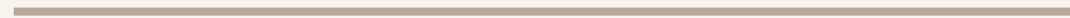




LIBERTY HILL COLLECTIVE'S NATURE SCHOOL

Family Handbook



Rooted in wonder. Growing with purpose. Blooming with confidence.

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Welcome

Dear Families,

Welcome to Liberty Hill Collective's Nature School—we are truly honored you are here.

LHC's Nature School is a one-of-a-kind place where childhood is deeply honored and children are cared for like family. We believe there is something truly extraordinary about these early years, and we intentionally create space to tap into the wonder, curiosity, and quiet majesty of childhood.

Here, each child's natural gifts are recognized, respected, and thoughtfully cultivated. Through our nature-based approach, and the intentional design of "*plearning*," we create an environment where learning feels joyful, meaningful, and alive—one where play and academic experiences are thoughtfully woven together.

Our stewards are deeply committed to nurturing each child with care and intention. Every child is welcomed, supported, and valued as an essential part of our community—much like a piece of a puzzle, each one contributing something unique and irreplaceable.

At LHC's Nature School, children experience a true sense of belonging. Through connection with their environment, their peers, and their stewards, they grow into confident, capable learners with a strong sense of self.

We are grateful to walk alongside your family and to share in this meaningful season of your child's life.

Sincerely,

Rachael Dunn

Founder/Director

Liberty Hill Collective, LLC

Mission and Vision

Mission

To create a space where each child is deeply known and valued, while nurturing curiosity, confidence, and belonging. At LHC's Nature School, we protect the magic of childhood while thoughtfully guiding each child's growth through connection, discovery, and learning rooted in the natural world.

Vision

We envision a place where children experience the outdoors as nature's classroom—where wonder leads learning and discovery is a way of life. Through skilled, passionate stewards, we nurture the whole child so they feel supported, capable, and empowered—growing into lifelong learners with a deep sense of self and connection to the world around them.

Core Values

At LHC's Nature School, our values guide how we teach, connect, and grow together as a community.

Wonder

We protect the magic of childhood by creating space for curiosity, discovery, and awe.

Belonging

Every child is known, valued, and celebrated for their unique gifts.

Plearning

We blend joyful play with intentional instruction, building strong foundations in literacy, numeracy, and growth mindset.

Stewardship

We nurture care for the natural world and guide children to see themselves as thoughtful stewards of their environment and community.

Connection

We believe meaningful relationships—with self, others, and the natural world—are at the heart of learning, community, and belonging.

Presence

We create space for children to slow down, be present, and build a deeper awareness of themselves, their surroundings, and one another.

What is Plearning?

At LHC’s Nature School, we use a thoughtfully designed approach to learning we call “plearning”—where purposeful academic foundations and meaningful play are intentionally woven together.

Plearning goes beyond traditional “play-based” environments. Rather than relying on happenstance or unstructured experiences alone, our program is carefully designed to create rich, intentional learning contexts that support each child’s growth.

Plearning at LHC	Traditional Play-Based
Play is intentionally designed with clear learning goals	Play is primarily child-led without defined outcomes
Literacy and math are embedded into hands-on, nature-based experiences	Academic skills are introduced separately or occur incidentally
Stewards guide thinking, questioning, and deeper understanding	Focus is primarily on social interaction and play skills

Nature-Based Plearning

Plearning is rooted in the natural rhythms of the day and the environment around us.

Children at LHC's Nature School spend the majority of their day outdoors, where wonder, movement, and exploration naturally unfold. The environment invites curiosity and discovery while supporting physical, emotional, and cognitive development.

Our outdoor setting is intentionally designed to include a variety of learning environments, such as:

- Gardens that invite hands-on learning, observation, and care for living things
- Sensory-rich spaces for exploration, creativity, and discovery
- Outdoor classrooms and gathering areas for guided instruction and group learning
- Open natural areas that encourage movement, building, and imaginative play

Children engage in learning through:

- Small-group instruction
- Partner collaboration
- Individual exploration

These varied experiences are thoughtfully designed to support all learning styles, allowing each child to engage in ways that feel natural, meaningful, and developmentally appropriate.

Outdoor learning continues in a variety of conditions and is only adjusted when weather becomes unsafe. This approach builds resilience, adaptability, and a meaningful connection to the natural world.

Families can expect:

- Children outdoors for the majority of the day
- Learning rooted in exploration, discovery, and real-world experiences
- Access to diverse outdoor learning environments and materials
- Safety-based adjustments during hazardous weather that include indoor learning time

Class Structure & Community Belonging

At LHC's Nature School, children learn within a thoughtfully designed multi-age environment that supports both collaboration and individualized growth. This structure allows children to engage in shared experiences while also receiving instruction that meets their developmental needs.

During nature-based literacy and mathematics learning blocks, children are intentionally grouped by age to provide focused, developmentally appropriate instruction. Each cohort rotates through outdoor lessons (weather permitting), led by our reading and math stewards.

Children experience:

- A multi-age learning environment
- Small-group, developmentally aligned instruction
- Opportunities for both independent and collaborative learning
- A balance of structure and exploration throughout the day

These shared experiences strengthen connection and create a deep sense of belonging within the community.

Our Team & Stewardship

At LHC's Nature School, we are deeply intentional about the individuals who guide and care for children each day. We believe that the quality of a child's experience is shaped by the people who walk alongside them.

Our stewards are chosen not only for their experience and knowledge, but for their heart for children and their belief in the beauty and potential of childhood.

We believe every child holds natural gifts, talents, and strengths. Our stewards view it as part of their role to recognize and nurture these qualities—helping children grow in confidence while also contributing to the larger community.

Our Approach

Our team embodies:

- A heart for service and care
- Empathy, patience, and compassion
- Strong knowledge in their content area of expertise
- A deep respect and calling in support of childhood and development
- A genuine connection to and appreciation for the natural world

Hiring & Background Checks

All staff undergo a thorough hiring process to ensure the highest level of care and safety.

In accordance with Texas Child Care Licensing requirements, all employees are subject to:

- Comprehensive background checks prior to employment
- Ongoing background check monitoring as required by the state

Training & Professional Development

All staff receive ongoing training to support both safety and quality of care.

This includes:

- CPR and First Aid certification
- Emergency preparedness training
- Health and safety practices
- Child development and behavior support

Our goal is to ensure that every child is cared for by individuals who not only meet professional standards, but who genuinely delight in the magic and potential of childhood.

Daily Rhythm

Each day is thoughtfully designed to balance movement, connection, and meaningful engagement. We create a natural rhythm that weaves together a variety of learning, interpersonal, and community experiences—offering both structured and unstructured outdoor play. Our days include quiet, reflective moments alongside active, hands-on experiences, allowing children to engage in ways that support their individual needs while also building a strong sense of community. Special care is taken to accommodate weather conditions, with intentional planning for shaded activities during peak sun hours and the use of shade structures to ensure comfort and safety.

Program Schedule:

Our program operates Monday–Thursday with the following age group schedule:

- Ages 3–5 attend Monday and/or Wednesday
- Ages 6–10 attend Tuesday and/or Thursday

Daily Schedule:

9:00–9:30

Arrival & Outdoor Play

9:30–10:00

Catalyst

Movement, mindfulness, stretching, and welcoming the day in the tranquility garden

10:00–12:00

Plearning Blocks

Nature-based reading and math through the Wild Learning curriculum

12:00–12:30

Lunch Under the Oaks

12:30–1:30

Whole Community Gathering

Creative exploration, social-emotional learning, and global citizenship

1:30–2:00

Outdoor Play & Dismissal

What to Bring

All personal items—such as water bottles, lunch containers, backpacks, and extra clothing—must be clearly labeled with your child’s name to help ensure belongings stay organized and are easily returned.

These items help children move comfortably and confidently through their day in the natural environment.

Leave at Nature School

- Seasonal extra clothing
- Rain boots and rain jacket
- Sun hat and sunscreen
- Light jacket or sweatshirt

Bring Daily

- Lunch (more details in our food section)
- Water bottle
- Closed toed/outdoor shoes

Family Communication & Connection

Communication

Brightwheel serves as our primary communication platform, offering daily updates, photos, and videos that provide a meaningful window into your child's experience. By enrolling in LHC's Nature School, families grant permission for their child's photos and videos to be shared through Brightwheel with other enrolled families. Enrollment also provides LHC's Nature School with permission to use media of your child for program-related purposes, including our website, social media, and email communications.

It is highly recommended that parents enable notifications within Brightwheel so that all messages are received promptly. Communication may include both routine updates and time-sensitive or emergency information.

Families can expect:

- Daily updates, photos, and videos through Brightwheel
- Fall and Spring conferences
- Monthly newsletters
- Open, ongoing communication with the LHC team

Monthly Family Days

Monthly family days are opportunities for families to join us in experiences connected to current areas of learning—creating space to slow down, connect, and engage alongside your child and our community.

Visiting the Program

Parents and guardians are welcome to visit LHC's Nature School at any time during operating hours without prior approval.

Upon arrival, visitors are asked to:

- Check in with a staff member
- Be mindful of the learning environment
- Supervise any additional children accompanying them

Visits are encouraged as a meaningful way to stay connected to your child's daily experience.

Family Directory

Families may use the LHC's Nature School directory, which includes parent names, email addresses, and phone numbers, to connect, coordinate playdates, and share invitations outside of school. To support an inclusive community, birthday invitations may only be distributed at Nature School if all children are invited.

Questions & Support

Parents are encouraged to reach out at any time to review policies, ask questions, or discuss concerns.

✉ admin@libertyhillcollective.com

☎ 512-704-8110

💬 Messaging through Brightwheel

Concerns will be acknowledged promptly, with time set aside for thoughtful conversation as needed.

Policy Updates

Policies and procedures may be updated as needed to support program quality and maintain compliance with Texas Child Care Licensing requirements. Families will be notified of updates in writing through Brightwheel and/or email.

Food & Nutrition

LHC's Nature School encourages families to provide a nourishing, well-balanced lunch and morning snack that supports sustained energy, focus, and joyful participation throughout the day. Mealtimes at LHC's Nature School are an opportunity for connection, nourishment, and community.

Families are responsible for providing a daily lunch, morning snack, and full water bottle. Please pack meals that are ready to eat, as refrigeration and heating are not available on-site.

To support the health and safety of all children, families are required to notify the program of any food allergies or dietary restrictions. This information is collected upon enrollment through the Enrollment & Admissions Form and must be updated if any changes arise, with documentation provided by a physician when applicable.

Families can expect:

- No refrigeration or heating available
- Meals should be packed in insulated containers as needed
- Families will be notified of any allergy awareness needs within the community, when applicable
- Children will have time and support to eat in a calm, community-centered environment

Physical Activity and Outdoor Play

At LHC's Nature School, physical activity and outdoor play are an essential part of each child's daily experience. We believe children learn best through movement, exploration, and meaningful connection with the natural world. Daily opportunities for active play—such as climbing, balancing, running games, nature hikes, building with loose parts, and imaginative outdoor play—support physical health and coordination, emotional well-being, and cognitive growth through problem-solving and exploration.

Daily Movement & Play

Children engage in physical activity throughout the day through both structured and unstructured experiences

- Structured play may include guided movement, group games, and intentional outdoor learning activities
- Unstructured play allows for free exploration, climbing, running, building, and imaginative play within the natural environment

Outdoor Environment

A significant portion of the day is spent outdoors across a variety of settings, including:

- Open natural areas for movement and exploration
- Shaded gathering spaces
- Designated outdoor learning environments

These spaces support both active play and quieter moments of observation and discovery.

Clothing & Preparation

To fully participate, children should come prepared each day with:

- Comfortable, weather-appropriate clothing
- Closed-toe shoes for safe movement
- Layers and seasonal gear as needed

Weather Guidelines

Outdoor play is an expected part of our daily rhythm and takes place in most weather conditions.

Time outdoors may be modified or limited during:

- Extreme heat or cold
- Storms or lightning
- Other conditions that pose a health or safety risk

Alternative Movement

On days when outdoor play is limited, children will continue to engage in active movement through indoor or sheltered experiences that support physical activity and engagement.

Screen Time Policy

At LHC's Nature School, we believe childhood is best experienced through connection, movement, creativity, and exploration.

In alignment with our nature-based philosophy, we maintain a no individual screen time policy during the school day.

We intentionally create an environment where children are engaged in hands-on learning, meaningful relationships, and the richness of the natural world. Our days are designed to foster curiosity, imagination, and deep engagement through inspired experiences.

Families can expect:

- No individual screen use at any time during the school day
- A focus on hands-on, experiential learning
- Opportunities for connection, creativity, and outdoor exploration
- A daily rhythm rooted in presence, engagement, and discovery

Sunscreen & Insect Repellent

To support children's comfort and safety during outdoor learning, families may provide sunscreen and/or insect repellent for their child.

Products must be clearly labeled with the child's name. With written parent permission, staff may assist with application as needed and will follow product instructions provided by the family.

Families are encouraged to apply sunscreen and/or insect repellent before arrival when appropriate.

Enrollment Process

Step 1: Submit Interest Form

Families begin the enrollment process by completing our interest form and indicating the program(s) they wish to apply for:

<https://tinyurl.com/2bbptjf2>

Step 2: Secure Your Space

Upon receipt of the form, a billing statement for a \$200 non-refundable deposit (per child) will be sent through Brightwheel.

- This deposit secures your child's space in the program
- The deposit will be applied to your child's final month of tuition

Step 3: Complete Enrollment Packet

Once the deposit is received, families will be sent access to the Admissions & Enrollment Packet through Brightwheel. This includes:

- Signed acknowledgment of the Family Handbook
- Completion of the Admission & Enrollment Form
- Signed Tuition Agreement
- Whole-Child Profile
- Immunization records or applicable waivers
- Vision and hearing screening (for children age 4+)

Step 4: Finalize Enrollment

All required forms and documentation must be completed and submitted at least two weeks prior to your child's first day.

Enrollment is considered complete once:

- All forms are submitted
- Required health records are on file
- Billing is established through Brightwheel and deposit is received

Tuition & Billing Overview

Tuition at LHC's Nature School reflects the intentional design of our program, the experience of our educators, and the care given to each child throughout the day. Our goal is to create a consistent, meaningful experience where children feel known, supported, and engaged.

Tuition, Fees, and Discounts

Tuition is due on the 1st of each month and reserves your child's place in the program. Because of the nature of our program, tuition remains consistent regardless of attendance, holidays, or weather-related closures.

For families enrolling after the 1st of the month:

- Tuition will be prorated
- The prorated amount will be collected prior to the child's first day

Tuition is structured to support a consistent and connected school experience throughout the year:

- 1 day per week: \$295 per month
- 2 days per week: \$395 per month

Materials Fee

A \$100 materials fee is collected annually on August 1st, or at the time of enrollment for children joining after this date. This fee supports the thoughtfully prepared materials, learning experiences, and supplies used throughout the year.

Discounts & Referral Opportunities

We are grateful for the relationships that help grow our community.

- Referral Credit: A \$50 credit will be applied for each family who enrolls through your referral
- Sibling Discount: 10% off monthly tuition for all siblings of an enrolled child

Tuition Agreement

Families are required to sign a Tuition Agreement Contract outlining key details, including program selection, monthly tuition, payment schedules, billing procedures, and applicable policies such as late payments, fees, and the application of the enrollment deposit. This agreement ensures clarity, consistency, and a shared understanding for all families.

Billing Through Brightwheel

All tuition and fees are managed through Brightwheel, our secure billing and communication platform. It is highly recommended that families use a bank account (ACH) when setting up payments in Brightwheel rather than a credit or debit card, as this helps avoid additional processing fees.

Families will:

- Receive invoices and payment reminders through Brightwheel
- Set up a payment method within the platform
- Have access to account history, tax information, and billing records

Schedule & Closures

We follow the Liberty Hill ISD calendar for extended breaks, providing families and the LHC team with intentional time to rest, travel, and reconnect throughout the year. Exact dates and closure reminders will be shared on our website calendar well in advance to allow for ample planning.

Extended closures include:

Thanksgiving Break

Winter Break

Spring Break

Summer Break

Weather-related closures will align with Liberty Hill ISD decisions to ensure the safety of all families, with updates communicated through Brightwheel as timely as possible.

Authorized Pick-Up & Attendance

For the safety of all children, students may only be released to individuals designated by the enrolling parent(s) on their admission forms.

Authorized individuals must present a valid photo ID at the time of pick-up. Any changes to pick-up arrangements must be communicated in advance through Brightwheel messaging, phone/text, or email.

Important reminders:

- Children will only be released to authorized individuals
- Parents must notify LHC's director in writing of any changes to pick-up plans
- Both parents have legal permission to pick up their child unless a court order is provided

Discipline & Guidance - Philosophy

At LHC's Nature School, we believe behavior is communication. Our approach to discipline is rooted in relationships, empathy, and understanding. We seek first to understand, guiding children with empathy and intention.

Children are supported in developing self-awareness, emotional regulation, and positive peer relationships. We view moments of challenge as opportunities for growth and learning, guiding children with patience and intention.

Our approach is:

- Relationship-centered
- Non-punitive
- Rooted in guidance and understanding

Children are supported through:

- Connection and co-regulation
- Clear, consistent expectations
- Opportunities to repair and reconnect

Separation from the group is not used as a form of discipline. Instead, children are supported in returning to a regulated state with the guidance of a teacher, and re-entering the community when ready.

Discipline & Guidance — Licensing Standards

The following information is provided in accordance with Texas Child Care Licensing requirements to support transparency and family awareness.

Discipline must be:

- Individualized and consistent for each child
- Appropriate to the child’s level of understanding
- Directed toward teaching acceptable behavior and self-control

Caregivers may only use positive methods of discipline and guidance that encourage self-esteem, self-control, and self-direction, including:

- Using praise and encouragement of good behavior
- Reminding children of expectations using clear, positive language
- Redirecting behavior using positive guidance

The following forms of discipline are prohibited:

- Corporal punishment or threats of corporal punishment
- Punishment associated with food, rest, or toileting
- Pinching, shaking, biting, or hitting a child
- Placing anything in or on a child’s mouth
- Humiliating, ridiculing, rejecting, or yelling at a child
- Subjecting a child to harsh, abusive, or profane language
- Placing a child in a locked or dark room, bathroom, or closet
- Requiring a child to remain silent or inactive for inappropriate periods of time

Suspension & Expulsion Policy

At LHC's Nature School, we approach behavior with patience, understanding, and a commitment to growth. Our goal is always to support children in developing the skills needed to safely and meaningfully participate in the community.

If a child's behavior presents a safety concern for themselves, other children, or staff, families may be asked to pick up their child for the remainder of the day.

If ongoing concerns arise, LHC's Nature School will partner with the family to create a supportive plan. This may include:

- additional communication
- agreed-upon strategies
- a timeline for progress.

In rare cases, if a child is unable to safely participate in the program despite support and intervention, dismissal from the program may be considered. This decision will be made thoughtfully, with the safety and well-being of all children in mind.

Health & Safety

The health and safety of our community is a top priority. We work in partnership with families to support the well-being of each child while maintaining a safe, responsive, and nurturing environment.

Children who are unwell should remain at home to allow for proper rest and recovery. This supports both the individual child and the health of the group.

Daily Health Checks

Each child receives a brief visual health check upon arrival each day. A staff member observes for signs of illness or injury, including:

- Fever or flushed appearance
- Unusual fatigue or lethargy
- Persistent coughing or difficulty breathing
- Runny nose with discharge
- Vomiting or diarrhea
- Rash, sores, or visible skin concerns
- Signs of pain or discomfort

If a child presents symptoms that may indicate illness, the child may not be admitted for the day.

Illness & Injury

Children must remain at home if they exhibit:

- Fever of 100.4°F or higher
- Vomiting or diarrhea within the past 24 hours
- Contagious illness or unexplained rash
- Severe coughing or difficulty breathing

Children may return after being symptom-free for at least 24 hours without medication. In some cases, a healthcare provider's clearance may be required.

Illness or Injury During the Day

If a child becomes ill or injured during the day, families will be contacted promptly and asked to pick up their child within 60 minutes.

While awaiting pick-up, the child will be cared for in a comfortable, supervised space away from the group, where they can rest and receive support from a staff member.

All injuries will be documented, and families will be required to sign a written illness/incident report at pick-up.

Medical Care & Records

Each child must have a completed health record on file, including emergency contact information and any relevant medical needs or conditions.

We work in partnership with families to ensure that all information remains current and that each child's needs are understood and supported. Our goal is to create an environment where children feel safe, cared for, and able to fully participate in the day.

LHC's Nature School does not administer medication during the school day. If a situation arises where medication may be necessary, it must be discussed with the Director in advance and may require written authorization from both the parent and a healthcare provider.

In the event of a medical emergency, staff will respond immediately. Emergency services (911) will be contacted when necessary, and parents or emergency contacts will be notified as soon as possible.

Families are responsible for keeping all health and emergency contact information up to date and informing the program of any changes.

Health Requirements & Immunizations

Immunizations

Children must have current immunization records on file or a valid exemption affidavit in accordance with Texas Health and Human Services requirements.

Vision & Hearing Screening

Children who meet required age thresholds must provide documentation of vision and hearing screenings as required by the state of Texas.

Communicable Diseases

Families will be notified if their child has been exposed to a communicable disease while in care.

Staff Roles & Emergency Response

Staff are trained to respond quickly and calmly to a range of emergency situations while maintaining continuous supervision of all children.

Evacuation & Relocation:

- Calm transition to designated safe area
- Attendance + emergency contacts brought
- Children accounted for immediately

Shelter-in-Place

- Move to safe, sheltered space
- Continuous supervision + headcounts
- Calm, quiet activities while waiting

Active Threat Response

Indoor:

- Secure space, lights off
- Children out of sight

Outdoor:

- Move to safest location
- Stay together, use natural cover if needed

During drills and emergency situations:

- Teachers will bring an attendance sheet noting all children present and any absences
- Children will be accounted for by name, with each child responding “here” when called
- Once all children are accounted for, the teacher will hold up a green card with a check mark
- If any child is unaccounted for, the teacher will hold up a red card with an “X”
- Director will enact protocol for finding a lost child (sweeping grounds, communicating with LHC staff and close neighbors, etc.)

The Director will visually confirm each group’s status and ensure all children and staff are accounted for before giving an “all clear” when appropriate. Children will remain under direct supervision at all times during any emergency or drill. Staff will stay with their assigned group, provide reassurance, and maintain a calm and organized environment.

At all times, staff are responsible for knowing the number and location of children in their care.

Staff prioritize safety, supervision, and calm leadership in all situations.

Emergency Preparation Training

At LHC's Nature School, the safety of each child and staff member is supported through ongoing staff training and preparedness. All staff are trained to respond quickly and appropriately in emergency situations and participate in regular drills and continued education to maintain readiness.

Training includes:

- CPR and First Aid certification
- Emergency preparedness and response procedures
- Fire safety and evacuation protocols
- Severe weather response
- Active threat and intruder awareness
- Child abuse and neglect prevention and reporting

Ongoing Training

Staff participate in annual and ongoing professional development through Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, including topics such as:

- Conscious Discipline
- Child development
- Social-emotional learning
- Health and safety practices

Our goal is to ensure that every staff member is equipped to respond with confidence, care, and clarity in any situation.

Additional Policies

To ensure clarity and alignment with Texas Child Care Licensing requirements, the following policies are in place:

Water Activities

LHC's Nature School does not conduct on-site water-based activities such as swimming or splash play. Walking field trips to community locations may occasionally include water play opportunities. Families will be notified in advance, and children may attend with parent written permission only.

Field Trips

Occasionally, LHC's Nature School may offer off-site experiences within walking distance from our space. Families will be notified in advance, and written permission will be required prior to participation.

Animals

No animals are housed at LHC's Nature School.

Breastfeeding Accommodation

LHC supports the right of a parent to breastfeed or provide breast milk for their child. A comfortable space with an adult-sized seat will be made available upon request.

Epinephrine Policy

LHC's Nature School does not maintain or administer unassigned epinephrine auto-injectors.

Transportation

LHC's Nature School does not provide transportation services. Emergency transportation consent addressed on Admission Form.

Safe Sleep Practices

LHC's Nature School serves children ages 3 and up, and designated sleep time is not part of our daily schedule. Information regarding safe sleep practices is available upon request.

Gang-Free Zone Notice

Under the Texas Penal Code, any area within 1,000 feet of a child-care center is designated as a gang-free zone.

Criminal offenses related to organized criminal activity are subject to harsher penalties within this zone.

Inclusive Care & Special Needs

LHC's Nature School is committed to creating an environment where children are known, valued, and supported as individuals.

We will work in partnership with families to understand each child's needs and to make reasonable supports when possible. When a child has special care needs, we will collaborate with the family to determine how the child can safely and meaningfully participate in the program.

In some cases, a child's needs may require support beyond what our current program structure can provide. If this occurs, LHC's Nature School will work with the family to determine the most appropriate next steps.

Child Safety & Abuse Reporting

Child abuse and neglect are serious concerns that can have lasting impacts on a child's well-being and development. LHC's Nature School is committed to creating a safe, secure, and nurturing environment where every child is protected, supported, and able to thrive.

Child abuse and neglect may take several forms, including:

- Physical abuse: non-accidental physical injury caused by a caregiver or other individual responsible for the child
- Emotional abuse: actions that harm a child's sense of self-worth or emotional well-being
- Sexual abuse: exposing a child to inappropriate sexual behavior or contact
- Neglect: failure to provide for a child's basic needs, including food, shelter, medical care, supervision, or education

All staff receive annual training on recognizing, preventing, and responding to child abuse and neglect. All staff are mandated reporters and are legally required to report suspected abuse or neglect.

To report suspected abuse or neglect:

Texas Abuse Hotline

1-800-252-5400

www.txabusehotline.org

Licensing & Parent Resources

LHC's Nature School is currently completing the licensing process through Texas Health and Human Services Child Care Regulation and will be fully licensed prior to opening day.

As a new program, LHC's Nature School may not yet appear in the online system. Once licensed, a copy of the Texas Child Care Licensing Minimum Standards and the most recent inspection report will be available for review.

Families may access licensing information and minimum standards online through Texas Health and Human Services:

Minimum Standards:

<https://www.hhs.texas.gov/providers/protective-services-providers/child-care-regulation/minimum-standards>

Child Care Search Tool:

<https://www.hhs.texas.gov/services/safety/child-care>

Texas Health and Human Services
Child Care Regulation
14000 Summit Drive, Suite 100
Austin, TX 78728
(512) 834-3426

www.hhs.texas.gov

Parents have the right to review minimum standards, review inspection reports and compliance history, visit the program during operating hours, and discuss questions or concerns with program leadership.

Family Handbook Acknowledgement

I acknowledge that I have received and reviewed the Liberty Hill Collective's Nature School Family Handbook.

I understand that the policies and procedures outlined in this handbook are in place to support the safety, well-being, and overall experience of all children and families within the program.

I agree to follow the policies and guidelines set forth and understand that updates may be made as needed. I acknowledge that I will be notified of any policy changes.

I understand that my participation in LHC's Nature School requires partnership, communication, and mutual respect within the community.

Liberty Hill Collective reserves the right to update program handbooks, policies, and related documents at any time in order to better serve our families and continuously improve our programs. When updates are made, families will be provided with the revised version and may be required to sign an updated acknowledgment of receipt.

Child's Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

We are grateful to partner with your family.