



**EVANGELICAL  
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**

# **2025-2026 PRESCHOOL**

**PARENT STUDENT HANDBOOK**

8237 BEACON BLVD  
FORT MYERS, FL 33907

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# **GENERAL INFORMATION**

## **History**

As a teacher and guidance counselor for thirteen years in secular schools, I knew first hand the educational plight that awaited my five-year-old daughter. Being deeply troubled by the humanistic philosophy she would be taught, I earnestly entreated God to show me a way for her not to become entangled with this system.

God, seeing the sincerity of my heart, answered my prayer in a startling way. He told me to start a Christian school. After various excuses, much prayer and many tears, I told God I would tackle the mammoth task with His help. In May 1973, just a few short weeks later, with the faithful labor of several like-minded parents, ECS was born.

Teachers, staff, curriculum and textbooks, for grades K5 – 6, were prepared and the doors were opened four months later in the educational department of a leased church, in downtown Ft. Myers. Seventy students were enrolled the first year. With the additions of K4 and grades 7-12 the second year, the student body grew to 335.

In 1975, the school was moved to a beautiful, tree lined, twenty-acre tract of land in south Ft. Myers, its present site. The second year on the new property, the Preschool Division was added, making ECS a full service school for children eight weeks through grade 12. Over the years, many new buildings, programs and educational innovations have been added.

I am very proud of the fine product ECS produces. The graduates are well equipped Biblically and academically. Approximately ninety percent attend college. Because ECS is Bible based, in principle and practice, the school's slogan, "Preserving Our Godly Heritage....Lighting A Pathway For Tomorrow," is as powerful and true today as it was in 1973.

Dr. Douglas D. Dunn, Founder

## **Mission Statement**

Evangelical Christian School's mission is to provide students in preschool through grade twelve an excellent academic education in an environment that honors the Lord Jesus Christ and to challenge students to reach their highest potentials mentally, physically, socially, and spiritually.

## **Philosophy of Christian Education**

Evangelical Christian School has been established to provide an academically excellent Christian education under girded by a vital faith in God and in the Bible as the revelation from God.

We believe that each student is a distinct individual creation of an omnipotent God and that he/she is the property of God. We also believe that each man should be a careful and faithful steward of his conscience, understanding that he is directly responsible to God for the direction of his life.

Furthermore, individuals who allow the Lord to govern their lives will demonstrate proper Christian character. At Evangelical, we must establish and provide models of Christian character for our students to emulate. However, parents have a God-given responsibility of educating their children, and the Christian school acts as an extension of the Christian home. Therefore, parents and those to whom they give charge should utilize Biblical methods of correction for training young people.

We believe that the center of our curriculum ought to be Christ and His Word that demonstrates that He is the center of all truth, knowledge, and wisdom. The great unifying factor in the early history of our country was the Lord Jesus Christ. Evangelical also believes that our country was founded upon Christian principles, and that our nation must be led by people of Christian principle for it to remain a Christian nation.

At Evangelical, we believe that a Christian school is Christian teachers training students with a Christ-centered philosophy. We practice this because we believe that the highest calling for any individual is to serve the Lord by doing His will.

Christian education best demonstrates Biblical education from preschool through college.

## **Statement of Faith**

We believe:

- The Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative Word of God.
- There is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- In the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His death and resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father and in His personal return to power and glory.
- That for the salvation of lost and sinful man, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential.
- In the resurrection of both the saved and lost; those who are saved unto the resurrection of life and those who are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.
- In the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ and that the true church, with the Lord as their Saviour, is the body of Christ.
- In the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a Godly life.
- That God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female, and that these two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God.
- That God created marriage to be exclusively the union of one man and one woman, and that intimate sexual activity is to occur exclusively within that union.
- That Scripture forbids any form of sexual immorality including adultery, fornication, homosexuality, bestiality, incest and use of pornography (Matt. 5:27-28, 15:18-20, I Cor. 6:9, 18, 7:1-5; Heb 13:4)

The statement of faith does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For purposes of Evangelical Christian School's faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, our Board of Director's is Evangelical Christian School's final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application.

## **Our Pledge to the Parents**

The Preschool provides children with a time to play and a time to learn. We believe that preschool should help your child learn to do many of the things you would teach them if they were at home. With much love and concern by our staff, you can be assured that your child will receive the best of care and training in all facets of growth – mental, physical, social and spiritual.

Preschool at Evangelical is filled with excitement in a warm and comfortable environment. Surrounded by love, each little one, 6 weeks through three years, is free to explore and stretch his/her imagination to the limits. While attending academic classes, two and three year olds eagerly learn new and stimulating concepts. Playing with friends on the spacious playgrounds is a delightful pleasure. Preschool at ECS is FUN and EDUCATIONAL.

## **PRESCHOOL CURRICULUM**

(Pre-K2 & Pre-K3 / Abeka Curriculum)

### **Mental**

Alphabet  
Phonics  
Numbers  
Colors  
Health  
Safety  
Rhymes  
Shapes

### **Physical**

Dexterity  
Motor Manipulation  
Clay Design  
Self-Discipline

### **Social**

Songs  
Painting  
Audio/Visual  
Social  
Interaction

### **Spiritual**

Bible Stories  
Prayer

## **Affiliation and Accreditation**

The following statement made by the Department of Education accurately represents their position on accreditation: “By law, the Department of education does not act as an approval or accrediting agency. The Department is allowed only to register certain non-public schools and to collect certain prescribed data. Accreditation of schools is entirely voluntary and is achieved by adopting and maintaining the academic standards prescribed by an independent association.”

The State of Florida does not accredit any schools, public or private. Hence, all accreditation in Florida is accomplished by licensed accrediting agencies. Evangelical Christian School is registered as a non-public school, accredited through the Florida Association of Christian Colleges and Schools, Inc. (FACCS) and the International Association of Christian Schools (IACS). FACCS is recognized by the National Council for Private School Accreditation (NCPSA), The Florida Association of Academic Nonpublic Schools (FAANS), and has Co-accreditation agreements with the Commission on International and TransRegional Accreditation (CITA) including the southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). Additionally, the Preschool maintains a state license through the Department of Children and Families, license # C20LE0194.

# **Admissions**

## **Policy**

This school is a private Christian school providing a traditional, academically sound, Bible-based education. Our reputation for high standards of academics and discipline makes us happy to extend the opportunity to have quality Christian education for your children.

## **Non-discrimination Policy**

Evangelical Christian School is committed to welcoming students of all races, colors and national ethnic origins. Evangelical employees and students shall conduct themselves in keeping with this policy. No employee or student shall undertake, participate in, or support any action, verbal or otherwise, which is intended to harm, injure, harass, or insult any other student on the grounds of sex, race, color, or national or ethnic origin. Students violating this policy shall be subject to appropriate discipline, and repetitious violations of such policy shall be grounds for dismissal from Evangelical, without refund of fees.

## **Enrollment Requirements**

Registration is due with the enrollment application. Tuition for the month is payable on or before the first day of attendance.

- Complete Enrollment Application
- Pay the Non-refundable Registration Fee
- Pay Any Book and Supply Fee, if applicable
- Sign the Financial Agreement
- Medical Records
  - DH 680 Florida Certification of Immunization  
**OR** DH 681 Religious Exemption From Immunization **OR** Medical Exemption
  - DH 3040 State of Florida School Entry Health Exam
- Copy of the Student's Birth Certificate
- Student's Social Security Number
- Signed Parent Handbook Acknowledgment form

Parents should be advised that there may be students in attendance who have a religious or medical exemption from immunization.

## **Attendance**

The Preschool Office must be notified by 9:00 a.m. if a student is going to be absent or tardy, but will be arriving before 11:00 a.m. If the student arrives after his/her scheduled lunch time, the parent will need to provide lunch to the child before drop off. Please remember that nap time is between 11:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

### **Hours Open**

The Preschool is open from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday – Friday, year round with exception of the listed holidays.

### **Days Closed**

- The Preschool is closed on the following days: Labor Day, the week of Thanksgiving, Christmas Holiday/New Years Day (10 days), Good Friday, Memorial Day and July 4<sup>th</sup>.
- If the holiday falls on a Saturday, we will be closed Friday. If the holiday falls on a Sunday, we will be closed Monday.

### **Withdrawing**

- We require a written notice of five days in advance of withdrawal.
- When withdrawal dates fall mid week, you will be required to pay for the full week tuition (tuition will not be pro-rated).
- Please complete an Exit Form in the front office.
- All balances due must be paid on or before the student's last day of attendance.

## **Illness Policy**

Evangelical Christian Preschool desires to maintain a healthy school environment by instituting controls designed to prevent the spread of illness. An illness may arise as a result to a specific infectious agent that may have been transmitted directly or indirectly by a susceptible host, infected person.

**These guidelines are in addition to those found in the COVID-19 Guidelines Return to Campus handbook.**

If a student exhibits any of the following symptoms, parents will be notified and are required to pick up their child within one hour of the phone call. ***Children may not return the next day and must be symptom free before returning.***

- Vomiting with fever or excessive vomiting without fever
- Three bouts of diarrhea or diarrhea with fever
- Fever: At 100 degrees, parents will be notified; at 100.4 degrees or higher, parents will be required to pick up child



- Questionable rash (Child may return with a doctor's note stating that the rash is not contagious.)
- Conjunctivitis / Drainage from the eye and/or redness of the eye (Child may return when drainage is clear or with a doctor's note stating that the child is not contagious.)
- Excessive coughing
- Green discharge from the nose (Child may return with a doctor's note or once the discharge is clear.)

### **Immunizations**

Any student or employee, with a communicable disease for which immunization is required, shall be temporarily excluded from preschool during illness and recognized periods of communicability.

Students and employees, with a communicable disease for which immunization is not available, shall be excluded from school while ill.

If the nature of the disease and circumstances warrant, our school may require an independent physician's examination of the student or employee to verify the diagnosis of a communicable disease.

Evangelical Christian School reserves the right to make all final decisions necessary to enforce its communicable disease policy and to take all necessary action to control the spread of communicable diseases within the school.

### **Medication policy**

- The parent or guardian must sign in all medication in the front office.
- No medication is to be left in the child's classroom. (This is for the safety of all the children.)
- Only medication that is in the original container will be given.
- All medication must be accompanied by the appropriate paperwork, signed by the physician. Forms are available in the preschool office.

### **Administering Medication**

- The preschool will only accept responsibility for administering medication required three or more times per day.
- All medication will be administered between the hours of 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. or 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Please remember to pick up all medication(s) daily, in the front office.

### **Lice Policy**

- When a student is found to have lice, the student will be removed from the class and a parent will be required to pick up the student within an hour of the call.
- For the student to return, the child must be NIT FREE and the parent must bring proof treatment was completed (i.e. the box the treatment came in when purchased).

## **Discipline Procedures**

It is imperative to remember that Guidance and Discipline procedures are in place to teach the students acceptable behavior (behavior that will keep both the student and others safe and to avoid classroom disruptions). It is important that the staff use redirection as well as positive rewards for a student who corrects his/her own behavior.

- Talk with the child (redirect their attention)
- Rewarding proper behavior
- Temporary denial of a class privilege
- Counsel with the Preschool Director
- Phone call or note sent home
- Early pick up
- Conference with parent
- Termination of service

## **Miscellaneous**

### **Breakfast**

Breakfast is not served at the preschool; however, we understand children don't always like to eat in the early hours of the morning. Students are permitted to bring a ziploc bag of dry cereal (**no nuts**) to be eaten between 7:00 a.m. and 7:30 a.m. After 7:30 a.m., students are expected to have eaten breakfast

### **Lunch**

Students may bring a packed lunch from home (**no peanut butter or nuts**). If you pack your child's lunch, please follow the guidelines listed below:

- Healthy well-balanced lunch– please include a drink.
- Manageable lunch– send foods your child can manage (small pieces).
- Familiar food– try lunch items at home first.
- Complete packaging– include utensils, if needed.
- Edible cold– please do not send food items that need heating.
- If the lunch is not well-balanced, the student will be provided school lunch.

### **Dress Code**

Our dress code is in effect for safety reasons.

- Closed toe shoes and heels
- No flip flops of any kind
- No play dress up clothes or shoes
- No steel toes boots of any kind

\*Any writing or graphics on clothing must support our school's Statement of Faith. If a child's clothing is not in compliance with the dress code, the child's clothes will be changed.

Children should arrive at preschool appropriately dressed. Children should be fully clothed, including shoes and socks. Teachers are not expected to change children out of pajamas.

## **Holiday Celebrations**

Evangelical Christian Preschool is a Christ-centered Preschool. We ask that you observe the guidelines below for the celebration of the following holidays.

- Halloween – We do not have any celebrations for Halloween. We welcome you bringing cookies to celebrate Fall or Harvest Time, but they may not have any associations with Halloween (jack-o-lanterns, witches, ghosts, etc.).
- Christmas – We celebrate Christ's birth. We do not make any suggestions for or against Santa Claus. If the children do bring it up, we redirect the topic back to the true meaning of Christmas, Christ's birth.
- Easter – We celebrate Christ's death and resurrection. We do not make any suggestions for or against the Easter Bunny. If the children do bring it up, we redirect the topics back to the true meaning of Easter, which is the death and resurrection of Christ.
- Birthday – We believe that a child's birthday is a very special day. If you desire to celebrate your child's birthday with his/her classmates, please feel free to bring individual cookies or cupcakes to be shared during afternoon snack (**please, no nuts**). Balloons and hats are permitted. Please leave everything in the front office with the students' name on the container. The kitchen staff will set out the cookies and treats for afternoon snack time. If birthday party invitations are given out at school, they must be given to every child in the class. This is to ensure no child feels left out. As an alternative, parents may choose to send invitations via mail or digital platforms.

## **Visitors**

- Parents are welcome to observe their child's room.
- No one other than the parent/guardian of a child will be allowed access to observe a child's classroom without permission from the child's parent/guardian.
- Please be aware that in some situations a teacher in training or a student completing their requirements for a college course will observe a classroom.
- Parents are welcome to call throughout the day to check on the well-being of their child.

## **Parental Custody**

If there are situations regarding parental custody or parental restraint orders, the school will follow what the court deems appropriate through official court papers.

- The school must have a notarized copy of an official court document (with judge's signature) before the school can take any action.
- The safety of the student is the school's number one concern and at no time will the school release a student to a parent or authorized person that appears to be under the influence of substances or in an impaired condition.
- Please inform the school's Safety Director of any situations of parental custody or restricted visitation.

## **Fire Drill/Emergency Evacuation Procedures**

Periodic fire drills are held to prepare students for an emergency. The alarm is a loud electronic strobe. Upon hearing the fire alarm, the students are to move quietly and quickly from the building to the designated assembly area.

- Fire drill and emergency evacuation routes are posted in each room.
- Every infant room has one crib designated for evacuation.
- All rooms are to evacuate to a designated meeting area. Attendance will be taken while classes wait for the director to give the all clear to re-enter.

- At no time can a parent pick up their child during a fire drill. They must wait until the children are back in their classroom where another head count (attendance) will be taken and then reported to the director. At that time, the teacher can release your child to you.

### **Hurricane Procedures**

The school closes for pending dangerous weather according to the Lee County School System. ECS will re-open based upon the condition of the school. This information will be reported to the local news and radio, placed on the school voice mail system, Facebook and website.

### **Fund Raising**

Each year projects are planned to help improve or upgrade the school facilities. These are projects that are outside the regular school budget that are not supported by tuition. We encourage you to actively support our fundraisers because they directly benefit the students and help keep tuition costs reasonable. ECS does not encourage door-to-door fundraising unless accompanied by an adult. All gifts to Evangelical Christian School are tax-deductible.

### **Items NOT ALLOWED at the Preschool**

- Toys, stuffed animals, etc. Pre-K2 & K3 have Show and Tell every Friday. Each student in the Pre-K2 & K3 department may bring one item from home that is small enough to fit in their cubby. Please place the item in a bag with the student's name on it. (Please do not bring items that represent fighting, pokemon, dragons, weapons, war, violence, etc).
- Bottles and pacifiers after 15-18 months (to be determined by the classroom teacher).

## **Daily Routines**

### **Checking In and Out**

- Each student must be checked in and out. daily.
- Older siblings must be dropped off first and picked up last, so that the younger siblings' rooms are kept safe.
- Any and all persons authorized to pick up a student must be at least 16 years old and listed in the student's file.
- A person that is not on the list will be refused.
- **No authorizations will be accepted by phone.** All authorizations must be in writing, by the parent or guardian.
- Persons not recognized by the office personnel will be asked for photo identification.
- To deter a parent who does not have legal custody of a student from taking him/her off of the premises, legal custody papers must be in the student's file.
- Parents need to pick up their child's paperwork and information from their cubby, daily.

## **Departmental Requirements**

The following information will help you prepare for bringing your infant, toddler or Pre-K student to our facility and will also help our staff provide better care for your child.

### **Items Supplied by Parents for all departments**

- 3+ complete changes of clothing and shoes. Label all belongings with the child's name.
- Comb or Brush
- Diaper Wipes (Infant, Toddler and Pre-K2: 2 packs, monthly; Pre-K3: 1 pack, monthly)
- Pillowmat and blanket. Items must be taken home every Friday to be laundered in order for them to return on Monday.

### **Infant Requirements (6 weeks – 12 Months)**

#### **Supplies**

- Sippy cup, if needed
- Wipes (2 packs, monthly)
- Diapers (A supply can be brought for the week, or daily. Please put the child's name on the outside of the package.)

#### **Bottles and Baby Food**

- **Prepared** bottles, daily. Please label the bottles and the lids.
- Food can be brought in its original container and marked with the child's name.
- If a student has special dietary needs, a physician's statement is required and a deviation plan must be on file. Forms are available in the Preschool office.

#### **Sleeping**

- Infants will be placed on their back for sleeping.
- This is continued until we feel confident the infant can roll to his/her tummy on his/her own. A doctor's note is required in order to start early.
- A parent with a special request must speak to the Preschool Director.

#### **Table Food**

- Students 12 months and older will be served table food from the Preschool menu.
- Parents need to contact the front desk to make arrangements to start the Preschool menu.

### **Toddler Requirements (12-24 months)**

#### **Supplies**

- The use of pacifiers and bottles will be discontinued at age 15 months.
- Sippy cup (At 18 months, students will transition to regular drinking cups.)
- Diapers or Pull-ups (when the class begins potty training)
- Wipes (2 packs, monthly)
- Pillowmat and blanket. These items must be taken home to be laundered, every Friday, and brought back the following week.

**Table Food**

- Classes begin to eat in the lunchroom between 15-18 months, for snack and lunch.
- If a student has special dietary needs, a physician's statement is required and a deviation plan must be on file. Forms are available in the Preschool office.

**K2 & K3 Requirements****Supplies**

- Pull-ups (K2 only)
- All K3 students must be in underwear
- Wipes (K3: 1 pack, monthly; K2: 2 packs, monthly)
- Pillowmat and blanket. These items must be taken home to be laundered, every Friday, and brought back the following week.
- Show-n-Tell on Fridays (The item must be able to fit in your child's cubby.)

**K2 Potty Training Items**

- Starting in January, all K2 must be in training underwear, no diapers or pull-ups.
- Five pairs of training pants. Training pants that are terry-lined, reversible and waterproof are preferred. Having only one article of clothing to pull up and down makes it easier for the child to learn. Please label them with the student's name.
- Plastic bags for soiled training pants. Training pants cannot be rinsed out at the Preschool.
- The following day, return the same number of training pants and outfits that come home the night before.

**K3 Potty Training Requirements**

- Students entering K3 must be completely potty-trained.
- K3 students entering K4 must be able to use the restroom, on their own, prior to starting the K4 program.



**I have read and understand the Evangelical Christian School Parent/Student Handbook and the Standards of Conduct of Evangelical Christian School, and agree that my child will abide by them both at and away from school functions. I agree to fully support the school in its enforcement of the Handbook and the Standards of Conduct. Evangelical Christian School is a Christian ministry organization, I agree not to make demands, threaten to sue, make any kind of accusation or complaint, or actually litigate any matter whatsoever relating to or resulting from the enforcement of the Handbook and the Standards of Conduct. To do otherwise would be a clear violation of Biblical teaching and practice.**

**If the contents of this handbook are known and the guidelines followed by all, the school will function smoothly and efficiently and there will be less friction and misunderstanding. This harmony will result in greater academic achievement and a greater degree of satisfaction for all.**

**When you enrolled your student, you indicated your full cooperation in assuring the established rules, regulations, and policies of ECS are followed. A lack of knowledge will not excuse a student or parent from the responsibility of obeying it.**

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<b>Print Student's Name</b>	<b>(Grade/Classroom Teacher)</b>	<b>Date</b>
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<b>Father's Signature (Legal Guardian)</b>	<b>Date</b>
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<b>Mother's Signature (Legal Guardian)</b>	<b>Date</b>
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# The Flu:

## A Guide For Parents

### FLU INFORMATION

#### What is the flu?

Influenza (the flu) is an infection of the nose, throat, and lungs caused by influenza viruses. There are many different influenza viruses that are constantly changing. Flu viruses cause illness, hospital stays and deaths in the United States each year.

The flu can be very dangerous for children. Each year about 20,000 children younger than 5 years old are hospitalized from flu complications, like pneumonia.

#### How serious is the flu?

Flu illness can vary from mild to severe. While the flu can be serious even in people who are otherwise healthy, it can be especially dangerous for young children and children of any age who have certain long-term health conditions, including asthma (even mild or controlled), neurological and neurodevelopmental conditions, chronic lung disease, heart disease, blood disorders, endocrine disorders (such as diabetes), kidney, liver, and metabolic disorders, and weakened immune systems due to disease or medication.

Children with these conditions and children who are receiving long-term aspirin therapy can have severe illness from the flu.

#### How does the flu spread?

Most experts believe that flu viruses spread mainly by droplets made when people with the flu cough, sneeze or talk. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby. Less often, a person might get the flu by touching something that has flu virus on it and then touching their own mouth, eyes or nose.

#### What are the symptoms of the flu?

Symptoms of the flu can include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills, fatigue and sometimes vomiting and diarrhea (more common in children than adults). Some people with the flu will not have a fever.

#### How long can a sick person spread the flu to others?

People with the flu may be able to infect others by shedding virus from 1 day before getting sick to 5 to 7 days after. However, children and people with weakened immune systems can shed virus for longer, and may be still contagious past 5 to 7 days of flu illness, especially if they still have symptoms.

### PROTECT YOUR CHILD

#### How can I protect my child against the flu?

To protect against the flu, the first and most important thing you can do is to get a flu vaccine for yourself and your child.

- ▶ Vaccination is recommended for everyone 6 months and older.
- ▶ It's especially important that young children and children with long term health conditions get vaccinated. (See list of conditions in "How serious is the flu?")
- ▶ Caregivers of children with health conditions or of children younger than 6 months old should get vaccinated. (Babies younger than 6 months are too young to be vaccinated themselves.)
- ▶ Another way to protect babies is to vaccinate pregnant women. Research shows that flu vaccination gives some protection to the baby both while the woman is pregnant and for up to 6 months after the baby is born.

Flu vaccine is updated annually to protect against the flu viruses that research indicates are most likely to cause illness during the upcoming flu season. Flu vaccines are made using strict safety and production measures. Over the years, millions of flu vaccines have been given in the United States with a very good safety record.



**U.S. Department of  
Health and Human Services**  
Centers for Disease  
Control and Prevention



## Is there a medicine to treat the flu?

Antiviral drugs are prescription medicines that can be used to treat and prevent influenza illness. They can make people feel better and get better sooner. Antivirals can mean the difference between having milder illness instead of very serious illness that could result in a hospital stay. Antiviral drugs are different from antibiotics, which fight against bacterial infections. They work best when started during the first 2 days of illness. It's very important that antiviral drugs are used early to treat the flu in people who are very sick (for example, people who are in the hospital) or who are at high risk of having serious flu complications. Other people with flu illness may also benefit from taking antiviral drugs. These drugs can be given to children and pregnant women.

## What are some of the other ways I can protect my child against the flu?

In addition to getting vaccinated, you and your children can take everyday steps to help prevent the spread of germs.

### These include:

- ▶ Stay away from people who are sick.
- ▶ If your child is sick with flu-like illness, try to keep him or her in a separate room from others in the household, if possible.
- ▶ CDC recommends that your sick child stay home for at least 24 hours after his or her fever is gone except to get medical care or for other necessities. The fever should be gone without the use of a fever-reducing medicine.
- ▶ Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after it has been used.
- ▶ Wash hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- ▶ Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Germs spread this way.
- ▶ Clean and disinfect hard surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with germs, including bathroom surfaces, kitchen counters and toys for children. Clean by wiping them down with a household disinfectant



according to directions on the product label.

***These everyday steps are a good way to reduce your chances of getting sick. However, a yearly flu vaccine is the best protection against flu illness.***

## IF YOUR CHILD IS SICK

### What can I do if my child gets sick?

**Talk to your doctor early if you are worried about your child's illness.**

Make sure your child gets plenty of rest and drinks enough fluids. If your child is 5 years and older and does not have other health problems and gets flu-like symptoms, including a fever and/or cough, consult your doctor as needed.

Children younger than 5 years of age – especially those younger than 2 years old – and children with certain chronic conditions, including asthma, diabetes and disorders of the brain or nervous system, at high risk of serious flu-related complications. If your child is at high risk for flu complications, call your doctor or take them to the doctor right away if they develop flu-like symptoms.

### What if my child seems very sick?

Even previously healthy children can get very sick from the flu.

Make sure your child gets plenty of rest and drinks enough fluids. If your child is 5 years or older and does not have other health problems and gets flu-like symptoms, including a fever and/or cough, consult your doctor as needed:

- ▶ Fast breathing or trouble breathing
- ▶ Bluish or gray skin color
- ▶ Not drinking enough fluids (not going to the bathroom or not making as much urine as they normally do)
- ▶ Severe or persistent vomiting
- ▶ Not waking up or not interacting
- ▶ Being so irritable that the child does not want to be held
- ▶ Flu-like symptoms improve but then return with fever and worse cough
- ▶ Has other conditions (like heart or lung disease, diabetes, or asthma) and develops flu symptoms, including a fever and/or cough.

### Can my child go to school, day care or camp if he or she is sick?

No. Your child should stay home to rest and to avoid giving the flu to other children or caregivers.

### When can my child go back to school after having the flu?

Keep your child home from school, day care or camp for at least 24 hours after their fever is gone. (The fever should be gone without the use of a fever-reducing medicine.) A fever is defined as 100°F (37.8°C) or higher.

**For more information, visit [www.cdc.gov/flu](http://www.cdc.gov/flu) or [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov) or call 800-CDC-INFO**

This child care facility is licensed according to the minimum licensure standards included in section 402.305, Florida Statutes (F.S.), and Chapter 65C-22, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.).

License Number: \_\_\_\_\_

License Issued on \_\_/\_\_/\_\_

License Expires on \_\_/\_\_/\_\_

For more information regarding the compliance history of this child care provider, please visit:

[MyFLFamilies.com/childcare](http://MyFLFamilies.com/childcare)



OFFICE OF CHILD CARE REGULATION  
AND BACKGROUND SCREENING  
[MYFLFAMILIES.COM](http://MYFLFAMILIES.COM)

To report suspected or actual cases of child abuse or neglect, please call the Florida Abuse Hotline at 1-800-962-2873.

CF/PI 175-24, 03/2014

This brochure was created by the Florida Department of Children and Families, Office of Child Care Regulation and Background Screening pursuant to s. 402.3125(5), F.S.,



# Know Your Child Care Facility

[MyFLFamilies.com/ChildCare](http://MyFLFamilies.com/ChildCare)



# Quality Child Care

Quality child care offers healthy, social, and educational experiences under qualified supervision in a safe, nurturing, and stimulating environment. Children in these settings participate in daily, age-appropriate activities that help develop essential skills, build independence and instill self-respect. When evaluating the quality of a child care setting, the following indicators should be considered:

## Quality Activities

- ☐ Are children initiated and teacher facilitated.
- ☐ Include social interchanges with all children.
- ☐ Are expressive including play, painting, drawing, story telling, music, dancing, and other varied activities.
- ☐ Include exercise and coordination development.
- ☐ Include free play and organized activities.
- ☐ Include opportunities for all children to read, be creative, explore, and problem-solve.

## Quality Caregivers

- ☐ Are friendly and eager to care for children.
- ☐ Accept family cultural and ethnic differences.
- ☐ Are warm, understanding, encouraging, and responsive to each child's individual needs.
- ☐ Use a pleasant tone of voice and frequently hold, cuddle, and talk to the children.
- ☐ Help children manage their behavior in a positive, constructive, and non-threatening manner.
- ☐ Allow children to play alone or in small groups.
- ☐ Are attentive to and interact with the children.
- ☐ Provide stimulating, interesting, and educational activities.
- ☐ Demonstrate knowledge of social and emotional needs and developmental tasks for all children.
- ☐ Communicate with parents.

## Quality Environments

- ☐ Are clean, safe, inviting, comfortable, child-friendly.
- ☐ Provide easy access to age-appropriate toys.
- ☐ Display children's activities and creations.
- ☐ Provide a safe and secure environment that fosters the growing independence of all children.



# General Requirements

Every licensed child care facility must meet the minimum state child care licensing standards pursuant to s. 402.305, F.S., and ch. 65C-22, F.A.C., which include, but are not limited to, the following:

- ☐ Valid license posted for parents to see.
- ☐ All staff appropriately screened.
- ☐ Maintain appropriate transportation vehicles (if transportation is provided).
- ☐ Provide parents with written disciplinary practices used by the facility.
- ☐ Provide access to the facility during normal hours of operation.
- ☐ Maintain minimum staff-to-child ratios:

Age of Child	Child: Teacher Ratio
Infant	4:1
1 year old	6:1
2 year old	11:1
3 year old	15:1
4 year old	20:1
5 year old and up	25:1

## Health Related Requirements

- ☐ Emergency procedures that include:
  - Posting Florida Abuse Hotline number along with other emergency numbers.
  - Staff trained in first aid and Infant/Child CPR on the premises at all times.
  - Fully stocked first aid kit.
  - A working fire extinguisher and documented monthly fire drills with children and staff.
- ☐ Medication and hazardous materials are inaccessible and out of children's reach.

## Training Requirements

- ☐ 40-hour introductory child care training.
- ☐ 10-hour in-service training annually.
- ☐ 0.5 continuing education unit of approved training or 5 clock hours of training in early literacy and language development.
- ☐ Director Credential for all facility directors.

## Food and Nutrition

- ☐ Post a meal and snack menu that provides daily nutritional needs of the children (if meals are provided).

## Record Keeping

- ☐ Maintain accurate records that include:
  - Children's health exam/immunization record.
  - Medication records.
  - Enrollment information.
  - Personnel records.
  - Daily attendance.
  - Accidents and incidents.
  - Parental permission for field trips and administration of medications.

## Physical Environment

- ☐ Maintain sufficient usable indoor floor space for playing, working, and napping.
- ☐ Provide space that is clean and free of litter and other hazards.
- ☐ Maintain sufficient lighting and inside temperatures.
- ☐ Equip with age and developmentally appropriate toys.
- ☐ Provide appropriate bathroom facilities and other furnishings.
- ☐ Provide isolation area for children who become ill.
- ☐ Practice proper hand washing, toileting, and diapering activities.





## Parent's Role

A parent's role in quality child care is vital:

- ☐ Inquire about the qualifications and experience of child care staff, as well as staff turnover.
- ☐ Know the facility's policies and procedures.
- ☐ Communicate directly with caregivers.
- ☐ Visit and observe the facility.
- ☐ Participate in special activities, meetings, and conferences.
- ☐ Talk to your child about their daily experiences in child care.
- ☐ Arrange alternate care for their child when they are sick.
- ☐ Familiarize yourself with the child care standards used to license the child care facility.

More  
information  
and free  
resources:

[MyFLFamilies.com/ChildCare](http://MyFLFamilies.com/ChildCare)



A large, stylized graphic of an elephant's head in shades of red, facing right. The graphic is composed of bold, rounded shapes and is set against a background of red and black diagonal stripes.

# **PRESCHOOL**

**PARENT STUDENT HANDBOOK**

**8237 BEACON BLVD, FORT MYERS, FL 33907**