophies. Please feel free to meet with the Site Director or contact the Prime Time office to discuss any content listed in this handbook. Please note: you will be asked to sign a statement indicating that you have read and understand this handbook at the time of registration.

Mission Statement

Prime Time's mission is to help children develop their fullest potential by providing a safe and healthy environment which supports and strengthens family and school relationships for children in the Cumberland County Community.

Objective and Goals

Prime Time's objective is to provide a comprehensive before & after school care program for children. Our goals are as follows:

>To help children develop their fullest potential by focusing on:

- Physical and recreational skills;
- Self-awareness, confidence, and feelings of self-worth;
- Promoting creativity and self-expression;
- Promoting independence and decision making;
- Interpersonal relationships.

>To provide a safe and healthy environment where children can have fun.

>To support and strengthen the family unit and school relationships by focusing on:

- Improving communications
- Involvement through parents, clubs, and family programs.

Eligibility

All children in Cumberland County Schools beginning kindergarten (no younger than 5 by August 31st) through grade five (no older than 12) who can benefit from the program are eligible to attend. Sixth graders (no older than 12) may attend Prime Time if the parent arranges transportation for the child to an elementary school that hosts Prime Time.

Notice to Parents

- It is your responsibility to keep us informed of any change of employment, address, telephone numbers, hours of work, and emergency contacts. It is imperative that we are able to contact you.
- The registration fee covers your child's day care until the end of the school year OR until your child is withdrawn from the program, whichever comes first.
- If your child requires medication during Prime Time, please fill out all necessary medication forms. These forms are available at the Prime Time Administrative Office or at your child's Prime Time site.
- Prime Time follows the school system's calendar and only operates when the schools are open.
- All paperwork will be kept on file at your child's school until the end of the school year. After this time, paperwork will be shredded.
- Here at Prime Time, we value good customer service and interaction among staff and families. It is Prime Time's expectation that your child's Site Director personally introduce him/herself to you, as well as the counselors at your child's program. To ensure this is being done, please contact the Prime Time Administrative Office if you have not been personally introduced to the staff working at your child's school.
- Parents are welcome to request a tour of the Prime Time operational areas at any time. Please be sure to ask for a tour as your child's Site Director would be happy to provide you with this courtesy.

- Prime Time is not responsible for children's personal belongings that are lost or stolen. Please keep your child's valuables at home.
- The last day of the Fall 2016-2017 program is June 9th, 2017 for Year Round and Traditional students.

Activities

Each week the children will have an opportunity to choose activities that best fit their needs. The children can participate in two staff-instructed activities per day or may choose self-directed activities for their enjoyment. An example activity schedule is as follows:

Dismissal - 3:30 - Snack, Restroom, Outdoor Play

3:30 - 4:30 - Activity One: Children Choose

4:30 - 5:30 - Activity Two: Children Choose

5:30 - 6:00 - Supervised Free Time

*Children may choose to do their homework from school dismissal until closing.

Please Note: Homework is a self-directed activity.

*Homework and Reading Stations will be open as alternate options if a child chooses not to partake in staff instructed activities; however all stations will be open during Free Time.

Outdoor Policy

The Division of Child Development that oversees the daily operations of Prime Time mandates the following North Carolina General Statute which Prime Time is required to observe. Please note the following:

Article 7, Chapter 110 of the North Carolina General Statutes requires that each child care center arrange for each child in care to be outdoors for a minimum of 30 minutes each day, weather permitting. [GS 110-9(2)] Weather permitting can be defined as anytime except adverse weather. Operators must use best judgment when deciding to take children

outdoors. Short periods of time outdoors must be provided even in hot and cold weather. Playing in gentle rain and snow can be both educational and fun for children.

Outdoor play is required as part of the daily activities in a licensed child care center. Children that are too ill or cannot go outdoors are not able to participate in all the daily activities and should be excluded from care. All children must be able to participate in all the daily activities. If a child is not well enough to go outside, the child is not well enough to be at the center.

All children including infants, must be taken outdoors daily. If the weather is too bad for the children to go outside, the center must provide some vigorous activities indoors such as a movement experience or a gross motor skills game.

Prime Time suggests that all children who attend Prime Time are provided with warm clothing for outside play which may include such items as coats, mittens, hat and scarves every day when the weather is cool. **Please note that the outdoor policy applies to all children including those with asthma and/or seasonal allergies.**

Intersession

Prime Time will operate for year round students during their intersession weeks. (Exception: Prime Time is not open during Winter Break or Spring Break.) Hours of operation for intersession are Monday through Friday, 6:30 am until 6:00 pm. Intersession is the only time that Prime Time allows for a break in service, parents will choose which weeks (if any) to send their child and only pay for intersession weeks used. There is one fee for each intersession week and all children need to be picked up by 6:00 pm.

All Day Care

Prime Time is open on scheduled teacher workdays from 6:30 am until 6:00 pm at select locations. Please see the calendar for the specific days that Prime Time is open. There is not an additional charge for care on these days for children regularly attending Prime Time. Parents may register for the All Day Care Only Program at a cost of \$37 per day. Parents need to be aware that their child must be picked up by the time for which they are registered. Before

School only and Partial After School by 4:30; Regular After School by 6:00; All Day Care Only children by 6:00. Late fees will be charged to all children not picked up by their scheduled time (\$2 per minute). Prime Time will offer two snacks on all day care days. **Please notify the Site Director and call the Prime Time Office at least two business days in advance of the All Day Care day if your child will be attending.** If a child is not signed up and paid at least two business days in advance, or not signed up at all but is dropped off on an All Day Care day, the parent will be responsible for providing two snacks and beverages for their child(ren). Parents will need to pack a nonperishable lunch including a beverage on these days.

Parent Involvement

Parents are encouraged to participate by various means:

- Volunteer to help with the program by making presentations to the children or donating materials such as games, art supplies, bean bag chairs, or anything which you feel may be helpful to your child's site. We are a self-supporting program and donations are always appreciated!
- Communicate your needs to your Site Director. Let us know your thoughts. We can only improve the program through open communication and suggestions.
- Attend our monthly special events and our two Parent Involvement Nights!

Snacks and Meals

All snacks served at Prime Time meet all USDA standards. If your child has a food allergy, please ensure that a Special Diet Order form is on file with your child's school, and notify the Prime Time staff about the allergy by listing it in the Prime Time Health Information section. Parents are encouraged to review the snack schedule located on the Prime Time Parent Information Board near the sign-out table.

Cumberland County Schools Prime Time **does not** furnish lunch or supplemental food items on All Day Care days and during Intersessions or during the operation of its summer programming. As such parents will be responsible for providing lunch and a beverage on these days. We encourage parents to provide healthy and nutritious meals for their children.

Microwaves will not be available for student use. Children are not permitted to share meals; please speak to your child about this.

Sick Children

If your child becomes sick, we will isolate your child and you will be notified to pick him/her up within one hour. Parents should arrange with their employers to leave work if their child should become ill at Prime Time. If we are unable to immediately contact you, we will contact those individuals listed as emergency contacts on your child's account. Late check-out charges of \$2.00 per minute may be assessed if your child is not picked up within one hour of notification. As stated in the North Carolina Division of Child Development's Child Care Handbook, "**Children that are too ill or cannot go outdoors are not able to participate in all the daily activities and should be excluded from care. All children must be able to participate in all the daily activities. If a child is not well enough to go outside, the child is not well enough to be at the center.**"

Medication and Procedures

It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to inform Prime Time staff of their child's physician's order to take medication during Prime Time. The parent/guardian must provide medication to Prime Time staff for administration prior to enrolling in the program. We do not have access to the school's medication or paperwork. Failure to do so will result in interruption of child care service. In the absence of emergency medication(s), the school nurse will devise an emergency care plan that consists of calling 911, for which the parent will incur all costs.

For all medications, including topical, rectal, oral, inhalers, and injections, parents/guardians are responsible for the completion of a current Physician's School Medication Form available at the Prime Time office or at your child's school. The written instructions on the form will include:

- Student's Name
- Name of Medication

- Dosage
- Route
- Time to be Administered

The parent/guardian must bring the medication to the Prime Time Site Director at the child's school. **Such medication must be in the original container labeled by the pharmacy.** Parent/guardian will check-in medication, count it, and sign the medication in on the Medication Check-In Log with the Prime Time Site Director. When your child leaves the program, medication should be signed out with the Prime Time Site Director. If your child deletes from our program, medication should be signed out with the Prime Time Site Director on the child's last day.

Prime Time staff will secure emergency medications and supporting documentation for all children with documented life threatening conditions, (i.e. asthma, seizures, and food/insect allergies). All medications will be secured and mobile for transport in emergency situations.

Prime Time staff attend medication, asthma, and diabetes professional development every two years and retain all certification in the NCDCDEE documentation notebook.

Discipline

Appropriate behavior is expected of all children. Inappropriate behavior is dealt with by reasoning with the child, visiting the reflection table, and requesting parental reinforcement from the home. Continued behavior problems, which cause disruption of the program for other children, may be cause for a child's expulsion from the program. If a child is removed from the program due to a behavioral problem, no refund will be given for the unused week of care that has been paid by the parents. Prime Time will not tolerate fighting. Children who fight may be suspended or expelled from the program. There is a zero tolerance policy for fighting and bullying. A child's dismissal from the program will be at the director's discretion and based upon the severity of the incident(s). We do not share information regarding the discipline of other children. Parents are not permitted to approach another child in the program regarding discipline matters.

Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS)

The PBIS initiative is a process for creating safer and more effective schools. The process focuses on improving a program's ability to teach and support positive behavior for all children. PBIS is not a program or curriculum. It is a team-based process for systemic problem-solving, planning, and evaluation, and is an approach to creating a safe and productive learning environment.

Prime Time has established a matrix that serves as the framework of the initiative. The matrix breaks down the expectation and where this expectation should be demonstrated. All expectations fall under a specific category and goal. These goals are called, the "Prime Time 4." The "Prime Time 4" consists of: Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be Responsible, and Be Engaged. As children demonstrate appropriate behavior, they will be rewarded with a special corresponding bead to add to their Prime Time PBIS dog tag chain. Children will collect beads throughout the school year.

Pick-Up of Children

Only authorized persons 16 or older whose names appear on the emergency forms will be allowed to pick up children. NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE. Please be prepared to retrieve your child from their current activity and present a valid photo ID at all times when picking up. We care about your child and never want to release them to an unauthorized person. Please help us by cooperating. If you need to make a change or add someone to the pick-up list, please notify your Site Director and the Prime Time office. All children attending the morning program MUST be signed in by their parent/guardian and children attending the afternoon program must be signed out of the program by any person listed on their approved pick-up list. It would be helpful if all parents would provide pictures on the parent portal. This will help us identify quickly who is allowed to pick up a child.

Absences

There are NO refunds, credits, or transfer of payments for absences, sickness, mishaps, or holidays. A full week's fee is required if your child is absent for any amount of time. If a child needs to be away from the program for more than a week, WITH A PRIOR TWO WEEK NOTICE, it is best to withdraw your child from the program and pay another non-refundable registration fee when your child returns. Parents will also have the option to withdraw without a two week notice, however an early cancellation fee of \$75 for one child or \$100 for 2 children will be applied. Whether your child attends all of a week, part of a week, or none of a week, full payment is still due unless you withdraw your child with prior notification from the program. **You must contact the Prime Time Administrative Office to withdraw your child from the program. If your child is not attending due to non-payment, you are still responsible for payment. All non-payments incur a \$25.00 late payment fee weekly on the unpaid balance.**

Withdrawals

All withdrawals from the program must be submitted at least two (2) weeks in advance to the Prime Time Administrative Office. Failure to notify will incur an early cancellation fee posted to the account of \$75.00 for one child or \$100.00 for two or more children. If you wish to re-enroll your child later, another registration fee will be required. Remember that Prime Time is a continuous program and you are responsible for every week until you withdraw your child with prior notification.

Payment

Payments are due Friday before the week of care. All programs run on a pre-payment basis. Prime Time is a continuous program. Once you have registered your child for the Prime Time program you must make a payment for every week. Payment received after the Monday of the week of care is considered late and you will be charged a \$25.00 late fee, and every week thereafter until the balance is paid. This policy still applies if a holiday should fall on a Monday. Payments placed in the drop-box after 5:30 PM will be processed the next business

day and may be subject to a late payment fee. In the event of non-payment, the Prime Time Administrative Office will attempt to contact the parent/guardian(s) at the numbers provided. Failure to make payment will result in a break in child care service.

Payments can be made online through the parent portal, mailed, brought into our administrative office during business hours (Monday-Friday, 8:00 am until 6:00 pm), or put in the drop slot in the front of the building. The drop slot is available for parents to submit a payment 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Credit Card payments (Visa/MasterCard) by phone may be subject to a convenience fee in addition to the regular processing fees. There is a 4.95% processing and handling fee for all credit/debit card transactions and a \$1.50 processing and handling fee for all e-check transactions. Prime Time accepts cash, money orders, checks, debit (with logo on it), Visa, or MasterCard. Bill Pay: Check with your bank's website to set up an account. We ask that parents list their account number and child's name on all checks and money orders. Please include the following on your personal check: Your Prime Time Account #, DL # and State, Full Name, Address, Phone Number, & Child's Name. **Prime Time does not resubmit returned checks.**

Mailing Address:
Prime Time
PO Box 53686
Fayetteville, NC 28305

Street Address:
Prime Time
1114 Gillespie St.
Fayetteville, NC 28306

Tax Statements – Prime Time will no longer print and mail tax statements. Parents/guardians may print their tax statement through their parent portal at www.ezchildtrack.com/ccsprimetime/parent

Return Check Policy

Prime Time will gladly accept your checks (paper or e-check), however in the event your check is returned; you (parent/guardian) will be responsible for the face amount plus a \$30.00 NSF fee and any late payment fees that may incur. In addition, your check writing privileges will be revoked for one calendar year. If you do have a check that is returned, you will be

contacted by the Prime Time office and you must make your payment in person at the Prime Time administrative office. Payments for returned checks can be made with cash, money order, or cashier's check only; no credit/debit or personal checks will be accepted. Unpaid returned check balances must be paid to the Prime Time administrative office within two weeks of notification. Failure to make payment within the designated time frame may result in your child being deleted from the program until the balance is paid.

Partial Weeks

Prime Time does not pro-rate weeks with the exception of the inclement weather policy and predetermined special rate weeks. If the program is closed for part of a week, payment for the week must still be paid to the Prime Time office. There is no additional charge for All Day Care days during the school year. Holidays and teacher workdays are taken into consideration when determining rates. There will be an All Day Care rate for the first week of the program (August 17-21 for Traditional schools).

Late Check-out

The Partial After School program runs until 4:30 PM and the Regular After School program runs until 6:00 PM. Parents will be charged a \$2.00 per minute per child late fee if they pick-up their child after the designated pick-up time. The late check-out fee must be paid within one week of the late pick-up. After three late pick-ups, your child(ren) may be dismissed from the program.

Change of Program

You are allowed to change the type of program provided for your child twice per school year with one week's notice. Each additional program change will require another non-refundable registration fee. Failure to give prior notice will result in the old program rate remaining in effect until the next week.

School Year Fees

Registration: \$35 – Traditional & Year Round Schools (Non-Refundable)

Program	First Child	Second Child	Third Child
Before School Only	\$50	\$50	\$50
Partial After 4:30 pm Pick-up	\$50	\$48	\$46
Regular After 6:00 pm Pick-up	\$55	\$53	\$51
Before & Partial	\$60	\$58	\$56
Before & Regular	\$65	\$63	\$61
All Day Care	\$37	\$37	\$37
Intersession	\$80	\$70	\$60
Early Release	\$31	\$31	\$31

Special Discount for Active Military

The Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood program (MCCYN) provides fee assistance for families of Active Duty Service Members who are unable to access on-post child care. If you are interested in applying, please contact CCAA at [1.800.793.0324](tel:1.800.793.0324) to start the application process.

Child Care Subsidies & Financial Assistance

Prime Time accepts child care subsidy vouchers from DSS and other subsidy providers. Please contact Beverly Briales at (910) 678-2451 to verify Prime Time accepts subsidy from a specific provider.

Financial assistance is available to working families that qualify. Applications are available on the Prime Time website or can be picked up at the Prime Time Administrative Office. After completing the application, please call Kathleen McNeill at (910) 678-2451 for an appointment.

Inclement Weather Policy

During the threat of inclement weather, the superintendent/designee will determine the operating hours of Prime Time. The superintendent or designee will notify parents as early as possible and will take the safety of students and staff into consideration. We acknowledge that the decision may in some cases lead to an inconvenience, but the decision is made with safety in mind.

Families should refer to the Cumberland County Schools website or local news channels for up to date information regarding delays and closures.

- If school dismisses early for inclement weather, Prime Time will operate for two (2) hours after dismissal. Children picked up after two hours will be charged a late fee. *Under extenuating circumstances, the Superintendent has the authority to make discretionary decisions taking the weather conditions and safety of all staff/students into consideration.*
- If school is completely cancelled due to inclement weather, Prime Time will not operate the before and after school program.
- If the schools are delayed for children or staff due to inclement weather, the Prime Time morning program will be cancelled.
- If inclement weather falls on a teacher workday and it is an optional day for employees of Cumberland County Schools, the Prime Time program will be open. The Superintendent or his designee will determine the hours of operation on that day.

During the threat of inclement weather, the superintendent will determine the operating hours of Prime Time. The superintendent or designee will notify parents as early as possible and will take the safety of the students and staff into consideration. We acknowledge that the decision may in some cases lead to an inconvenience, but the decision is made with safety in mind. Families should refer to the CCS website or local news channel for up-to-date information regarding delays, early releases, or closures. If school is closed one day or children are released early, there is no discount. Discounts apply as follows:

- Two consecutive days in one week – 15%
- Three consecutive days in one week – 35%
- Four consecutive days in one week – 55%
- Five consecutive days in one week – 75%

If school is closed on Friday of one week and on the Monday of the next week, the days are not considered consecutive days. School must be completely closed for two full days in the same week for the discounted rates to apply. Listen to the radio, watch television, and please check the Cumberland County Schools home page when there is a threat of inclement weather.

Insurance Information

The safety and well-being of our students is of utmost importance to us. Notwithstanding our intense efforts at risk prevention, there will be some accidents that will result in injury to some of our students during the program. It is essential that you make arrangements for insuring your child against accidents. Please be advised that the school system does not provide insurance coverage for injury to students at school. **If you do not have insurance, you will need a notarized statement saying Prime Time is not liable for accidents concerning my child if Prime Time was not negligent.**

Confidentiality and Ethics in Reference to Children's Records

Prime Time employees working at the Prime Time locations and the Administrative office will be privileged to confidential information as they work with children and their families. A strict code of ethics will be maintained to ensure the private nature of divulged information.

Confidentiality of Records

1. All records about children and families are locked up when the program is not in operation.

2. Often files are kept in two areas-One with the confidential family information, to which only Cumberland County Schools, and Prime Time employees and Administrative personnel have access via Cumberland County School's Power School & EZ Child Track software systems, the other with materials such as emergency contacts, phone numbers and other pertinent information to which any Prime Time staff can have instant access on site, during the hours of program operation, these files are kept in a file box. Emergency Information sheets are kept in a file box near the phone for quick access.
3. All children's files must be available for review by a North Carolina Division of Child Development representative at all times per NC General Statute 110-91(9).
4. Children's files do not leave the Prime Time locations except when signed out by an authorized Prime Time employee for a specific purpose or when being transported to another host location for All Day Care days. The sign-out sheet will state the child's name, reason for use, date and time taken and the date and time it will be returned. Records should never be removed from a Prime Time location unless being returned to the Prime Time Administrative office to be destroyed or summoned by a court of law.
5. At the end of each school year, all children's files are returned to the Prime Time Administrative office. All files are destroyed/shredded and discarded securely by Cumberland County Schools.

In most cases, a parent's written and signed authorization is required before information concerning a child can be disclosed to individuals outside of Cumberland County Schools Prime Time Before and After School Care. Below are some of the cases in which the law dictates that a parent's signed authorization may not be required in order for Cumberland County Schools Prime Time Before and After School Care to release information:

- If a Cumberland County Schools Prime Time staff believes that the student is likely to harm himself/herself and/or another person, the staff may take action necessary to protect the student or others by contacting the appropriate authorities or medical provider.

- If a Cumberland County Schools Prime Time staff has cause to believe that the student has been or may be abused or neglected, the staff is required to make a report to the appropriate state agency.
- If a child's records are requested by a valid subpoena or court order, Cumberland County Schools Prime Time must respond.

In cases where Prime Time receives a request for information to be released, the Director will verify validity as well as ensure if necessary, with the Cumberland County School Board Attorney that Prime Time is acting within the legal limits of the law. A copy of any request will be provided to parents and maintained in the child's file.

Ethical Considerations

1. Prime Time will get written permission to photograph or video children. The permission informs parents that the images of children may be used in slides, videos, or as illustrations in newsletters, training materials, annual reports, marketing materials or news stories.
2. Without written permission from the parent, information regarding students enrolled in Prime Time will not be released unless Prime Time is required to do so by law.
3. Prime Time will only break a strict code of confidentiality when a child is endangered, within areas of health, neglect, or abuse. Prime Time may need to report heretofore confidential facts without permission to the authorities, only in the child's best interest.
4. When children impart information to a Prime Time employee that implies neglect or abuse, Prime Time is legally obligated to report the information to the appropriate authorities.
5. Prime Time employees will not discuss one family with another family.
6. Both children and parents have the right to be spoken to in private. Prime Time employees will not correct or speak of personal matters in front of other staff members, visitors, parents, caregivers or children. Incorrect behavior should be discussed privately with parents.

7. Children have the right to display feelings. If children lose control, they have the right to be allowed a private place for expressing their emotions, with a Prime Time employee nearby to give reassurance when needed.
8. It is unethical for a Prime Time employee to pursue personal business while being paid to supervise children.
9. Questions that a Prime Time employee may have regarding policy or personal matter of a child's family should be asked of the supervisor or the Director of Prime Time rather than of a Prime Time co-worker, to avoid the potential for gossip.
10. Prime Time employees working with children should refer to their supervisors or the policies set forth in the Employee Handbook to avoid inappropriate discipline of a child.
11. Personal information about families such as a newly instituted separation or divorce, an arrest, a serious illness, or job loss, should be divulged to other Prime Time employees working with the specific child being affected however only to the extent of what they need to know to support the child. Those who seldom have contact with that child may not need to know family details. Careful judgment must be made by the supervisor.
12. Prime Time employees will avoid repeating stories about families that children share. This information should always be treated as privileged information. Prime Time employees are encouraged to document such information and this documentation should be kept confidential and secured at all times.
13. Prime Time employees will avoid judging a family or imposing his or her own values on a child if there is a difference between the staff's beliefs and that of the child's family.
14. Prime Time staff will follow the National Afterschool Association Code of Ethics.

Last Day of Program

The last day for Year Round and Traditional Students is June 9th, 2017.

Summary of North Carolina Child Care Laws and Rules

Division of Child Development

North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
319 Chapanoke Road
Raleigh, NC 27603

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or provision of services. The following requirements apply to both centers and homes.

Transportation

Child care centers or family child care homes providing transportation for children must meet all motor vehicle laws, including inspection, insurance, license, and restraint requirements. Children may never be left alone in a vehicle and child-staff ratio must be maintained.

Records

Centers and homes must keep accurate records such as children's attendance, immunizations, and emergency phone numbers. A record of monthly fire drills practiced with safe evacuation of children must also be maintained.

Discipline

Corporal punishment (spanking, slapping, or other physical discipline) is prohibited in all family child care homes and centers. Each program must have a written policy on discipline, must discuss it with parents, and must give parents a copy when the child is enrolled. Changes in discipline policy must be shared with parents in writing before going into effect. Religious-sponsored programs which notify the Division of Child Development that corporal punishment is part of their religious training are exempt from that part of the law.

Parental Rights

- Parents have the right to enter a family child care home or center at any time while their child is present.
- Parents have the right to see the license displayed in a prominent place.
- Parents have the right to know how their child will be disciplined.

The law and rules are developed to establish minimum requirements. Most parents would like more than minimum care. Child care resource and referral agencies can provide help in choosing

quality care. Check the telephone directory or talk with a child care provider to see if there is a child care resource and referral agency in your community. For more information about quality child care, parents can call 1-800-CHOOSE-1 or visit the Resources in Child Care website at: www.ncchildcare.net. For more information on the law and rules, contact the Division of Child Development at 919-662-4499 or 1-800-859-0829, or visit our homepage at: <http://www.ncchildcare.net>.

Reviewing Files

A public file is maintained in the Division's main office in Raleigh for every center or family child care home. These files can be viewed during work hours; requested via the Division's website at www.ncchildcare.net; or, requested by contacting the Division at 1-800-859-0829.

How to Report a Problem

North Carolina law requires staff from the Division of Child Development to investigate a licensed family child care home or child care center when there has been a complaint. Child care providers who violate the law or rules may be fined up to \$1,000 and may have their licenses suspended or revoked. If you believe that a child care provider fails to meet the requirements described in this pamphlet, or if you have questions, please call the Division of Child Development at 919-662-4499 or 1-800-859-0829.

Child Abuse or Neglect

Abuse occurs when a parent or caregiver injures or allows another to injure a child physically or emotionally. Abuse may also occur when a parent or caregiver puts a child at risk of serious injury or allows another to put a child at risk of serious injury. Neglect occurs when a child does not receive proper care, supervision, or discipline, or when a child is abandoned. **North Carolina law requires any person who suspects child abuse or neglect to report the case to the county department of social services.** In addition, any person can call the Division of Child Development at 919-662-4499 or 1-800-859-0829 and make a report of suspected child abuse or neglect in a child care operation. Reports can be made anonymously. A person cannot be held liable for a report made in good faith.

What Is Child Care?

The law defines child care as three or more unrelated children under 13 years of age receiving care from a non-relative on a regular basis, of at least once a week for more than four hours per day but less than 24 hours.

It is only when all of these conditions exist that regulation is required. The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services is responsible for regulating child care. This is done through the Division of Child Development. The purpose of regulation is to protect the well-being of children while they are away from their parents. The law defining child care is in the North Carolina General Statutes, Article 7, Chapter 110.

The North Carolina Child Care Commission is responsible for adopting rules to carry out the law. Some counties and cities in North Carolina also have local zoning requirements for child care programs.

Star Rated Licenses

Centers and homes that are meeting the minimum licensing requirements will receive a one star license. Programs that choose to voluntarily meet higher standards can apply for a two through five star license. The number of stars a program earns is based upon the education levels their staff meet and the program standards met by the program.

Family Child Care Homes

A family child care home is licensed to care for five or fewer preschool age children, and can include three additional school-age children. This includes preschoolers living in the home, but the provider's own school-age children are not counted (individual care for one or two children are exempt for being licensed). Licenses are issued to family child care home providers who meet the following requirements:

- Home providers must be 21 years old with at least a high school education or its equivalent, and mentally and emotionally capable of care for children.
- He or she must undergo a criminal records background check initially, and every three years thereafter.

- All household members over age 15 who are present in family child care homes when children are in care must also undergo a criminal records background check initially, and every three years thereafter.
- All family child care home providers must have current certification in CPR and first aid and complete an ITS-SIDS training (if caring for infants 0-12 months) every three years. They also must complete a minimum number of training hours annually.

All family child care homes must meet basic health and safety standards. Providers must maintain verification of children's immunization and health status. They must provide developmentally appropriate toys and activities, as well as nutritious meals and snack for the children in care. All children must participate in outdoor play at least one hour per day, if weather conditions permit.

Child Care Centers

Licensing as a center is required when six or more preschool children are cared for in a residence or when three or more children are in care in a building other than a residence. Religious-sponsored programs are exempt from some of the regulations described below if they choose to meet the standards of the Notice of Compliance rather than the Star Rated License. Programs that operate for less than four consecutive months, such as summer camps, are exempt from licensing. Child care centers may voluntarily meet higher standards and receive a license with a higher rating. Centers will be visited at least annually to make sure they are following the law and to receive technical assistance from child care consultants.

Licensed center must meet requirement in the following area:

Staff

The administrator of a child care center must be at least 21, and have at least a North Carolina Early Childhood Administration Credential or its equivalent. Lead teachers in a child care center must be at least 18 and have at least a North Carolina Early Childhood Credential or its equivalent. If administrators and lead teachers do not meet this requirement, they must begin credential coursework within six months of being hired. Staff younger than 18 years of age must work under the direct supervision of staff 21 years of age or older. All staff must complete a minimum number of training hours including ITS-SIDS training for any caregiver that works with infants 12 months of age or

younger. At least one person on the premises must have CPR and First Aid training. All staff must also undergo a criminal records background check initially, and every three years thereafter.

Ratios

Ratios are the number of staff required to supervise a certain number of children. Group size is the maximum number of children in one group. Ratios and group sizes for licensure are shown below and must be posted in each classroom.

Age	Teacher : Child Ratio	Maximum Group Size
0-12 months	1:5	10
12-24 months	1:6	12
2 years old	1:10	20
3 years old	1:15	25
4 years old	1:20	25
School-age	1:25	25

Small centers in a residence that licenses for size to twelve children may keep up to three additional school-age children, depending on the ages of the other in care. When the group has children of different ages, staff –child ratios and groups sizes must be met for the youngest child in the group.

Space and Equipment

To meet licensing requirements, there must be at least 25 square feet per child indoors and 75 square feet per child outdoors. Outdoor play space must be fenced, indoor equipment must be clean, safe, well maintained, and developmentally appropriate. Outdoor equipment and furnishings must be child size, sturdy, and free of hazards that could injure children.

Curriculum

The Division of Child Development and Early Education does not promote or require any specific curriculum to get a quality point for star-rated license. Child care programs choose the type of curriculum appropriate for the ages of the children enrolled. Activity plans must be available to parents

and must show a balance of active and quiet, and indoor and outdoor activities. Rooms must be arranged to encourage children to explore and use materials on their own.

Health and Safety

Children must be immunized on schedule. Each licensed center must ensure the health and safety of children by sanitizing areas and equipment used by children. Meals and snacks must be nutritious, and children must have portions large enough to satisfy hunger. Food must be offered at least once every four hours. Local health, building, and fire inspectors visit licensed program m to make sure standards are met. All children must be allowed to play outdoors each day (weather permitting) for at least an hour a day for preschool children and at least thirty minutes a day for children under two. They must have space and time provided for rest.

2016-2017 Program and Fees

Registration Fee: \$35 (non-refundable)

Continuous Programs		Choice Programs	
Before School Only 6:30am Drop-Off	\$50	Early Release Day School dismissal until 6pm	\$31
Partial Afterschool 4:30pm Pick-Up	\$50	All Day Care Only 6:30am-6pm	\$37
Regular Afterschool 6pm Pick-Up	\$55	Intersession/ All Day Care Weeks 6:30am-6pm	\$80
Before & Partial Afterschool	\$60	<p>*Early Release Days and Teacher Work Days are included in all the Continuous Programs.</p> <p>*2nd and 3rd child discounts are available.</p> <p>**We accept DSS Vouchers **</p>	
Before & Regular Afterschool	\$65		