**Parent / Guardian Handbook**

**2017-2018**

**Fields Preparatory Early Learning Center Inc.**

 *Quality child care*

**Domonique Fields, Center Director**

**8425 Oakleigh Road, Suite A**

**Parkville, Md. 21234**

**(443)210-1566**

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**Our Philosophy**

It is the philosophy of Fields Preparatory Early Learning Center Inc. that early childhood should be a time of fun, warmth, security, exploration and discovery. A daily program at our center will provide an atmosphere that encourages all areas of development, physical, mental, emotional, social and creativity. Our staff believes that each child is unique. Needs will be met at each child’s individual level of development. We strongly believe that all children can be taught. We do not discriminate based on race, color national origin or disability. All children with or without special needs accommodation will be taken into consideration at all times.

**Operations**

Fields Preparatory Early Learning Center offer child care for children between 2 and 12 years of age. “The center is open for operation year-round, Monday- Friday from 6:30a.m. to 6:00p.m.with the exception of designated holidays and closings due to inclement weather”.

**Our Curriculum**

Please note that Fields Preparatory Early Learning Center is not a baby sitting service. We are an Early learning center/ business and should be treated as such.

Our state approved curriculum allows each child to have a supportive environment every opportunity will be afforded for the child to:

 Develop self-control and independence

 Develop a positive feeling about him or herself

 Develop all aspects of his or her personality

 Develop small and large muscle groups

 Develop and use new language skills

 Learn to share and get along with others

 Think of him or herself as a capable individual

 Understand his or her body and to feed and care for themselves

* These objectives will be achieved through a balanced day of activity, rest, nourishment and involvement in the following:

 Language, math and science experiences

 Music and movement

 Field trips and special visitors

 Sand and water play

 Dramatic play

 Food experiences

 Indoor and outdoor play

 Block play

 Exercise

**Our Daily Program**

Fields Preparatory Early Learning Center provides group child care for children between 2 to 5 years of age. All children must be at the center by 9:30am. This policy is enforced in compliance with Licensing and Insurance Regulations staff to ratio.***No Children will be allowed into the center after 9:30am*** **unless prior arrangements have been made and approved by the director.**

This Center is licensed to operate **only** between the hours of 6:30 AM to 6:00 PM. For this reason children should arrive and depart from the Center between these hours only. **Our operating staff cannot admit anyone prior to 7:00 AM.**

The teacher’s program is designed to achieve goals and reach objectives. The teachers will develop activities and lesson plans aimed at providing a fun, enriching environment that will facilitate positive development of all children enrolled.

Every child group is supervised at all times by experienced, certified staff. The Program Director has an open-door policy and is available to discuss parent’s concerns, children’s programs and adjustments to the program.

Director/Owner: Domonique Fields

E-Mail: fieldsdomonique@yahoo.com

Website: www.fieldspreparatorychildcare.com

Phone: (443)210-1566

**Daily Schedule**

Every classroom has a daily schedule. All schedules are posted in the classrooms for parents, children and staff to see. The schedule describes the Daily Activities and may differ from class to class. Outlined below is an example of a daily schedule:

6:30 to 8:00 Arrival

08:00 to 9:00 Breakfast & Restroom Time

09:00 to 11:00 Classroom Activities & Lessons

11:00 to 11:30 Outdoor Play (weather permitting)

11:30 to 11:45 Clean Up & Restroom

11:45 to 12:30 Lunch

12:30 to 01:00 Music, Language/Story Time

01:00 to 03:00 Afternoon Nap

03:00 to 03:15 Restroom Time

03:15 to 03:45 Snack Time

03:45 to 04:15 Art, Table Games

04:15 to 06:00 Large Muscle, Outside Activities &

 Departure

Each class will have an individual and group learning time. Schedules are designed to incorporate all children including children with special needs.

**Late Pick up Fee**

There is no excuse for late pick up. A fee is charged for late pick-ups, and this fee is due that evening. The child may not attend the Center unless this fee is paid or other arrangements have been made with the Center Director. This policy is enforced in compliance with Licensing and Insurance Regulations. **You are considered to be late at 6:01p.m.** Between 6:00 -6:05 the late fee is a standard of $25.00 (that must be paid with cash). After 6:05p.m. An additional fee of a $5.00 is accrued for each additional minute that you are late. If you are going to be late please contact the center (late fee still charged). \* If you the parent/ guardian have not contacted the center by 6:30pm the police will be notified and your child will be taken to the proper authorities. Under the child care regulations, this is a form of neglect. Your child will also be terminated effective immediately in the event of this matter. Please keep in mind that the staff has families too. Failure to pay any late fees or fees associated in this handbook will result in immediate termination.

**Inclement Weather**

The Center has a Weather Related Emergency Plan that has been established to notify employees, parents and the public of any changes in the regular Center hours as a result of inclement Weather and other emergencies. During weather emergencies, call the center or check the web site, e-mail and text messages by 5:30 AM to hear of closings or delays. If the Center is closed as a result of inclement weather, tuition is still due for that day. If the Center closes early, parents will be given 2-3 hour’s notice. If your child is not picked up during that time, a late fee will be charged (refer to “Lateness).

**Emergency Preparedness Plan**

Emergency plans for any emergency are posted by each classroom door and practiced monthly, so that your child is familiar with the drill and not alarmed in a real case of emergency. In case of an actual fire or other emergency the child will be escorted out of the building according to the emergency action plan and parents will be contacted immediately, phone, text or e-mail.

**Classroom Changes**

 Children with birthdays in the middle of the year will not change classes until the following school year. Due to enrollment changes it may be necessary to make classroom changes at the Director’s discretion and after the child is tested for various developmental skills. Parents will be notified before their child makes a class room change.

**Moon-lighting**

Moonlighting is not encouraged here at Fields Preparatory Early Learning Center. Moonlighting can create an interference with the primary job and other conflicts of interest. Part of the reason that we have this policy is to protect the Fields Prep. brand and value. Any person(s) (parents, guardians, teachers, children) that chose to violate this agreement will be released from the child care center effective immediately. Teachers are also not allowed to provide parents/ guardians cell phone or personal contact information. If you have a comment, question or concern please calls the centers directly.

**Holidays**

The Center observes the following paid holidays each year: (subject to change)

New Years Day January 1st

Memorial Day Last Monday of May

Independence Day July 4th

Labor Day 1st Monday of Sept.

Thanksgiving Day & Fri 4th Thursday & Friday of Nov.

Christmas Day December 25th

Martin Luther King Day Federal Holiday Schedule

Good Friday Friday before Easter Sunday

Winter Break December 24th-January 1st

Staff development training TBD the date will be posted 30 day in advance

Holidays that fall on a Saturday are observed the preceding Friday. Holidays that fall on a Sunday are observed the following Monday. You must pay the regular tuition if a holiday falls on a weekday and the Center is closed.

**Sick Policy**

There are numerous ailments that children can and will contract during the year. If your child is diagnosed with a contagious ailment and requires medication, the child must have a Doctor’s slip to return to the Center. Please consider other types of ailments besides the ones listed below, and follow general guidelines.

Fever: Child will be sent home if their temperature is 101 or greater. He/she may not return to the Center until he/she is without fever for at least 24 hours. Children must be **fever free for 24** hours without being given medication to reduce the fever.

Strep Throat or Diarrhea: Child must have medication in their system for at 24 hours before returning to the Center.

Ear Infections: If your child does not have a fever, medication can be given at the Center. If the child is very uncomfortable (crying, pulling at ears frequently, etc.) you will be asked to pick up your child.

**Health and Well Being**

 It is mandatory that once the parent is called, the child is picked- up within one hour. Anytime that your child receives shots please provide the center with the updated shot records for his/her file. The exposure to communicable disease and any infectious illness should be reported to the center promptly. Your information will help our staff and they can look out for any early symptoms from other children. The center will also notify the parents when a child has been exposed to an infectious disease. We strive to prevent the spread of illness and we ask you to keep your child home if he/she is exposed to any of the following. Here are *some* ailments that are **very** contagious and require immediate parent notification and removal of the child from the Center:

* Ringworm
* Head Lice
* Conjunctivitis/ Pink Eye
* Chicken Pox
* Measles
* Mumps
* 3 Diarrhea in one day
* Open sores
* Flu
* Runny nose

Meals & Snacks

The Center provides breakfast, lunch, and afternoon snack daily. Your child will participate in the meal if he or she is present at the time of service. All meals and snacks are nutritious and meet the government minimum nutritional meal pattern requirements. Maryland state regulations do not allow the center to serve sugary drinks or candy brought from home.  All menus are located on the center news broad weekly. Please note that we are a nut free facility. We do not encourage parents/ guardians to send their child to school with any food, snacks or beverages do to allergies of other children. Breakfast is served at 8am, lunch is served at 11:45am, and pm snack is offered at 3:45pm. All children are asked to wash their hands before partaking in meals and snacks.

**Tuition**

Parents have the option to pay bi-weekly or monthly for tuition cost. Tuition payments are due on Monday (or the first day of the week that your child attends). Payments received later than the second day will be considered late and will be charged a late fee of $25.00 per day. Monthly payments are due on the first of each month and are considered late after by the 2nd. If your balance is two weeks behind your child will not be permitted into the center until the balance is paid or arrangements have been made with the office. There will be a yearly increase of $5 to $10 dollars per child. Any tuition that remains unpaid will be turned over to a Collection Agency. Late payments will not be tolerated.

**Payments**

All tuition payments need to be made out to Fields Preparatory Early Learning Center. Do not give any form of payment to teacher or any other staff members except for the owner or director. Fields Prep. Accepts the following forms of payment cash, money order, or major credit cards only! Please note that there are processing fees associated with credit card payments that you will be responsible for. We do not accept personal checks. Receipts can be e-mailed, texted to your mobile device on file or the director can print a hard copy. Receipts will be issued to the child’s account on file. Payments are due bi-weekly ( current week and upcoming week) or once a month on the first business day of the month. If you would like monthly invoices please see Ms.Fields.

**Child Care Subsidy Participants**

If you receive daycare vouchers through the State of Maryland it is your responsibility to keep your case active and current. Failure to do so will result in full price of tuition, no exceptions. The owner has the right to accept or deny voucher use for any reason. Failure to pay your co-pay will possibly result in a STOP of vouchers and could affect your future use of vouchers within Maryland. If there is any lapse or period of time in which you will not receive subsidy you are REQUIRED to pay the full tuition amount (no exceptions). Inform the director in writing immediately if you plan to stop or start the use of vouchers.

**Medical Records**

In order for your child(ren) to be enrolled at the Center, all necessary medical records **must be** obtained. If your child(ren) does not have the necessary medical forms or *updated* forms, we ask that you see the Director to obtain the forms and have your child’s doctor complete them. All forms are on the website under the “Enrollment Forms” tab. Maryland State Department of Education requires each child to have a developmental screening within 90 day of enrollment.

Once your child is registered it is required that all forms are complete *prior* to your child attending the Center. Forms must also be periodically updated as needed. If the required forms are not received/updated, your child may be dismissed until the Center receives those forms. If your child has a medical problem the centers ask that a care plan be written by the doctor or parent and provided to the center.

Any children that receive any of the following IEP or IFSP we ask to provide the center with a copy of the forms prior to the start of enrollment. This is to help the center to provide the best care for your child.

**Medication Orders**

COMAR regulations permit Child Care Centers to administer prescription and non-prescription medication to children in Child Care under certain conditions and with prior written permission from the child’s parent. If possible, arrange the time of dosage so that the medication will not have to be administered more than once daily during the time the child is in the Center.

Non-Prescription Medication: Except for acetaminophen (Tylenol) and topical medications, only one dose will be administered at the Center unless a licensed health practitioner approves additional administration of the medication and the dosage.

Prescription Medication: Must be in a container labeled by the pharmacy or physician with the child’s name and expiration date. May only be administered according instructions on the label of the medication. Please do not send your child to the center because he/she could possibly spread germs or illnesses to the children and staff.

**Attendance**

Children should arrive on time for each day’s lesson. If your child will be late or absent, please advise the office or your child’s teacher by **9:00 AM**. A child should not be in the Center more than ten hours per day. **If your child remains over 10 hours, a fee will be imposed for the additional time (see director for current fee).**

If your child is going to be absent from the Center, you are still required to pay for the day(s). When your child is enrolled, we reserve a spot for him/her to continue until two weeks notice is given for termination of enrollment. Therefore, it is required **that payment be made continuously, regardless of the presence of the child.**

If there is going to be a prolonged period of absence, notice should be given with the intended return date. This will hold the child’s spot during the absence. Prolonged absences are generally more than one month and include, for example, summer vacation, extended sick leave for operations or severe illness.

**Drop off and Pick up**

According to COMAR (Code of Maryland Regulations), all children **must** be brought to the Center and picked up from the Center by parents or guardians whose names are on the child’s Emergency Card. We cannot release to or accept a child from anyone less than 18 years of age. All children must be signed in and out daily! Parents and guardians must physically come into the building to drop off and pick up. Drop off and pick up time is **not an appropriate time** to have conferences with teachers because other children have to be welcomed, dismissed and/or supervised. Please call the center directly or speak with the director make an appointment.

Please ensure that all phone numbers on Emergency Cards are operable. We require at least three alternate contact people for each child. If you have changed your number, residence or employment, please advise us of the new information immediately.

Please cease all phone calls at time of drop off and pick up to ensure:

* That you do not forget to sign your child in/out
* That you do not forget your child personal belongings (book bag, sheet etc.)
* Our parking lot keeps children safe
* That children do not hear inappropriate or personal conversation
* That phone conversation do become a distraction to children entering the building

You will be asked to exit the building until your phone conversation is over.

If anyone else is picking up the child he or she must have a valid Maryland photo id and must be 18years of age. The parent/guardian must call ahead of time to notify the center of pick up or drop off changes.

**Surveillance System**

The surveillance system is for the directors and owners use only. Parents, guardians, teachers, visitors, volunteers and staff do not have access to the monitor or video footage. Surveillance system is used as a safety feature. There are no cameras in the restroom area for privacy reasons. Parents and guardians are not allowed to view footage at any time for any reason. Please put in writing if you do not wish for your child to be photographed for advertisements!

**Discipline Policy**

The most important thing when helping children learn to behave acceptably is for them to understand what is expected of them and to believe that it is the *behavior* that we do not like, not the child. It is equally important to explain to children why their behavior is unacceptable. In our explanations, we try our best to use as few negatives as possible and to state directions in a positive manner.

Acceptable behavior is encouraged by giving positive verbal rewards. This reinforces a child’s good feelings about his or her behavior and serves as an example for the other children to model so that they too will receive praise. Asking a child to stop and think about unpleasant behavior enables that child to work at self-control.

Corporal punishment is not considered an acceptable method of handling a child’s behavioral concerns. Children will not be hit, slapped or spanked in any manner, for any reason. Standing in the corner or with body parts raised is likewise, not acceptable and is not a practice of Fields Preparatory Early Learning Center.

  If negative behavior persists, the parent is asked to attend a conference with the child’s Teacher and/or Director to discuss what may be helpful in motivating the child to behave in an acceptable way. It may be suggested that the child be involved in a behavior modification program with parental involvement. There are several steps that can be followed if your child has a behavior problem:

 In-house behavioral modification program

 Parent observations / evaluations

 Director / Teacher observations / evaluations

 Conferences with Parent, Teacher and Director

Referrals made for outside professional modification programs we work closely with the Judy center, Infant toddler and many other programs.

If there is no parent or guardian participation or if there is no improvement in behavior within 2 weeks and after all avenues have been explored, it will be determined that the child is not benefiting and then enrollment will have to terminate.

Enrollment of a child may be terminated immediately by the Center for **occurrences of the following:**

 Hitting or biting or endangering him/herself or others

 Being or becoming uncontrollable

* Harming others
* Throwing furniture

 Continuous use of profane language

* Destruction of property
* Brining weapons to the center
* Threats of any sort
* Constant bullying
* Any form of sexual harassment

Grounds of termination also apply to parent/ guardians. For any of the above concerns, the child’s parent(s) will be contacted immediately and asked to remove the child from the center that day and may not return to the Center until a conference is held with the Teacher/Director. As all children are different, so are parents and guardians. If we work closely together, communicate and share experiences and ideas, we can be successful as we try to teach our children self-control.

**Parent Involvement**

Parents are always welcome to observe or participate in the Center’s programs. We would like to stress the importance of participation in Center activities, not only for the child’s benefit, but also for the benefit of the Center. Participation can include interest in daily activities, fundraising and field trips. We also invite parents to become members of the Center’s Parent Advisory Committee. The Center will have a mandatory Parents Advisory Meeting once a year. This is a time for all new and changed policies to be reviewed, and for parents and teachers to discuss suggestions or concerns.

**Environment**

Please note that Fields Preparatory Early learning center is a

* Smoke free/ drug free facility: use of any drugs is not allowed on the premises at any time
* Pet free facility: Yes! We love animals but do not bring any animals, insects or pets to the center at any time
* Please keep in mind your music volume when entering and exiting the building! The children’s safety is EVERYONE first priority!
* Please do not park in the handicap parking lot unless necessary
* Do not liter on the premises, it is EVERYONE’S job to keep our facility clean, safe, and beautiful
* Parents and guardians are not allowed to use the dumpster for any reason. There will be a fee of $350.00 to anyone use the dumpster without permission (cameras will see you)
* Please do not send your child to the center with valuables such as tablets, phones, ipods, jewelry, etc. Fields Preparatory Early Learning Center Inc. is not responsible for any loss, stolen or damaged items.

**Tax Statement**

All Tax statements for the previous year will need to picked up by the person whom enrolled the child. All tax statements are required to be signed and dated to confirm that you received it. If you have any discrepancies in regards to your tax statement please see Ms. Fields or the director. You have five business days from the date on the tax statement to dispute your tax statement should you find error. Please make sure that your correct address is on file just in case the documents have to be mailed to your home address (in the event that you are un-enrolled).

Inclusion:

Fields Preparatory Early Learning Center Inc. is an inclusive child care program. Children with and without disabilities are accepted, embraced and welcome to participate in all activities that we offer. This is very beneficial to all children including children with special needs.

**School Supplies**

All children **are required** to bring in **ALL** listed school supplies during enrollment and each new school year (typically end of September/ early August). Some school supplies will be used as community property and others will be used as personal items. Please read each item for brand, size and color specification.

**1- Roll of paper towel**

 **1- 8oz or larger hand sanitizer**

**2- Boxes of Kleenex tissues**

**2- Composition books**

**1- Red plastic folder with pockets**

**1- Blue plastic folder pockets**

**1- Pair of scissors**

**1- Elmer’s regular glue in a bottle**

**2- Elmer’s glue sticks**

**1- Pack of 10-12 count pencils**

**1- Pack of 24 count crayons**

1. **10 pack of Crayola markers**
2. **Large book bag (not a diaper bag or small bag)**

**1-Fitted sheet**

**1-blanket**

**\*Extra change of clothes (socks, underwear, top, bottom, shoes) each item must be labeled. All items will be stored at the center for emergency purposes. Seasonal changes will require different supplies such as off bug spray, sunscreen, swim suit, etc.**

**Acknowledgement and Agreement**

Please sign and date that you are fully aware and agree to Fields Preparatory Early Learning Center Inc. program guidelines, rules and procedures. We follow the same guidelines as Maryland State Dept. of Education. Please sign that you are aware that some policies and procedures can change at any time with or without notice. Please sign that you understand your role and responsibility as the parent/ guardian. Any questions or concerns should be addressed before signing and submitting this handbook.

**Please sign and return**:

I understand the rules and regulations governing the operation of the center. This is a legal binding contract and will be used for future reference.

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**Print Name**

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**Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Today’s Date