

Kitty's Kids at Shady Grove, Inc.

Parent Handbook 2024-2025 Edition

Preschool & School-Age Ministries

Kitty's Kids at Shady Grove, Inc.

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KITTY’S KIDS AT SHADY GROVE, INC.
Located at Shady Grove United Methodist Church

Parent Handbook
2024-2025 Edition

Preschool & School-Age
Ministries

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Kitty’s Kids at Shady Grove, Inc. is a non-profit, Religiously Exempt entity established for the purpose of providing Christian-based, affordable Child Care, Preschool, and School-Age programs for families living in the area near Shady Grove United Methodist Church. Donations are tax deductible.

Parent Handbook

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History

Kitty's Kids is the namesake of Katherine "Kitty" Barnette Carneal, a member of Shady Grove United Methodist Church until her death in 1997.

Margaret Katherine Martin was born on September 6, 1915, in Hanover County. The eldest daughter of Joseph and Goldie Martin of Ellerson, Katherine grew up on her parents' farm with her three sisters, a half-sister and half-brother, and graduated from Washington Henry High School.

She married Patrick Henry Barnette of Studley in 1932. Henry died tragically in an auto accident in 1941, leaving Katherine with their two sons and two daughters whose ages ranged from nine months to seven years.

Katherine and her little family – Martin E. "Bill", Marian Kay, Henry Wayne, and Betty Bland – moved to her parents' home on Pole Green Road. She secured a job at Home Beneficial Life Insurance Company where she worked until her retirement in 1973. Granny Martin taught her granddaughters to cook and sew, and Granddaddy Martin instructed his grandchildren in his strong work ethic and devotion to God. Katherine and her parents made sure that the four children were in regular attendance at Shady Grove.

After raising all four children to adulthood, Katherine married George A. Carneal of Ellerson in 1959 and became a second mother to his three children, Dorothy Mae, George A. Jr., and Franklin Lee. George and "Kitty", as she was known to him, enjoyed a marriage of 35 years until his death in 1995.

Katherine loved children and was a faithful lifetime member of Shady Grove United Methodist Church. In her later years, she commented frequently about "all the little children" at Shady Grove and especially enjoyed seeing her great-grandchildren in attendance. Knowing that some of these great-grandchildren would attend Shady Grove's Preschool would have been a special joy for Kitty.

Because of her keen interest in the plans for the development of a Preschool/Child Care program, her children increased her bequeathment to Shady Grove and designated it for this program, thus providing the necessary funds to open Kitty's Kids at Shady Grove, Inc. There is no doubt that this would have been Kitty's desire.

Philosophy

He said to the disciples, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, because the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these." --Mark 10:14

Kitty's Kids at Shady Grove, Inc. is an outreach ministry of Shady Grove United Methodist Church. Kitty's Kids is offered for children ranging from 3 years old through 5th grade. Kitty's Kids accepts all of God's children of all races, gender, color and national or ethnic origin. Kitty's Kids recognizes that in the world we live today, parents need a secure environment where their children can grow and develop socially, emotionally, physically, and spiritually. As servants of Christ, the Kitty's Kids staff creates a loving and nurturing Christian atmosphere.

About Kitty's Kids

Kitty's Kids at Shady Grove, Inc. is a non-profit entity established for the purpose of providing Christian-based, affordable Full Day & Part-Time Preschool and Afterschool/School-age programs for families living in the area near Shady Grove United Methodist Church. Donations are tax deductible. Kitty's Kids is certified through the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) as a Religiously Exempt facility (a Public Disclosure Statement is available on pages 23-24 or upon request in the Kitty's Kids Office).

Kitty's Kids is located on the 1st and 2nd Floor of the Gym Wing of Shady Grove United Methodist Church. Kitty's Kids operates with up to 8 Preschool classes and 3 School-age classes totaling an average of 130 children ranging in age from 3 years old through 5th grade. Kitty's Kids also uses the kitchen (for special events only), playground, and gym facilities at Shady Grove UMC for activities. Kitty's Kids is covered by liability insurance which provides coverage in the event someone brings suit for personal or bodily harm suffered during the operation of Kitty's Kids as a result of negligence.

Kitty's Kids physical address is 8209 Shady Grove Road, Mechanicsville, VA 23111. The mailing address is P.O. Box 8, Mechanicsville, VA 23111. Current information, memos, and more are posted online on the Kitty's Kids website (www.kittyskids.net).

Kitty's Kids phone number is separate from that of Shady Grove UMC. The phone number for the Kitty's Kids Office is (804) 559-7690. This number is connected to the church voice mail. If you receive the church voice mail, press 212 for Kitty's Kids.

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors (the Board) oversees the planning and operations of the school and employs the staff to plan and supervise daily activities for the Center. The Board shall consist of nine persons selected annually by the Membership (Shady Grove United Methodist Church). Board meetings are held at least quarterly. The Executive Committee of the Board meets on a monthly basis.

Absence of Director

In the scheduled absence of the Director, the Assistant Director will assume the Director's responsibilities as needed. In the event that the Director and/or the Assistant Director will be absent from Kitty's Kids due to vacation, sick day, or for a seminar/training opportunity, an individual appointed by the Director may be asked to work as an Office Assistant.

Staff Qualifications

Staff members of Kitty's Kids are mature individuals. They each have a strong interest in the well being of every child. Each teacher has experience in working with children in organized and structured programs. Each staff member has the desire to see children grow in their love of God and others. All staff receive a thorough orientation regarding Kitty's Kids policies and procedures. Staff members are offered opportunities to attend workshops and training programs to keep abreast of current thinking in early childhood and school-age education. All staff members are certified annually by a practicing physician stating that they are free from any disability which would prevent them from caring for children. All staff members have undergone a complete Fingerprint Based Criminal Background Check and a Central Registry Release of Information. All staff members have completed a course in the recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect. Most staff members are also trained in CPR/AED/First Aid and several staff members are Medication Administration Training (MAT) certified.

Curriculum/Chapel Time

In keeping with the mission and vision of Shady Grove United Methodist Church, Kitty's Kids strives to educate children in the way of the Lord. Accordingly, a committee of staff members, teachers, church and Board members, and interested individuals met to develop a curriculum focused on the educational needs of the children as those needs blend with the mission of the Church. Preschool children enrolled in Kitty's Kids will participate in a kindergarten preparation program that is grounded in faith. The curriculum follows local school guidelines and is reviewed/revised annually and approved by the Board of Directors.

An important part of the Kitty's Kids' program is the spiritual development of the children. Prayers will be offered at meal times, and both children and their families will be encouraged to attend the church of their choice as well as pray for one another in class. Approximately once each week, a chapel time will be shared with the children. These chapel times will consist of teaching the children prayers, religious songs, Bible stories and lessons which encourage a relationship with God.

Hours of Operation, Holidays & Inclement Weather

Kitty's Kids is open Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. for **Full Day Preschool** participants (including when Hanover County Schools are closed). Curriculum teaching for all Preschool classes commences promptly at 9:00 a.m. Every effort should be made on the part of the parents to see that their children arrive by 9:00 a.m.

Traditional Preschool classes meet September through May from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Students may begin to arrive at 8:50 a.m. On Hanover County Early Release days, Traditional Preschool classes end at 12:00 p.m. The children attending these classes do not eat lunch at Kitty's Kids on Early Release days. Traditional Preschool will follow the Hanover County Public School schedule. Kitty's Kids will provide a class schedule and school calendar to parents at the beginning of each school year. The Traditional Preschool program will be closed during the summer; however, a variety of programs for children ages 3 years through 5th grade are offered by Kitty's Kids during the summer months.

During the regular school year, the **School-age** classes meet Monday through Friday from 2:30 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. Kitty's Kids will provide care on Early Release days from 12:30 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. All day care will be provided when Hanover County Schools are closed and during Summer Camp. During Summer Camp, Kitty's Kids may also offer Preschool Minicamps on certain weeks.

During periods of inclement weather, Kitty's Kids will make every effort to open during its regular hours for full day services. When Hanover County Public Schools are closed, Kitty's Kids may still be open for Full Day Preschool and School-age students. If the weather permits, Kitty's Kids will offer all day care for these students. During such times, we request parents call the office at (804) 559-7690 to see if the center is open before venturing out. If roads are passable and the parking lot is safe, Kitty's Kids will open. On days that the public schools close early due to inclement weather, Kitty's Kids will expect all of the regularly scheduled School-age students to arrive on the school bus or to be picked up by Kitty's Kids, unless notified by parents that a child will not be present on that day.

The Traditional Preschool program, during periods of inclement weather, will be canceled whenever Hanover Public Schools are closed. As a general rule, snow days are not made up at the end of the year, and tuition payments will not be adjusted.

Kitty's Kids will still hold Traditional Preschool when Hanover County Public Schools open two hours late, but with a modified schedule. When Hanover County Public Schools have a two-hour delay, Kitty's Kids Traditional Preschool will start late (at 10:30 a.m.) and dismiss at 12:30 p.m.

All of Kitty's Kids programs will be **CLOSED** on the following holidays beginning September 1, 2024 and ending August 31, 2025:

Labor Day (9/02/2024)
Thanksgiving Day (11/28/2024) & Friday following (11/29/2024)
Christmas Eve (12/24/2024) & Christmas Day (12/25/2024)
New Year's Day (1/01/2025)
Easter Good Friday (4/18/2025)
Memorial Day (5/26/2025)
Independence Day (7/04/2025)
Teacher Work Day (8/11/2025)

The following dates are Special Events scheduled for the following programs:

August 19: First Day of School
September 3: First Day of School for Traditional Classes
October 30 & October 31: Harvest Festival
November 14: Preschool Stone Soup Thanksgiving Feast
December 12: Christmas Program, 6:30 p.m.
December 23 –January 3: Winter Break (Hanover County Schools Closed-No Traditional Preschool)
February 18: Clifford's Birthday Celebration
February 27 & February 28: Dr. Seuss Birthday; Green Eggs & Ham Celebration
March 13 & March 17: St. Patrick's Day Celebration; Green Lunch Day
March 31–April 4: Spring Break (Hanover County Schools Closed – No Traditional Preschool)
May 5-9: Teacher Appreciation Week
May 8: Parent Appreciation Breakfast
May 20 & May 21: Preschool Graduation & Bridging Ceremonies
May 22: Kitty's Kids Celebration Picnic, 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
May 30: Last day of School for Hanover County Schools
June 2: Summer Camp Begins (Preschool & School-age)

**Please remember that Traditional Preschool classes follow the Hanover County School Calendar. When Hanover County schools are closed for holidays, breaks, or inclement weather, there will be NO Traditional Preschool. All day care will be provided for Preschool and School-age students.*

Daily Arrival & Departure

Arrival:

Full Day Preschool parents and morning School-age parents are required to accompany their child into the building through the Main Entrance of Shady Grove. Parents are required to sign in their child daily with the Brightwheel app using their own unique code, answering all check-in questions, and recording a signature. For safety and security reasons, each parent must have their own code. Failure to sign in your child may result in an additional fee each day. This also applies when School-age children are out of school (i.e. Christmas Break, School Holidays, Summer Camp, etc.). Afterschool School-age children will be signed in daily by their teacher upon arrival on their school bus or church bus.

Traditional Preschool children may begin arriving at 8:50 a.m. Parents may either accompany their child using the Kitty's Kids Entrance (the Main Entrance of Shady Grove UMC) after 8:50 a.m. or use the car drop-off line at the designated location between 8:50 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. For safety reasons, please do not park your car and bring your child through the designated car drop-off line. Parents are required to sign in their child daily with the Brightwheel app using their own unique code, answering all check-in questions and recording a signature. For safety and security reasons, each parent must have their own code. Children arriving after 9:00 a.m. must be accompanied by an adult into the building. Parent is still responsible for signing in their child when arriving late. Curriculum teaching for Preschool will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m.

When using the Kitty's Kids entrance (the Main Entrance to Shady Grove), please park in a parking spot. Please do not pull up in front of the door and leave your vehicle unattended while entering the building.

If your child will not be attending Kitty's Kids on his/her scheduled day for any reason, we request that you call the office at (804) 559-7690 and inform us that morning. This is especially important for children who come after school, in order to ensure your child rode the appropriate school bus and/or did not miss the Kitty's Kids transportation. Kitty's Kids will make every effort to contact parents of absent children who have not advised us in advance of their absence.

Departure:

Children will not be released to anyone other than a parent without written authorization by the parents. Our registration form allows space for you to authorize specific individuals to pick up your child. This list may be altered anytime through a written note from the parent to the Director. Any individual picking up your child who is unfamiliar to our staff will be asked to provide photo identification before your child will be released.

Full Day Preschool & School-age parents are required to come into Kitty's Kids through the Main Entrance. Parents are to sign out their child with the Brightwheel app using their own unique code, and recording a signature. For safety and security reasons, each parent must have their own code. Failure to sign out your child may result in an additional fee each day.

Traditional Preschool children will be dismissed promptly at 12:30 p.m. Parents may either come into Kitty's Kids using the Main Entrance to pick up their child (starting at 12:00 p.m.) or pick up their child in the car pick-up line at the designated location at 12:30 p.m. In either case, parents are to sign out their child with the Brightwheel app using their own unique code, and recording a signature. It will be the responsibility of the parent or adult driving the car to buckle and secure their child with seatbelts and car seats.

Parents who accompany their child to the classroom or pick their child up from the classroom must park in the parking lot and enter through the Main Entrance of Shady Grove. In accordance with the Shady Grove church policy, all other outside doors will be locked or monitored during hours of operation.

Closing and Late Fees

Traditional Preschool ends at 12:30 p.m. and children must be picked up by 12:35 p.m. For all other classes, Kitty's Kids closes at 5:45 p.m. The staff is aware that at times, traffic and other factors might delay a parent. We ask that you call the Kitty's Kids office and inform us when these factors arise, if possible. A fee of \$2 per minute per child will be collected from a parent when late for the scheduled 12:30 p.m. or 5:45 p.m. pick up.

In the event a parent has not come to pick up a child by 5:45 p.m. and has failed to notify Kitty's Kids that he or she will be late, the staff will make every effort to contact you at the numbers we have on file. If the staff cannot reach you, we will contact the individuals listed on your emergency record forms and arrange for one of them to pick up your child. If we are still unsuccessful at reaching one of those individuals and it is 6:00 p.m. or later, we will call the Hanover Social Services Department at (804) 365-4100 or (800) 552-7096 to inform them that you have not picked up your child. We will advise the Social Services Department to come to the center and take the child into their custody. If you arrive after your child has left, it is your responsibility to contact the Social Services Department at the above number.

Security System

To help maintain a safe environment, a security system was installed at Shady Grove United Methodist Church (including Kitty's Kids area). This system changed the main front entrance, currently Kitty's Kids entrance, to an electronic locking system. These doors (and all other doors in the building) are locked or monitored at all times. Kitty's Kids has updated our policies and procedures to include the addition of a Security Fee (refundable deposit of \$15).

For access into the building, a "swipe" machine and an iPhone system (including a buzzer and camera monitor) are located at the main entrance doors. All Full Day Preschool and School-age families will be offered one key fob for access into this entrance. A Security Fee of \$15 will automatically be added to each account as a deposit for the fob. This \$15 Security Fee will be refunded only when the fob is returned undamaged. Each family will also have the opportunity to obtain a second key fob if desired for an additional deposit of \$15. This fob is the primary source of access into the building.

Since the majority of the Traditional Preschool students utilize the car line drop-off/pick-up, it is unnecessary to issue all of these parents a key fob. Traditional Preschool parents may request a fob by contacting the Kitty's Kids Office and agreeing to the Security Fees and Policies.

The key fobs will be issued with a specific identification number and programmed with each family's information. The fob will also be programmed to only provide access into the building Monday through Friday from 7am – 5:45pm. Each family will be responsible for agreeing to all policies and procedures related to the security system, including being responsible for using the fob properly and appropriately. If the fob becomes lost, stolen, damaged, etc., it must be reported to the Kitty's Kids Office immediately to ensure the fob is deactivated. If this occurs, you will be issued a new key fob and an additional \$15 Security Fee will be added to your account.

In addition to the “swipe” machine, an iPhone system is located at the main entrance. This system has a camera connected to a monitor in the Kitty’s Kids Office. There is also a buzzer/intercom system connected to communicate with the Kitty’s Kids Office. The system can be used to contact the Kitty’s Kids Office to gain access to the building. This system is to be used as a secondary source for access into the building.

A memo/form providing this information will be given to all parents. All parents must sign and return this memo stating your understanding of these procedures. Once the form has been signed and returned by the parent, a copy of the form and a key fob will be issued.

Ages, Class Assignment & Enrollment

Children must be three years old by October 1st of each year in order to enroll in the school year programs and three years old by June 15th in order to enroll in the summer programs. In addition, children must be potty trained to attend any program of Kitty’s Kids. The Director will evaluate readiness within a two week trial period and will communicate any concerns or issues to the parents about the child’s readiness to be in the program. The maximum ages for participants in our School-age Program are children attending 5th Grade for the school year term and those rising into the 6th Grade for our Summer Camp.

Class assignment will be based on the child’s age or grade as of September 30 of each school year. Kitty’s Kids will ensure staffing in the classrooms in accordance with the Virginia Department of Education. Kitty’s Kids believes that the key to providing a positive experience for the children is keeping the size of the class small and the ratio of teachers to students adequate for the age level. The typical enrollment per class is: 3-year-olds, 10; 4-year-olds, 10-12; and School-age children, up to 18. The Traditional Preschool class enrollment is up to 12 per class. This ensures that each child receives individual attention, encouragement and praise.

Upon enrollment, each parent is required to sign and provide the documents listed below. Failure to provide/sign these documents may result in your child being dismissed from the program. These documents are maintained for health, safety, and legal requirements to protect your child and Kitty’s Kids. Required documents to be provided upon enrollment, prior to the first day of attendance, are:

- Copy of child’s Immunization Record
- Copy of child’s Certified Birth Certificate
- Copy of child’s Medical Insurance card
- Signed copy of current year Registration Form
- Signed copy of Health & Emergency Information/Consent Form (in Registration Packet)
- Signed copy of Field Trip/Photos Consent Form (in Registration Packet)
- Signed copy of Policy and Tuition Agreement Form (in Parent Handbook)
- Signed copy of Permission to Participate in Swimming and Wading Activities Form
- Signed copy of Religiously Exempt Program Decision to Administer Medications Form

Electronic Devices

Electronic devices (DS systems, iPods, tablets, cell phones, etc.) are not to be brought to Kitty’s Kids, unless it is a day set aside by the Director to do so. During Summer Camp, certain electronic devices will be allowed only on specific Fridays. We have many other great activities for the children.

Supplies Needed

Each Preschool participant must bring the following items:

- A seasonal full change of clothes labeled with the child's name
- Markers, crayons, and glue sticks as detailed by the Director
- Extra supplies such as paper towels, baby wipes, 13 gallon trash bags, tissues, Ziploc bags, markers, crayons, glue sticks, etc. as needed

If staying for Nap Time, Preschool participants must also bring the following items:

- Nap time supplies including a small sleep mat and blanket or small sleeping bag, small pillow, a small stuffed animal or lovey, etc. **(All items must fit into the bin provided in the classroom.)**

Please DO NOT allow your child to bring toys to school. Items from home should be brought only for designated Show-N-Tell days. Each teacher will advise children of their Show-N-Tell days and where to keep these items when not in use. No toy guns, knives, or other weapons or any toy which may promote violence is allowed at Kitty's Kids at any time.

School-age participants are asked to bring in the following supplies: markers, crayons, & glue sticks. Kitty's Kids can always use paper towels, baby wipes, 13 gallon trash bags, tissues, and Ziploc bags (any size).

School-age children should not bring toys to Kitty's Kids. School-age children are to bring their own supplies necessary to complete homework assignments. If your child has a special assignment or project, please send books or materials for him or her to use during Homework Time.

Clothing

All children should wear clothes that allow them to be self-sufficient when using the bathroom. All children are asked to wear tennis shoes. Dress shoes, Crocs, slip-ons (flip-flops, sandals, etc.) are inappropriate and may be dangerous for many of the activities during the day. When wearing dresses or skirts, girls should wear shorts underneath so that they have more freedom for sitting on the floor and playground time. Tank Tops/Sleeveless shirts are acceptable; however, no shirts with spaghetti straps or shirts that show midriff are allowed. All jackets, coats, sweaters, hats, and accessory clothing should be clearly marked with the child's name. Keep in mind that when weather permits, the children will go outside and should bring a jacket or sweater to wear on cool days.

Water Bottles/Snacks/Lunch

Kitty's Kids provides water in each classroom throughout the day. Your child is also encouraged to bring a water bottle daily. **Please put ONLY WATER in the water bottle.** Please do not send tea, soda, milk, juice, etc. in your child's water bottle. Due to allergies, etc., we cannot have other drinks easily accessible in the classroom throughout the day.

Kitty's Kids provides a morning and afternoon snack (excludes Traditional Preschool classes). If your child has allergies on file, copies of the snack menu are available and you may send in substitute snacks for your child.

All Full Day Preschool children (and School-age children attending all day during days off from school and during Summer Camp) will be required to bring his/her own lunch every day. Traditional Preschool children should bring their lunch each day of attendance, but remember there is NO lunch on Hanover County early release days.

Please pack a lunch that does not need to be heated; and if needed, include an icepack for cooling. Lunches will not be refrigerated. Please do not send soda or glass bottles in lunches. During each meal time for all children, we will emphasize good manners. Each meal time is preceded by a blessing. We will stress the importance of each child eating only that which he or she has brought or has been given. We ask that you do likewise.

Nap/Quiet Time

Full Day Preschool children are required to have a daily rest period between the hours of 12:30/12:45 p.m. and 2:30/2:45 p.m. Children do not have to sleep; however, they must rest quietly on their nap mat. Please emphasize to your child the importance of resting quietly as many children do sleep and require a nap. During Summer Camp, we will reduce naptime for the PreK children to prepare them for Kindergarten. Children must wear their shoes during nap time for safety precautions and in the event of an emergency.

School-age children will also have a short quiet time during Summer Camp and full days out of school. Again, the children do not have to sleep, but they must rest quietly.

Communication with Parents

We encourage each parent to provide insight into a child's behavior and mood. Two-way communication is vital to providing the best understanding of your child's needs. Written communication with observations will be provided periodically during the year. Progress Reports are completed and Parent/Teacher conference days will be scheduled upon request in the Winter and Spring for Preschool children.

By the first of each month, you will receive a newsletter and calendar of events to help you better understand the happenings at Kitty's Kids. We welcome your comments and concerns about what is happening at Kitty's Kids, and we ask that you inform the Director of any issues you may have.

We will also have our current information posted online on our website (www.kittyskids.net).

If your child is not attending Kitty's Kids on his or her scheduled day for any reason, we request you call (804) 559-7690, email the office (kittyskidsinc@gmail.com), or send a message to Admin via Brightwheel and inform us that morning. This is especially important for children who come after school, in order to ensure your child rides the appropriate school bus or Kitty's Kids bus.

Discipline Policy

Kitty's Kids believes that discipline is an on-going teaching process to be measured with love and fairness; however, certain behaviors (talking back, using foul language, hitting other students or staff members, biting, etc.) will not be tolerated. If such behavior is exhibited, parents will be notified and may be asked to pick up their child. Recurrent behavior issues may lead to the child being dismissed from the

program. Expected safety and behavior rules will be demonstrated by the teachers who will role model the desired behavior. The teachers observe and compliment each child at every opportunity possible. Appropriate time-outs or loss of privileges will be used if necessary to correct negative behavior. Parents will be informed if a child has a particularly bad day or if there is a recurrent problem. Learning to live and function happily in a complex social environment is an important part of the child's educational experience. Kitty's Kids is committed to certain principles in these relationships. These include the development of a positive thinking and learning attitude, clean language, and respect for one another including child-to-child relationships, truthfulness, and honesty in all matters. One of the objectives must be to help the child achieve positive self-motivation and a positive sense of self-worth.

There shall be no physical punishment or disciplinary action administered to the body such as, but not limited to: striking a child, roughly handling or shaking a child; restricting movement through binding or tying; forcing a child to assume an uncomfortable position; using exercise as punishment; enclosure in a small confined space or any space that the child cannot freely exit himself; punishment by another child; separation from the group so that the child is away from the hearing and the vision of a staff member; withholding or forcing of food or rest; verbal remarks which are demeaning to the child; punishment for toileting accidents; or punishment by applying unpleasant or harmful substances. (*)

() from the Standards for Licensed Child Care Centers by the Virginia Department of Education.*

Classroom Rules:

1. Use an inside voice when inside and an outside voice when outside.
2. Raise your hand and wait to be called upon before speaking.
3. Quietly listen to others as they speak.
4. Obey your teacher and other adults at Kitty's Kids by following all directions the first time.
5. Always use good manners.
6. Keep your hands, feet, and other objects to yourself.

Consequences:

1. Receive verbal warning
2. Teacher speaks directly to the child concerning the behavior
3. Time out away from the group with explanation given to the child as to why they are in time out
4. Privileges taken away
5. Parents contacted by phone or letter

Rewards:

1. Learn about and please God
2. Praise from the teacher to know the child has done a good job
3. Special sticker or treat
4. Surprise celebrations
5. Parents contacted by phone or letter

Biting Behavior

Biting is a typical behavior for some young children who are experiencing their first exposure to group settings. However, children must learn that biting is unacceptable. Parents will be notified whenever their child is bitten or bites another person. The seriousness of the biting behavior may result in a child being suspended from Kitty's Kids for a period of time and ultimately dismissed from the program. It will be up to the Director to determine what course of action is taken concerning each individual child's biting behavior.

Health and Safety of Your Child

Each child's health is a matter of major importance to Kitty's Kids. Upon enrollment, each parent must file with Kitty's Kids an immunization record signed by a physician. The completion of this form is required by the State of Virginia.

A child may be sent home if any symptoms of illness appear during the day. In such cases, the child will be immediately isolated from the other children and a parent will be contacted. **The parent MUST make arrangements to have the child picked up within 30 minutes of being contacted by Kitty's Kids staff.** If a child is sent home from Kitty's Kids due to illness, he or she may not return until symptoms have been gone for at least twenty-four (24) hours without medication. Kitty's Kids reserves the right to modify the "return" timeframe based on outbreaks in the community or the program.

Please notify the Kitty's Kids office **at once** if your child does have a **communicable disease**.

Please keep your child at home if he or she:

- Has symptoms of a possible **communicable disease**. (These may include, but are not limited to, COVID, influenza, RSV, Norovirus, pink eye, ringworm, sore throat, headache, uncontrollable cough, and abdominal pain.)
- Has a fever or has had one during the previous 24 hour period that is 99.4 degrees or higher.
- Has a heavy nasal discharge and is not yet under doctor's care.
- Has diarrhea or has had symptoms during the previous 24 hour period.
- Has vomited during the previous 24 hour period.
- Has Head Lice. (Once your child has gone through the appropriate treatment and has removed the live lice, they may return to school upon inspection by Kitty's Kids office staff.)

Your child may come to school:

- If a cold is over, but a minor nasal drip remains.
- If he/she has a rash or other skin disorder and is under doctor's care. Please notify the Kitty's Kids office in writing of doctor's care.
- If he/she is on medication but shows none of the symptoms listed above.

Depending on the severity, our staff will document and report to the parent, via a Brightwheel app message or an Accident Report, any child's injury, however minor, that occurs while he or she is attending Kitty's Kids. Each parent should acknowledge receipt of this documentation concerning the injury. This documentation will be kept on file. The staff will treat children's minor injuries using basic first aid principles.

In case of serious injury, we will make an immediate attempt to contact a parent. If necessary, we will also call an ambulance or paramedics. Until the arrival of a parent or an ambulance, the Kitty's Kids office staff will be in charge and make all decisions about the care of the child. Kitty's Kids will maintain the parent's signed consent form agreeing to this provision. **It is for your child's benefit that you keep Kitty's Kids informed of current phone numbers and other pertinent information in writing.**

Serious medical problems requiring the long-term administration of medication or other medical care will be addressed on a case-by-case basis. Most of our staff have been trained in child and adult CPR, First Aid and trained for using the AED (automated external defibrillator). Kitty's Kids will be staffed so that at least one person in the building is trained in child CPR. The staff is trained in recognizing signs and

symptoms of child abuse and neglect, preventing child abuse, health screening, and procedures for exclusion of sick children. All staff members participate and perform assigned duties during drills for fires, tornados, hurricanes, and earthquakes.

Parent Reunification

In case of the need to evacuate the site, or when parents/guardians are unable to get to children, the following procedures will be followed to reunite children with parents/guardians (or other contacts designated by parent/guardian) as soon as it is safe.

Off-Site Evacuation Location:

Atlee Church 7171 Verdi Lane, Mechanicsville, VA 23116
(Room 205, Multi-Purpose Room)

Notification: Parents/guardians will be provided information on the evacuation site. This information will be shared through the Brightwheel app, and if possible, via the Kitty's Kids phone messaging system. Parent/guardian contact numbers and emergency information will be carried to the evacuation site.

Release: Children will only be released to contacts listed on the child's form with proper identification. Once released to the parent, parents are asked to leave the evacuation site.

Medication Authorization

This program will administer prescription medications in accordance with a physician's or other prescriber's instructions and in accordance with the standards of practice in the Medication Administration Training (MAT) training.

A parent MUST provide a completed and signed MAT Medication Consent Form along with the medicine in the ORIGINAL container/bottle. It MUST also include the package insert or pharmacy printout with detailed information regarding the medicine, dosage, side effects etc. If needed, the parent must also provide any special tools, such as a dosing spoon or oral syringe, with the child's first and last name written on it. This is VERY important. For medications to be administered for a period of more than 10 working days, a physician's signature will also be required.

Only a provider who has successfully completed the MAT training or has appropriate licensure to administer prescription medications **and** is listed as a medication administrator at Kitty's Kids will be permitted to administer medications at Kitty's Kids.

The approved staff member may administer prescriptions using the following routes: topical, oral, inhaled, eye, ear, medication patches and epinephrine auto injector devices. The approved staff is not allowed to administer medication rectally or vaginally by injection or by a route not listed above.

The individuals providing administration of medication will be trained as follows:

- *Medication Administration Training (MAT) certificate
- *CPR certificate which covers all ages of children in the care of Kitty's Kids
- *First Aid certificate which covers all ages of children in the care of Kitty's Kids

To obtain a Medication Authorization Form or for any other questions, please contact the Kitty's Kids office at (804) 559-7690.

The ONLY medications/products that all staff members at Kitty's Kids can administer/use without a consent form will be: Alcohol & Alcohol Wipes, Hydrocortisone Anti-Itch Cream, Insect Repellent, Lip Balm, Peroxide, Sunscreen, Triple Antibiotic Ointment, & Vaseline. These products must remain with the staff and not in the child's possession.

Birthdays

A birthday is a big event in the life of a child. We will help celebrate in their classroom. Your child will receive special recognition during the day. You may send a special treat to be shared at snack time for the occasion. Special cookies or donuts are preferred, as they are easier to handle than cakes or cupcakes. Please do not bring cookies decorated with hard candies. Due to allergies and other circumstances, it is very important for you to consult with your child's teachers or the Director regarding special snacks for the class.

Birthday invitations may be passed out at Kitty's Kids only if the child's entire class is invited.

Transportation Policy

Transportation from public schools for School-age children and for all scheduled field trips (Preschool and School-age) will be provided by the buses and vans of Shady Grove United Methodist Church or by Hanover Transportation. Kitty's Kids and Shady Grove approve and train all drivers for the church vehicles. Each driver is responsible for ensuring that each passenger is secured in a safety belt. If your child requires a car seat, it is the parent's responsibility to leave a car seat on the day of the trip. There are maximum passenger limits on each vehicle, and the Kitty's Kids staff ensures compliance with this policy.

Hanover County Public School buses will transport School-age children to Kitty's Kids from Mechanicsville Elementary School. Bus schedules for this will be provided by Hanover County at the outset of each school year.

Kitty's Kids will provide transportation from Pole Green Elementary, Laurel Meadow Elementary, and Washington Henry Elementary to Kitty's Kids at the end of the public school day. For those children who need a car seat, Kitty's Kids will provide a safe and secure car seat. Whenever school schedules are adjusted for early releases, Kitty's Kids will pick up the children in accordance with the early release schedule. A fee is associated with transportation to Kitty's Kids. **It is very important to notify Kitty's Kids whenever your child will not be riding the van or bus to the center as regularly scheduled.**

Kitty's Kids bus/van drivers will use the following procedures when transporting students from school:

- The driver will take the attendance notebook, which includes emergency information for each child with them every day.
- The driver will perform a basic inspection of the vehicle before leaving Kitty's Kids. This includes, but is not limited to, checking the condition of the tires, mirrors, lights, gauges, seat belts, etc.
- Each child will be marked appropriately on the attendance sheet every day.
- The driver/staff will ensure that all children are securely buckled before leaving the school.
- Upon arriving back at Kitty's Kids, the driver will ensure that all children have exited the vehicle at the designated drop-off location before parking.

-The driver will perform another inspection of the vehicle before exiting. This includes, but is not limited to, checking the condition of the tires, mirrors, lights, gauges, seat belts, etc. The driver will also be sure all children have exited the bus, the windows are up, the vehicle is locked, etc.

Field Trips and Special Events

Field trips, guest speakers, and special activities are scheduled to enrich our units of study for all of our classes. Preschool classes will take field trips offsite periodically. At other times, we will schedule outside guests to come to Kitty's Kids to enrich our program. School-age children will also periodically go on field trips on public school holidays, as well as during the Summer Camp program.

Parents will be notified of planned activities in the monthly newsletter and calendar. In exceptional circumstances, parents will be notified by the Kitty's Kids office no later than the school day before the scheduled event. Any special clothing requirements (e.g. swimsuit, walking shoes) will be communicated. All parents are required to fill out the field trip consent form upon registration. Without this form and payment of activity fees discussed in the Kitty's Kids Rate Agreement, the child will not participate in the special events.

In addition to the procedures listed previously under Transportation Policy, the Kitty's Kids bus/van drivers will use the following procedures when transporting students on field trips:

- An attendance list will be made of all children and teachers attending the field trip. A copy will be left in the Kitty's Kids office and each teacher will have a copy while on the trip.
- A copy of the route taken will be left in the Kitty's Kids office.
- A notebook containing emergency information for each child will be taken on the trip.
- An attendance count will be performed before leaving the school.
- During the course of the field trip, several attendance counts will be performed.
- Another attendance count will be performed before departing from the trip.

Policy Concerning Death of Child's Parent or Sibling

In the event an enrolled student at Kitty's Kids misses school due to the death of the child's parent or sibling, the following procedure shall apply:

Tuition will be waived and a credit will be applied to the account, and a child's space in the program will be maintained for a period of up to three weeks provided the child's parent or legal guardian notifies the center of the death within three business days. If the child attends the center during this family crisis, the standard rates in effect at such time will apply.

Policy Concerning Child Medical Leave

In the event an enrolled student at Kitty's Kids must miss school due to scheduled surgery or emergency medical conditions requiring admission to any hospital, the following procedure shall apply:

Tuition will be waived and a credit will be applied to the account, and a child's space in the program will be maintained for a period of up to three weeks provided the child's parents notify the center of the medical condition within three business days. In addition, the parent must provide a verifiable doctor's letter stating the nature of the medical condition, the dates when the medical condition arose, and when the child will be healthy enough to return to the Child Care center.

This policy does not apply to absences of less than five days or to conditions not requiring hospitalization.

Policy Concerning Abusive/Unsafe Parental Behavior

Our staff is expected to always act in a mature professional manner in dealing with children and parents. Likewise, we expect parents to act in a mature manner when communicating concerns with our staff, other children, or other parents when at Kitty's Kids. Any foul language, threatening language or abusive or unsafe behavior exhibited by any parent while at Kitty's Kids or in the Shady Grove Church parking lot may result in the related child being removed from the program, as well as notifying the appropriate law enforcement authorities of the incident.

Policy Concerning Tuition Rates and Fees

The Board establishes fees and rates for all programs. Information regarding tuition and fees is provided in the back of the packet. Parents are required to sign a copy of the Agreement to Handbook Policies and Fees found on the last page. Changes in fees or tuition rates made by the Board will be communicated in writing to parents at least 30 days prior to the effective date of the change, and will require your acceptance by signing a revised Rate Schedule and Agreement to Handbook Policies and Fees. If you choose, you may withdraw your child before new rates take effect upon giving a two-week notice.

Payment of fees and tuition may be paid online through the Brightwheel app, or place in the payment box located outside the Director's office. If paying with cash, please see the office staff so that a receipt can be issued. Checks are to be made payable to Kitty's Kids at Shady Grove, Inc. Please note the child's name in the memo. The payment of your child's tuition is your responsibility. Any fees associated with online payments are the responsibility of the parent.

A charge of \$35 will be added to each account anytime a check deposited is returned to Kitty's Kids by the bank for non-sufficient funds or account closed. Upon bouncing three checks to Kitty's Kids, payment must be made from that point forward using either cash, cashier's check, or money order.

Traditional Preschool:

Traditional Preschool tuition is due on the 25th day of the month for the upcoming month. The only exception to this is in September, when payment is due by the first day the Preschool classes meet. Tuition fees are considered delinquent if not received by the 25th of the calendar month for the upcoming month. Should fees be delinquent, there will be a \$10.00 late fee added to the account. Accounts not paid as of the first of the month for which the child is attending may result in dismissal of the child from the program. Any fees and expenses associated with collection of overdue accounts are the responsibility of the parent of the enrolled child.

Activity of each Traditional Preschool child's account detailing transactions of previous payments and indicating any past due balance may be accessed at any time on the Brightwheel app. Any questions or concerns regarding your account statement should be addressed immediately with the Director or Bookkeeper.

Full Time Preschool & School-age:

Full Time Preschool and School-age tuition is due on the first day of the week in which the child attends. Tuition fees are considered delinquent if not received by 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday (or next day of attendance) of each week. Should fees be delinquent, there will be a \$10.00 late fee applied to the account. If an account is not current as of Tuesday (or next day of attendance) of each week, the child will be unable to

attend that day or thereafter until the account is made current. If accounts are not current as of Friday of each week, Kitty's Kids reserves the right to remove the child from the roster and the parent will have to pay registration fees to re-enroll the child. Any fees and expenses associated with collection of overdue accounts are the responsibility of the parent of the enrolled child.

Activity of each Preschool or School-age child's account detailing transactions of previous payments and indicating any past due balance may be accessed at any time on the Brightwheel app. Any issues regarding your account statement should be addressed immediately with the Director or Bookkeeper.

Drop-In:

Late fees will be applied to outstanding Drop-In fees. All tuition for Drop-In children is due on the day the child attends. If the Drop-In fees are not paid by Friday of the current week, a late fee of \$10 will be added to the account.

Tuition Assistance

Tuition Assistance is available for children whose parents/guardians can document legitimate financial need in accordance with guidelines established by the Board of Directors. Applications for tuition assistance may be obtained from the Director. Review and subsequent approval or denial is determined by the Director and the Board of Directors in accordance with the policy.

Drop-In Attendees

Our Preschool and School-age programs do allow children to drop in from time to time without requiring registration for a regular program. Drop-Ins are permitted only when space is available and when the child dropping in does not cause stated child-to-staff ratios to be broken. To drop in, Kitty's Kids requires a registration packet to be completed. Drop-In rates are more expensive than regular program rates and do require payment to be made at the time the child drops in.

Withdrawals & Dismissals

If a parent wishes to withdraw a child from the center, they **must** give the Kitty's Kids administration a **two week written notice**. If notice is not given, an additional two week's tuition will be due after the child's last day in attendance. Generally, tuition is not refundable except by approval of the Board.

The Director may dismiss any child who seems unable to participate in group experiences or exhibits uncontrollable behavior; such as, but not limited to, using profanity, hitting, kicking, biting, and being disrespectful to teachers and classmates. A child may also be dismissed if a parent is negligent in abiding by any of the policies established in this handbook.

Solicitations/Informational Handouts

At times, different groups or companies ask that we send information to families via the children. In most cases, we allow them to do this, upon approval by the Director and/or Board Chairman. However, this does not indicate our support. It is merely provided for your information. Solicitations by individuals or organizations other than those which are educational or benevolent in nature will not be allowed.

Confidentiality

All information about children, families, and staff shall be privileged communication, and shall be handled with regard to confidentiality. However, by Virginia law, caregivers are required to report suspected cases of child abuse or neglect to Child Protective Services.

Please let us know if your child has a special condition, is under a doctor's care, is taking medicine, is suffering from a mishap in the family, or is having any difficulty adjusting to certain circumstances. It helps the teacher interact and understand your child better when he or she has knowledge of such circumstances.

If you ever have any questions, concerns, or other information to share, please do not hesitate to contact the Kitty's Kids Office.

**Kitty's Kids at Shady Grove, Inc.
Preschool & School-Age Tuition and Fees
Summer Camp 2024 & 2024-2025 School Year**

Registration Fee: \$85 due annually upon enrollment. This fee is refundable only in the event Kitty's Kids at Shady Grove, Inc. fails to offer the class for which you have registered.

***In order to enroll in a Fall 3/4 Year Old Class, the child's birth date must be before Oct. 1, 2021.**

***In order to enroll in a Fall Pre-K Class, the child's birth date must be before Oct. 1, 2020.**

***In order to enroll in the 2024-2025 Afterschool Program, the child must be in Kindergarten through 5th grade at Laurel Meadow, Pole Green, Washington Henry, or Mechanicsville Elementary.**

Tuition for Summer Camp 2024 Preschool or School-Age (tuition due weekly) and Tuition for 2024-2025 School Year Full Time Preschool (tuition due weekly):

Full Time (four or more days per week)	\$172
Three Full Days per week	\$133
Five Half Days per week*	\$110

*half day = up to 5 regularly scheduled hours per day

Tuition for 2024-2025 School Year Traditional Preschool 9am-12:30pm only (tuition due monthly):

Four Day (TWThF) Preschool (4/5 year old class)	\$280
Three Day (TWTh) Preschool (3/4 OR 4/5 year old class)	\$250
Two Day (TTh) Preschool (3/4 year old class)	\$215

Tuition for 2024-2025 School Year Afterschool School-Age Program (tuition due weekly):

After School only	\$112
Van Fee - applies to Pole Green, Washington Henry and Laurel Meadow Elementary School students	\$10
School Closed Fee (additional to weekly rate)	\$15 (each extended day)
Before School Care - Mechanicsville Elementary only	\$5

Activity Fees for 2024 Summer Camp (due 1st week of Summer)

School-Age (Kindergarten – 5 th grade)	\$170
Four/Five Year Old PreK Classes	\$100
Three/Four Year Old Classes	\$50

Activity Fees for 2024-2025 School Year (due September 2024 and January 2025)

Afterschool School-Age Program (Kindergarten – 5 th Grade)	\$20
Four/Five Year Old PreK Classes	\$43
Three/Four Year Old Classes	\$38

Drop-in Fees for 2024 Summer Camp based upon availability and approval by Director:

Full Day (more than 5 hours)	\$50	Half Day (less than 5 hours)	\$30
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Drop-in Fees for 2024-2025 School Year based upon availability and approval by Director:

Full Day (more than 5 hours)	\$50	Half Day (less than 5 hours)	\$30
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Vacation Discount:

Students attending as “Drop-In” students or students enrolled in a Traditional 3’s or Traditional PreK class (September – May) do not qualify for a vacation discount. For all other classes, a **maximum** of two weeks of vacation may be taken and paid for at ½ of the program weekly rate provided your child does not attend at all during the specified week. For students attending the Summer Session only, a one week vacation credit may be taken and paid for at ½ of the program weekly rate provided your child does not attend at all during the specified week. Vacation must be used during the current school/summer term (September – August) and may not be carried over. **This vacation discount can only be used if your account is current.** The vacation discount cannot be applied to an outstanding balance or be applied retroactively. The office staff will need to be notified prior to taking this vacation discount.

Multiple Child Discount:

Discounts are given to families with more than one child enrolled at the same time. The family will receive a 10% discount off tuition of the second, third, etc. child enrolled. The child with the highest tuition rate will pay the full price, and the discount will be extended to all other children. Activity fees and Registration fees will not be discounted. This discount does not apply to Drop-In rates.

Shady Grove Member Discount:

Any child whose parent/guardian is a member of Shady Grove UMC will receive a 10% tuition discount. In addition, a \$20 credit will be applied to the Registration fee if the child is registered by May 1st. Activity fees will not be discounted. This discount does not apply to Drop-In rates.

Military Discount:

Any child whose parent/guardian is an active member of any military service will receive a 10% tuition discount. Proper documentation of active military service must be provided to the office. Activity fees and Registration fees will not be discounted. This discount does not apply to Drop-In rates.

Religiously Exempt Child Day Centers

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Kitty's Kids at Shady Grove, Inc.

The Code of Virginia, Section 22.1-289.031, allows child day centers operated by religious institutions the opportunity to file for an exemption from licensure by meeting documentation and other requirements specified within the religious exemption law. The statements below have been prepared and distributed to meet the requirements of the religious exemption law.

RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION

In compliance with the Code of Virginia, Section 22.1-289.031, Kitty's Kids at Shady Grove, Inc. is religiously exempt from licensure and is classified as a "Religiously Exempt Child Day Center" (REDCDC). Kitty's Kids is a non-profit entity established for providing Christian-based, affordable Childcare, Preschool, and School-age programs for families living in the area near Shady Grove United Methodist Church. Donations are tax deductible.

QUALIFICATIONS OF PERSONNEL

Kitty's Kids Staff are mature individuals. They each have a strong interest in the well-being of every child. Each teacher has experience in working with children in organized and structured programs. Each staff member has the desire to see children grow in their love of God and others. All staff receive a thorough orientation regarding Kitty's Kids policies and procedures. Staff members are offered opportunities to attend workshops and training programs to keep abreast of current thinking in early childhood and school age education.

All staff members have undergone a complete Fingerprint Based Background Check and a Background Check with the Central Registry Release of Information mandated by the Virginia Child Protective Law before hiring. All staff members have completed a course in the recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect. Most staff members are also trained in CPR/AED/First Aid. Several staff members are Medication Administration Training (MAT) certified to administer medication. All documentation is placed in the staff member's employee folder.

DESCRIPTION OF FACILITIES

Kitty's Kids is located on the 1st and 2nd floor gym wing of Shady Grove United Methodist Church. The Center is located at 8209 Shady Grove Road in Mechanicsville, VA 23111. The mailing address is P.O. Box 8, Mechanicsville, VA 23111. Kitty's Kids phone number is separate from Shady Grove UMC. The phone number is (804) 559-7690. Kitty's Kids email is kittyskidsinc@gmail.com and the website is www.kittyskids.net.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT FEATURES OF THE FACILITIES

Kitty's Kids also uses the kitchen (for special events only), fenced-in playground, Sanctuary, and gym facilities at Shady Grove United Methodist Church.

ENROLLMENT/CAPACITY

Kitty's Kids operates with up to 3 Traditional Preschool classes, 5 full day Preschool classes, and 3 School-age classes totaling an enrollment of up to 130 children ranging in age from 3 years old through 5th grade (12 years of age). Each classroom is assigned 2 Teachers: 1 Lead and 1 Assistant.

FOOD SERVICE

Kitty's Kids provides a morning and an afternoon snack (excluding Traditional Preschool classes). Parents are to provide a lunch, including an ice pack if needed to keep foods cool. The Center does not intend to cook or heat lunches.

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS FOR STAFF

All staff members are certified annually by a practicing physician stating they are free from any disability which would prevent them from caring for children. Staff members are required to have a TB screening upon hire and every 2 years after. Documentation is on file at the Center.

PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE

Kitty's Kids is covered by liability insurance, which provides coverage in the event that someone brings suit for personal or bodily harm suffered during the operation of Kitty's Kids as a result of negligence.

Agreement to Handbook Policies and Fees

Kitty's Kids Parent Handbook will not be printed in full for each parent. The Handbook will be available online on our website (www.kittyskids.net). If for some reason you are unable to print a copy of our Parent Handbook, please contact Kitty's Kids. Each parent/guardian is responsible for reviewing all policies in the Parent Handbook. Each parent/guardian is also responsible for signing this Agreement to Handbook Policies & Fees. Please sign and return this page to your child's teacher or to the Kitty's Kids Director.

NAME OF CHILD: _____

Tuition Rate \$_____ weekly for Summer Camp 2024

Tuition Rate \$_____ weekly / monthly (circle one) 2024-2025 Preschool or School-Age

I hereby certify that I have enrolled my child for the Summer Camp 2024 Program and/or the 2024-2025 School Year Preschool or After School School-Age Program. I also acknowledge that I have reviewed a copy of the Parent Handbook and agree to the policies contained therein.

Parent Name (Print): _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date of Signature: _____