

Parent Handbook of Policies and Procedures

I take pride and value open communication between everyone. I have created this parent handbook to answer many of the questions and concerns that parents have, and to avoid any misunderstandings or ill advised assumptions. The following are my policies on everything from business to discipline to the attire we would like your children to arrive in. Please take the time to read this handbook thoroughly and then we can talk about any questions or concerns you may have.

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I. PHILOSOPHY

It is my hope that the lives of both you and your child will be enriched because of your association with my FHDC.

I care about each child individually, striving not to compare, but to appreciate the precious rhythm of each one's growth. We do not in any way attempt to replace the priority of the home and its environment, but rather seek to supplement and enrich your child's experience.

I feel that each child needs to develop intellectually, socially, and physically, therefore your child will be exposed to many songs, stories, poems, games, large and small muscle equipment and a variety of other activities.

Some things that you can look for while in our classroom are:

The children will spend most of their playing and working with materials or other children. They do not wander aimlessly and will not be expected to sit for long periods of time.

Children will have access to various activities throughout the day. Some of the activities to look for are assorted building blocks and other construction materials, props for pretend play, picture books, paints and other art materials, table toys such as matching games, pegboards and puzzles.

I will be working with individual children, small groups and whole groups at different times during the day. I will not be spending all my time with the whole group.

The classroom will be decorated with children's original artwork.

The children will learn numbers and the alphabet in the context of their everyday experiences. The natural world of plants and animals and activities like cooking, taking attendance and serving snack will provide a basis for learning activities.

The children will work on projects and still have long periods of time (at least 2.5 hours hour) to play and explore.

The children will have an opportunity to play outside everyday. Outdoor play will never be sacrificed for more instructional time.

I will always have time to read books to small or large groups throughout the day, not just at group circle time.

Curriculum will be adapted for those who are ahead as well as those who need additional help. I recognize that children's different background and experiences mean that they do not learn the same things at the same time in the same way.

If you have any questions or concerns about my preschool program, please do not hesitate to ask me at any time.

2. ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE: Children are to arrive clean, fully dressed for the day (not in night clothes), and fed if arriving after 8:30.

Child's play is messy work. Your child will be cooking, painting, playing on the grass and sand, and various other activities. Please do not expect me to keep your child's clothes clean and free from stains. The latest fashions are cute and appropriate for fancy dress and photographs but not for childcare. Excuses like "that is what she wanted to wear" or " I couldn't get him/her to put on anything else" are not acceptable. The children will participate in all activities regardless of their dress. Please remember to replace your child's clothing in their cubbies at least every 6 months to assure we have a garment that fits

(Please do not bring food in!)

It is normal for children to be hesitant and sometimes even cry when dropping them off. Please be very brief (no more than 5 minutes is sufficient) during drop off times, the longer you prolong departure the harder it gets. A smile, cheerful good bye kiss, and a reassuring word that you will be back is perfect !

ABC Children Arrive @ designated time between 7:30 and 8:10. Extra charges occur outside normal ABC hours.

Do not allow your child to run outside or to your vehicle while you are still inside! The safety rule is "**No one goes outside without their parent with them!**" Please be in control of your child during pick up times, and don't allow them to play on, in, or around the vehicles. If they want to play "driving" please do so in your driveway at home, not here. This is a time of testing when two different authority figures are present, (parent and provider) and this situation will be tested to see if the rules still apply. I will remind your child of inappropriate behaviors being displayed, and take action to correct them if needed.

Children are not allowed to open the back door or the gate at any time. Even when you are on the other side waiting.

This is for safety purposes. We don't want ANY gray areas as to when it is appropriate to let someone in or go outside. It is only appropriate "here" when it is an adult doing it.

Traffic Flow- Please enter the drive on Wright Street pulling up as far as possible (under trees past drive first) and filling drive way. If you must park in alley please pull as far to the right as you can . Do NOT park on neighbors side of the alley. Also, please make pick ups and drops offs as quick as possible so the traffic flow isn't backed up. You will exit through the alley onto Twin Springs.

3. HOURS OF OPERATION

HOURS OF OPERATION: Normal hours are **7:30** AM to **3:00** PM Monday through Friday. We have an open door policy and welcome parents to visit any time during the day . Bright Beginnings is contracted for a 7 hour day.

4. HOLIDAYS

Please see attached schedule for holiday closings.

5. ADMISSION & ENROLLMENT

A. ENROLLMENT TYPES:

We only have Arkansas Better Chance funding , no private pay.

6. Fees

We are contracted to provide a 7 hour day . Those hours are 8:00 - 3:00 on the schedule given to you. We are opening the doors earlier to ease the traffic flow in our alley, please adhere to schedule. Any time BEFORE your designated time or after 3:00 you will be charged for. NO EXCEPTIONS. **Picking up later than 3:10 pm will result in a charge of \$5 for the first 10 minutes and \$1 for every minute thereafter.**

D. Termination

Bright Beginnings strives to serve each child as an individual and will use utmost care to work with parents if a child is having difficulty adjusting to our setting or socializing . Preschool is a time that children learn social behaviors that are appropriate and many of those cannot be taught at home. Excluding a child for behavior is counterproductive in most cases. There are times that as a teacher and a mom , I can tell that a child “ just needs to be home. “ It isn't so much a discipline issue as assessing that child's needs at that time. If we feel we have behavior problems that are escalating, we will schedule a conference with you , as a parent, to discuss options for improving our relationship with your child.

7. A TYPICAL DAY

Daily Schedule

7:30	Children begin arriving- free play / breakfast
8:45	Circle time
9:00	Centers and individual learning
11:00	Outside Learning Centers , Lunch
12:00	Outside Learning Center, Lunch
12:30	Nap time
2:00	Wake up
2:15	Snack Time
2:30	End of Day sharing
3:00	ABC Dismissed

WHAT IS OFFERED ON A TYPICAL DAY: My purpose and goal is to give the children in my care opportunities to learn in a family like setting, where they can feel safe and loved, and can begin to build a positive self image. Children find stability and security in predictable routines. They also need large amounts of time when they can make choices and play with a minimum of adult direction. A family style child care such as ours, allows this type of activity to happen naturally.

I will be guiding the children in nutrition, health and safety, creativity, arts, fitness, basic preschool learning, and other requests a parent may wish their child to participate in or learn. Each child will be encouraged, but not forced to participate in the daily activities. A young child's learning will be encouraged to be self directed which has been proven to be the best way for a young child to learn. (Naturalistic) Depending on the needs of the children, schedules are flexible and may vary.

8. BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT & DISCIPLINE POLICY

When a child is having a difficult time following directions or treating others or equipment with respect, developmentally appropriate guidance techniques are used. These techniques are as follows:

We practice Conscious Discipline Techniques .

It's NOT Something You Do... It's Something You Believe

We are often asked, "What can I do to calm down when my children are misbehaving?" or, "How can I stop getting so upset with my children?"

Begin by changing your beliefs about behavior, children and conflict. Until these statements ring true for you, it will be difficult or even impossible to change:

- The only person you can "make" change is yourself.
- Children are either calling for love or extending love.
- We must discipline ourselves first and children second

We have been trained to follow conscious discipline techniques that stress self control and regulation. We encourage our parents to learn more and partner with us in raising children that make choices based on more than obeying for the sake of obeying.

If negative behavior becomes habitual Bright Beginnings may schedule a conference with parents to cooperatively plan for a better outcome.

9. Immunization Schedule:

Attached :

Children will be current on all immunization or have a documented legal waiver to attend Bright Beginnings.

10. MEALS & SNACKS

A. NUTRITION: Since food and nutrition are important components of a child's development, We try to emphasize fresh and natural foods such as fresh fruits and vegetables, homemade soups, whole grain breads, etc...

Sample Menu

Monday Breakfast – Milk, Toast, fruit Lunch - Milk , Cheese, Salad, Croissants , fruit
Snack – Oatmeal cookies, milk

Tuesday Breakfast – Milk , English Muffins , Fruit Lunch - Milk, Sandwich Skewers ,
bananas , ranch crackers Snack- Pretzels , fruit

Wednesday Breakfast – Milk, Bagels, Fruit Lunch-Milk , Mini Pizzas, pears, salad
Snack – Peanut Butter Sandwiches

Thursday Breakfast - Milk Cereal, juice Lunch Milk Pasta Marinara and Italian
Sausage, Corn on Cob, Cucumbers Snack – Mac and Cheese, Milk

Friday Breakfast- Milk , Rice Cakes , Fruit Lunch Milk , Ants on a Log, pineapple –
berry yogurt parfaits , Granola Snack – Oyster Crackers , Juice

B. SPECIAL DIETS: If a child has a particular dietary need, substantiated by a medical evaluation, we must be so informed and given a doctor's note.

C. MENUS: We are required to keep daily menus and attendance records for these meals.

11 . HEALTH & SAFETY PRACTICES

A. HAND WASHING:

Children's hands are washed:

Upon arriving for the day

Before eating.

After the use of toilet.

When coming in from outside play.

After coming in contact with a sick child and/or runny nose.

After completing messy crafts or projects.

Provider's hands are washed:

Before preparing food.

Before and after giving medications.

After assisting a child using the toilet.

After touching body secretions.

And about 100 other times during the day.

Hands are always dried with single use paper towels.

B. TOYS & EQUIPMENT: Toys will be sterilized daily or as needed with a mild bleach solution or Lysol.

C. FIRE / TORNADO DRILLS will be conducted at least once monthly and recorded on record sheets. Evacuation plans will be posted on the wall next to exits.

D. ACCIDENTS & INJURIES: First Aid will be administered to a child needing care. Each accident will be recorded on an accident report sheet. Parents will be given a copy of this report and the center will maintain a copy. Serious accidents will be reported to Licensing.

E. FIRST AID TRAINING: We are required to maintain a current CPR & First Aid certificate.

F. RELEASE OF CHILDREN: Children will absolutely NOT be released to anyone except those authorized to pick up the child on the enrollment form. Identification will be required of those authorized who are unfamiliar to staff. In the event you wish another adult to pick up child, it would require that you give written permission in advance or a phone call to verify.

G. REPORTING CHILD ABUSE: Arkansas State Law states that child care facilities are required to report immediately to the police or the Child Protective Services any reason to suspect child abuse, neglect, or exploitation. We are not obligated to inform parents / guardians of this report.

H. CARE OF ANIMALS: We do have pets on the premises that are maintained in a healthy and safe environment. Children are encouraged to wash their hands before and after handling or petting the animals. Parents who have children with known allergies to furry animals must alert the Teacher / Director immediately.

H. By signing this handbook you are granting permission for your child to have sunscreen applied to exposed skin areas before going outside on warm sunny days.

12 . ILLNESS

The health and well being of all of the children here are of utmost importance to me. It is for the protection of the children that I must insist on strict adherence to my Health Policy. Please read it carefully. If you have any questions or doubts, regarding the statements it contains please discuss them with me now. Do not wait until your child is sick to think about what would be best for all concerned. At that point you may be making the decisions based on emotion instead of logic. Even with all of our precautions children do get sick and or hurt. Due to my concern for all of the children enrolled in my childcare there are certain guidelines that I require my clients to observe. In some cases, if your child needs to be seen by a doctor, you will be required to submit a signed report from your doctor before your child can return to child care. I will furnish you with the proper form. This is to ensure that a child does not return to childcare when he or she may be in danger of exposing someone else to an illness. Some contagious illnesses are no longer contagious after the child has been on medication for 24 hours. Children with minor illness may attend childcare at the provider's discretion. It is important to realize that if a child is unable to participate in the normal routine or needs more care than I can provide without neglecting the others in my care, that child must stay home. I know we both agree there are times a child needs to be with the parent for both physical and emotional comfort

Some of the features that help insure your child's health are:

- *NO SMOKING ON THE PREMISES
- *My health policy is strictly adhered to.
- *Current immunizations are required
- *Good hygiene is stressed at all times .
- *Favorite blankets or sleeping toys may be brought but kept for rest time. They are not shared with the other children.
- *Children do not bring food or drink to childcare. (The only exceptions are pre-arranged treats)
- *Children do not bring toys from home.
- *Children are prevented from sharing cups, utensils and food
- *Every attempt is made to keep toys and play areas sanitized.
- * Napping is done on individual cots or mats.

- *Food preparation is done in a safe and hygienic manner.
- *Menu's follow Federal Nutritional Guidelines.

A. SCREENING: Children will be visually screened as they arrive at the facility. If a child exhibits signs of illness, it will be determined if the symptoms indicate the need for exclusion until remedied. In the event a child becomes ill and needs to be picked up, the child will be separated from the rest of the children until a parent arrives.

B. NON ADMITTANCE: Your child will not be allowed to attend preschool if he/she exhibits symptoms for exclusion within a 24 hour period prior to child's admittance back to school. If your child is unable to participate in the normal activities of the daily schedule, then your child must stay home.

C. SYMPTOMS FOR EXCLUSION:

1. Fever of 101 degrees F or higher
 2. Diarrhea (three or more watery stools within 24 hours)
 3. Vomiting on two or more occasions during the past 24 hours
 4. A draining rash
5. Eye discharge or Pinkeye
 6. Lice or Nits
7. Too tired or ill to participate in normal activities

D. STAFF ILLNESS: If I display signs of infectious illness I will try my best to find a substitute to continue care in my home. If it is impossible for me to find a suitable caregiver, you will be notified to make arrangements for your child.

E. COMMUNICABLE DISEASES: We are required to report communicable diseases to the local Health Department.

For your information a more detailed list is included:

The following are indications of illness that **require your child to stay at home**. This information applies to all child care situations as well as when children enter the public school system.

1. **Fever** - 101 degrees rectal or 100 degrees oral. Temperature must be normal (without medicine) for **24 hours** before returning to school.
2. **Vomiting** - Child must be a-symptomatic for **24 hours** before returning to school.
3. **Diarrhea** - Child must be a-symptomatic for 24 hours before returning to school. If your child has continuing diarrhea that your doctor feels is non communicable please have him write a note confirming this.
4. **Bronchitis** - Child must be on antibiotic medication for **24 hours** and be symptom free before returning to school.
5. **Ear Infections** - Child must be on antibiotics for a full **24 hours** or have a doctor's

note approving attendance before returning to school. Exclusion rules for fever also apply.

6. **Conjunctivitis** - Condition must be treated for a full **24 hours** on medication before returning to school.
 7. **Severe Cold** - Cold, accompanied by productive cough, sore throat, severe runny nose.
 8. **Severe Coughing** - child gets red or blue in the face or makes high-pitched whooping sound after coughing.
 9. **Rashes** - Must be diagnosed as non communicable before returning to school.
 10. **Strep Throat** - Child must be treated with an antibiotic for a full **24 hours** before returning to school and must be fever free for **24 hours** without a fever medication.
 11. Usual childhood contagious diseases - **MEASLES, MUMPS, RUBELLA, CHICKEN POX**, etc.
 12. **Head Lice** - Child must be treated and be **free of nits** before returning to school.
 13. **Thrush** - Child must be symptom free for **24 hours** before returning to school.
 14. **Sinus Infection** - Child must be on antibiotic medication for **24 hours** and discharge clear before returning to school.
 15. **Child is irritable**, continuously crying, or requires more attention than we can provide without hurting the health and safety of other children in our care.
- If a child is exhibiting any of the above illnesses upon coming to school, admittance will be refused.*

13 . MEDICATIONS

Medication may be administered under the following conditions:

- A. **CONSENT:** Parental and physician's written consent is required to administer ANY medication.
- B. **PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION:** All prescription medication must be in its original container and properly labeled with child's full name, date prescription was filled or medication's expiration date, and legible instructions for administration, such as manufacture's instruction or prescription label.
- C. **NON-PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION** We do not administer non prescription medication.

14 . TRANSPORTATION & FIELD TRIPS

A. Parents will provide transportation to and from the facility. The field trips we take are WALKING field trips within our community. By signing the handbook acknowledgment form you are agreeing to this.

15 . ADJUSTMENT

A. WHAT IS NORMAL:

B. It is normal for your child to have some fears about being away from you. Children, like adults, need time to get used to new situations. Try to prepare your child for the changes as far in advanced as possible. Discuss any concerns. Talk about some of the new people your child will meet and the new things your child will do. If you are enthusiastic, soon your child will be too.

B. FIRST EXPERIENCE: If this is the first time your child has been separated from you, it is natural for he/she to be hesitant. A cheerful good-bye kiss, a smile, and a reassuring word that you will be back after work is all you need to do. Our caring staff will take it from there. Please do not sneak out when your child is not looking.

Usually the child will settle down shortly after you leave.

C. COMMON BEHAVIORS: Depending on their age, some children will "act out" their feelings by:

1. Clinging to you and refusing to let go
2. Having tantrums
3. Forgetting their toilet training
4. Not eating
5. Waking up at night or having bad dreams
6. Bed-wetting

7. Expressing desire to stay home

WHAT TO DO: Usually these problems are temporary. If your child is treated lovingly but firmly, this behavior should go away. Please feel free to call when you arrive at work.

Chances are that your child will be busy playing and you can relax and concentrate on work.

16. SIGNING IN & OUT

A.Children are not to be let off by themselves outside the building or at the front door. Licensing prohibits a child care provider from releasing children to a parent/guardian or any other person who is clearly under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.

B. CLOTHES: In order for your child to enjoy their time at preschool, we advise you to dress them in **play** clothes suitable to the weather. Please remember that we do play - and tend to get very dirty. It is unreasonable to expect a child of this age to remain clean all day. If you have some where you are going immediately following daycare, please bring a change of clothes and we will be happy to have your child ready for your arrival.

B. CHILDREN'S SUPPLIES: Parents are requested to supply those items necessary for the proper care of your child: a change of clothing.

C. TOYS FROM HOME: Please do not allow your child to bring any of their toys or costume jewelry from home as they can become misplaced or broken.

D. VISITATIONS: We have an "open door" policy. Parents have free access at all times to all areas used by children.

E. We will be signing in and out . Please remember to do this each day.

17 . HOUSE RULES

BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ENERGY YOU BRING INTO THE CLASSROOM.

I work constantly to make sure that the environment your child is in each day is calm and positive. I understand completely that sometimes that are circumstances that make life difficult but I am also of the belief that 3 and 4 year olds shoulders are not large enough to carry those adult burdens. Please bring your child in for drop off with a positive nature. Loud talking and disrespectful and mean words will not be permitted.

18. CELL PHONE – There will be no cell phone usage in our classroom. If you are on the phone , please stay outside the door until you complete your conversation. Your child needs to be able to say goodbye to you in the morning and needs to know that THEY are the most important thing to you when you pick up.

19 . NAP TIME/ REST TIME

NAP/REST TIME: According to Arkansas licensing requirements all children 5 years of age and under remaining in care more than six hours are given a supervised rest period. If your child doesn't nap any longer they are still required to rest and remain quiet for the other children..

PLEASE PLEASE DO NOT PICK UP DURING NAP TIME! We ask that if you need to pick up your child (emergency) during this time you call ahead so we can have your child ready and at the door so the other children are not disturbed Please try to schedule appointments for your children outside of school hours but if that is not possible we understand. Get a doctors note and that absence will be excused.

20. Birthdays

Birthdays are a wonderful time in a child's life. I would like to make sure that your child's birthdays that are spent at Bright Beginnings are memorable and fun. I prefer no treats be brought in so that everyone's birthday celebration is equal. We do birthday pancakes and the child receives a special book as the class celebrates with them.

21. Attendance

After 10 non excused absences per semester a child CAN be dropped from the program at the directors discretion . Each situation will be addressed individually by the Bright Beginnings Director .

Tardy is any time past 8:10. Five tardy's will equal ONE UNEXCUSED absence. ABC children arriving AFTER 9:00 am may use that day as ONE of their absences for the year. The state is paying for your child's preschool education, not babysitting as you need it.

Bright Beginnings MAY ask for a doctors note if excessive absences occur.

22 . SOCIAL MEDIA

Words and text can be often misunderstood. In the past I have had a few misuse the ability to speak freely on the internet and said things that could be misunderstood. As director of Bright Beginnings it is my job to protect my business , other parents and children associated with Bright Beginnings and our employees. Parents may feel that it is quicker or easier to raise concerns about the progress of their child, behavior concerns etc. via a Facebook wall or message board but should be encouraged to use the channels best suited to professional and confidential discussion

Similarly, where parents and caregivers are invited to comment on children's online work, guidance should be provided to help ensure all comments are positive and supportive. It is not acceptable for anyone to post negative comments about any child on social media associated with the school.

Parents or those that represent them using social media to degrade the schools worth or the value of the work put into our days will be given one notice to think and act appropriately and on the second offense will be asked to leave and find a more appropriate setting for their child.

23 – PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Children find security in a world where parents and teachers freely work together to create a rich learning environment. Hands-on experiences in music, arts and crafts, science, literature, language, and indoor and outdoor free play encourage skills necessary in later school experiences and in life. Interacting with a variety of children and adults fosters a close-knit community of learners and encourages tolerance of differences.

Parents benefit, too. In a recent annual survey by a well known cooperative preschool parents responded that they loved parent assisting because they learned so much about their own child, other children in the age group, and about responding to a range of childhood behaviors. Parents also said they met and formed close friendships with other families. Many friendships continue well beyond the preschool years. parents commented that the parents she met at Bright Beginnings with her older children were the same parents she saw at other events in town. Meeting other parents who share the value of being directly involved in their children's education is a wonderful characteristic of a cooperative environment.

As teachers we love learning, and we benefit from a cooperative environment as well. One of the greatest advantages of parents volunteering at preschool is that each family brings something new and special to the school every year. These experiences and skills enrich the learning environment and help the teachers keep their themed units and activities fresh and fun. The teachers also benefit from the close relationship they form with each family. Their understanding of each child is greatly enhanced because of this relationship, and it helps them to be more effective teachers.

Parent involvement has been proven to increase a child's success in school. At Bright Beginnings we have personally seen the results of parent involvement. We do understand that some parents work or have smaller children at home and will make every effort to ensure there are after hours opportunities to be involved . **It is your responsibility to find a way once a month that you can give time back to your child's school. This is a " family hour."** It can be done by mom or dad or even a grandparent. **If there is a family event planned for that month the involvement can be counted at that time. I would love to see each family give an hour a week on a rotating schedule .** EX.

Every Monday from 8:00 – 10:30 we know that Debbie's mom will be here in our classroom. On Tuesdays' we know that Randy's mom will be here. Danielle's mom cant come on the same day every week but she can stay 20 minutes each morning to assist with sign in time. It is not that difficult, just chose a time and commit.

Parent Advisory Committee - There will be a panel of parents (atleast 4) that will meet 4 times a year to discuss and help the director decide what direction to go on school functions and advise on possible changes to policy.

The solution is to work together, sharing problems and solutions while recognizing and supporting each other's best efforts and intentions.

Homeroom Parent-

The room parent facilitates communication between other parents and the teacher. Some room parents also act as the liaison with the school parent group, and very occasionally school staff. The expectations for each school and class vary slightly but for the most part you'll ask parents for donations for classroom parties and events, collect money for teacher gifts, organize volunteers for the classroom and events, and other miscellaneous tasks the teacher might request.

Most room moms:

- Organize class parties, usually around a specific topic or theme.
- Collect money from parents and organize teacher gifts at holidays and during teacher appreciation week
- Recruit and coordinate volunteers for classroom support, school events, and field trips
- Send out reminders about events, activities, field trips, etc.
- Attend parent group meetings.

Keep an up-to-date list of contact information for all parents

24 INCLEMENT WEATHER DAYS - We will remain open and available. If Siloam Springs School district closes and you feel it is not safe for you to transport to preschool, that day will be an excused absence.

25. NO SHOES INSIDE- This year I have decided after cleaning the carpets twice to initiate a “ No shoes inside “ policy for the kids. As children come inside they will take off their shoes and place them in their cubby for outdoor use I am providing crocheted house shoes for each child to be used at school.

26. - Separation of Church and State

Per a memo from the state Department of Education we will not be teaching or promoting religious activities during normal school hours.

27 – Emergency Plan - In the event of a community emergency that causes Bright Beginnings to evacuate more than 2 miles from our home we have signed an agreement with First Baptist Church 2000 Dawn Hill Road to be a safe haven for us . You will be alerted if at all possible through remind 101 when we are enroute and when we have arrived.

If an emergency takes place that forces us to leave the safety of our home (but not two

miles away) we will take shelter in the new library building or the lot it is situated on.

28 – Kindergarten Transition Plan – Bright Beginnings will make every effort to make your child’s transition into kindergarten as easy as possible. We work with the local school district by planning activities that help your child become familiar with the people, places and routines in their new school. We understand and promote kindergarten transition as an ongoing process and not a once an year event.

Some ways we endeavor to make this happen:

Our local school district provides pre-enrollment forms. As your child’s preschool teacher we fill this form out describing our preschool environment with hopes that your child will be placed in a kindergarten classroom with the same core practices such as calm voices, creative thinking and conscious discipline. We will also explain as best we can your child’s strengths and current goals we are working on.

Bright Beginnings will meet with a transition team for Siloam Springs that discusses ways to support children as they transition into kindergarten.

Bright Beginnings will partner with a kindergarten teacher. The kindergarten class and our preschool class will exchange communication via written, physical and technology based contact.

Bright Beginnings works with the school to plan literacy nights at the school so your child is familiar with the school campus.

Kindergarten teachers and staff will visit Bright Beginnings to talk about moving up to kindergarten.

Bright Beginnings will prepare a portfolio that can be given to the child’s teacher with writing samples, art , observations and goals .

Bright Beginnings will accompany Pre-K children on a tour of Northside arranged by the Northside staff.

Bright Beginnings will prepare children and parents for the required kindergarten screening and share information regarding registration.

Near the end of the preschool year Bright Beginnings will turn it’s dramatic play center into a “school” so children can be taught a few school routines in a fun, learning way.

Bright Beginnings will help the parent assemble their registration packet.

If your child is attending Bright Beginnings and will not transition into Siloam Springs School district we will make sure you have a packet to take to your school that will help place your child with the teacher he/ she will do best with and other documentation that will help in his placement and ultimate successful school experience.

29- Phone Courtesy - Please do not call or text after 9 pm unless it is an emergency.

30 Young children benefit from high-quality preschools. When preschool children gain reading, math, and social-emotional readiness skills, they are more likely to make successful transitions to kindergarten and grade 1. As they talk daily with teachers and other children, preschoolers learn to get along with others, take turns, and conduct other school-related behaviors. Importantly, preschool programs improve in quality if they include well-organized practices for family and community involvement.

Some ways we engage in our community are :

We have adopted some “ golden friends “ from Qual Ridge a local nursing facility . Within our partnership we go visit “ their “ home and they come visit our preschool home. They have become part of the family.

Bright Beginnings is working with Siloam Springs High School to host some of their high school students that are enrolled in child development courses to come and spend time with our preschoolers. They will play supervised age appropriate games and read .

Since we do not transport children we engage the entire family in family field trips. We visit local business including but not limited to fire department , police , hospitals and libraries.

31 Community Resources

General Referrals

Adult and Community Education
612 S. College Avenue, Fayetteville
479-444-3041

Offers adult education courses in health occupation courses, trades, computer technology, as well as adult basic literacy programs, such as GED preparation and English as a 2nd language.

AR Resource Information Cyber Center (ARIC)

Online Database of community/human service organizations. www.state.ar.us/aric

Arkansas Support Network
614 East Emma, Springdale

The goal is to be responsive as possible to the needs of people with disabilities in Northwest Arkansas. They support the presence and participation of children and adults with developmental disabilities in their homes and communities.

Department of Human Services (DHS)
4044 Frontage Road, Fayetteville
479-521-1270

Help with everything from family and children’s services to senior services.

Arkansas 211

Washington and Benton county 211 or 800-278-1848. Connects you with appropriate

agency to help you with your needs.

Community Development Program
113 West Mountain, Fayetteville
479-718-7600

A dynamic, hands-on organization, that works in rural areas to expand the opportunities for families to build assets, improve their lives, and strengthen their communities. The work focuses on the basics: safe drinking water, affordable housing, and access to credit.

Transitional Employment Assistance (TEA) Support Center

Call with any questions about TEA. 1-800-4828988

Social Security Office
2153 Joyce Blvd, Ste. 101, Fayetteville
479-521-3435 or 1-800-772-1213

Social security cards and disability benefits. Mon-Fri 9:00 am-4:00 pm.

Northwest Arkansas Crisis Intervention Center
Adult Crisis Hotline 888-274-7472
Teen Crisis Hotline 800-798-8336 www.nwacrisiscenter.org

Children's Safety Center
614 East Emma, Springdale
479-872-6183

A child friendly, family-centered facility that coordinates the complex investigation, prosecution and treatment services to children who are victims of physical or sexual abuse in Washington County.

Fayetteville Boys and Girls Club	Springdale	
Rogers	Siloam Springs	
560 Ruppel Road	9222 Ardwick Ardmore	408 S. 8th
Street	827 Harvard	
Fayetteville AR 72704	Springdale AR 72764	
Rogers AR 72756	Siloam Springs AR	
479-442-9242	479-440-5260	479-
633-0044	479-524-4174	

Provides opportunities for youth and families to be actively engaged in the growth process, helps participants develop the social and moral qualities necessary for achieving their full potential, and Offers a broad variety of high quality and progressive programs, aimed at the different levels and facets of development.

The Walton Economic Support Foundation

P.O. Box 2030, Bentonville

479-464-1570

The foundation invests in projects that enhance the quality of life in Northwest Arkansas. A better quality of life enables area businesses and industries to attract and retain employees, helping the local economy grow and prosper.

Clothing

The Attic
221 South School, Fayetteville

479-442-2523

Low-priced clothing Wednesday 10:00 am-4pm, Thursday-Friday 11:00 am-4:00 pm, Saturday 8:00 am-12:00.

Closet Crisis**121 West Township Street # 13, Fayetteville**

Low-priced women's and children's clothing, books, shoes, appliances (generally \$1 per clothing item). Mon-Sat 9:30 am 5:00 pm.

Cooperative Emergency outreach**419 West Rock Street, Fayetteville****479-444-0056****Goodwill Store****3157 West Sunset, Springdale****479-927-2023**

Low-priced clothing, shoes, linens, toys, books, and knick-knacks.

Salvation Army Thrift Store**1645 West Avenue, Fayetteville**

Mon-Fri 9 am-5:00 pm, Sat 8:30 am-5:00 pm

Low-priced furniture and clothing.

329 Holcomb, Springdale

Mon-Sat 9:00 am-5:00 pm

Second Mile Ministry Clothing Shop**319 West Lafayette, Fayetteville****479-521-4787**

Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, 8:30 am to 11:30 am.

Financial/Legal**Child Support Enforcement of NWA****122 North Bloomington, Suite A, Lowell****479-770-5443****Credit Counseling of Arkansas (CCOA)****1111 E. Zion Road, Fayetteville****479-521-8877 or 1-800-889-4916 or www.ccoacares.com**

Free and confidential counseling to help you manage finances, arrange payments with creditors, and to develop a savings plan to meet your financial goals. Also free educational programs. Mon-Thurs 8:00 am-5:30 pm, Friday 8:00 am-12:00 pm. Evening appointments available.

Fund My Future**1-800-443-6030 or www.fundmyfuture.info**

Financial resources to address critical career needs in Arkansas. Free.

Individual Development Account (IDA)**614 East Emma, Suite M 401, Springdale****479-872-7479**

Sets up savings account where every \$1 you deposit is matched by \$3. Accounts can be used for: buying or improving a home, capitalizing a small business, or post high school education. Must live in Benton, Carroll, Madison, or Washington counties. Must have a child under 18 in your household. Must meet income guidelines. Sponsored by Economic Opportunity Agency of Washington County.

University of Arkansas Legal Clinic
1130 West Maple, Fayetteville
479-442-0600
www.law.uark.edu

Northwest Arkansas Legal Clinic
700 W. Emma Ave #2, Springdale
479-927-9800

Ozark Legal Clinic
4083 Shiloh Dr. # 3, Fayetteville
479-442-0600
www.arlegalaid.org

University of Arkansas Fort Smith financial Aid Office
5210 Grand Ave., Ft Smith
Mon-Thurs 8 am to 6 pm
479-788-7090 www.uafortsmith.edu

Northwest Arkansas Community College (NWACC) Financial Aid Office
One College Drive, Bentonville
479-619-4329 www.nwacc.edu
Mon-Thurs 8:00 am to 6:00 pm and Friday 9:00 am to 4:30 pm

Northwest Technical Institute (NTI) Financial Aid Office
709 S. Old Missouri Road, Springdale
479-751-8824 www.nti.tec.ar.us

Legal Aid of Arkansas
1905 E. Mission Blvd. Suite 6, Fayetteville
479-442-0600 or 800-952-9243
M-F 8:30 am - 4:30 pm—Helpline hours Mon-Thurs 9:00 am to 11:00 am and 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
Free civil legal services. Must be within 125% of Federal poverty limits.

University of Arkansas Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships
114 Silas Hunt Hall, Fayetteville
479-575-3806 www.uark.edu

Food

Bread of Life

206 W. Johnson Ave., Springdale

479-750-5229

Commodity distribution food pantry for Washington County. Wednesday and Thursday 9 am to 11:45 am.

Central United Methodist Church

6 W. Dickson, Fayetteville

479-442-4237

Community meals and free meals for the needy. Tuesday and Thursday 12:00 pm to 12:30 pm

Christian United food Pantry

714 W. Huntsville, Springdale

479-756-5687

Monday 9:00 am to 12:00 pm and Thursday 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Cooperative Emergency Outreach (CEO)

419 W. Rock St., Fayetteville

479-444-7500

May use 3 times in a 6 month period

Food Stamp Program

4042 frontage Rd., Fayetteville

479-521-1270

Provides monthly food stamps to purchase groceries only.

Grace Place Food Pantry

120 W. Park St., Lincoln

479-824-5496

9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Life Source International Inc. Food Pantry

602 S. School Ave., Fayetteville

479-521-4000

Wednesday and Thursday 8:30 to 11:30 am

Life Ministries Food Pantry

881 Stills Road, Prairie Grove

479-846-5433

Only serves residents of Farmington over to Oklahoma state line. Tuesday – Thursday 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Mission NWA Ministries Food Pantry

1709 Johnson Road, Springdale

479-756-7151

Mondays by appointment only

Project Compassion Food Pantry

1800 W. Emma Avenue, Springdale

479-751-9359

Tuesday and Wednesday 8:00 am to 11:30 am

Salvation Army Food Pantry
219 W. 15th Street, Fayetteville

479-521-2151

Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. Financial Assistance Monday and Wednesday 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Salvation Army Food Pantry
315 Holcomb, Springdale
479-751-7352

Second Mile Ministries Food Pantry
319 W. Lafayette, Fayetteville
479-521-4787

Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

St Raphael's Catholic Church Food Pantry
1386 W. End, Springdale
479-751-5743

Tuesday 2:30 pm to 3:30 pm and Thursday 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm

Restoration House
3598 S. 48th Street, Springdale
479-872-2273 or 479-751-7926

Samaritan House
812 W. Hudson Road Rogers
479-872-1115

Hill Avenue Church of Christ
1136 S. Ellis Avenue, Fayetteville
479-521-6809

Immanuel Baptist Church
201 S. Duncan, Fayetteville
479-442-7053

Cooperative Emergency Outreach
419 W. Rock, Fayetteville
479-444-7500

Cup Ministries Food Pantry
714 W. Huntsville, Springdale
479-756-5687

DHHS Washington Co.
4044 Frontage Road, Fayetteville
479-521-1270

Economic Opportunity Agency
614 E. Emma, Springdale
479-872-7479

Angel Food www.angelfoodministries.com
Bentonville 479-752-3933
Elkins 479-643-2549
Fayetteville 479-442-7373
Fort Smith 479-782-0066
Greenland 479-442-7464
Huntsville 479-738-6377
Prairie Grove 479-846-1728
Rogers 479-621-0800
Van Buren 479-474-8088
Winslow 479-634-5581

Berry Street Baptist Church
320 Berry Street, Springdale
479-756-6697

St Raphael
1386 West End, Springdale
479-751-5743

United Presbyterian Church
695 E. Calvin, Fayetteville
479-442-4411

Northwest Arkansas Food Bank
1378 June Self Drive, Bethel Heights
479-872-8774

Serves citizens of Benton, Washington, Madison, and Carroll counties to make sure that all who are facing or experiencing hunger have access to nutritious food.

Health

ARKids
888-474-8275 or www.arkidsfirst.com
Free medical and dental insurance for kids under 19, no deductible or premium, possible co-payment of \$5-10; must re-enroll every year. Must meet income guidelines; application

available online, at local DHS or call to request. Must be a citizen of the United States or have lived in United States for 5 years. Statewide

Community Clinic at St. Francis House
614 E. Emma Suite 300, Springdale
479-751-7417

Reduced cost health, dental care (children only) and prescriptions for children and adults; Medicaid and AR Kids patients welcome; limited emergency care. Must schedule medical appointment and must meet income guidelines. Call Monday – Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Fayetteville Youth Dental Program
2350 Old Farmington Road, Fayetteville
479-444-3058

Provides dental care to children in the Fayetteville school district whose families meet the income guidelines. Must qualify for free lunch program.

Life Source International
602 S. School Avenue, Fayetteville
479-521-4000

They offer tutoring mentoring and a summer day camp for kids. Call for an appointment

Washington County Health Unit
3270 N. Wimberley Drive, Fayetteville
479-521-8181

Free or reduced cost immunizations. Women Infant Children program (WIC) provides nutritional food for pregnant women and children up to the age of 5. Must meet income guidelines (automatically qualify if receiving TEA or Medicaid).

Northwest Arkansas Free Health Clinic
10 S. College Avenue, Fayetteville
479-444-7548

Their mission is to end domestic violence through services, prevention, education and to offer emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence with a 24/7 crisis line. Free.

Northwest Arkansas Physician Referral
1125 N. College, Fayetteville
479-443-3377-or 800-422-0322

Ozark Guidance
2400 S. 48th Street, Springdale
479-7502020 Emergency 800-234-7052

Arkansas Health Care Access
800-950-8233

Arkansas USA Life Line Telephone Service Assistance
800-464-7928

Crisis Pregnancy Center

322 Maple Street, Fayetteville
479-521-2834

DHHS Washington County
4044 Frontage Road, Fayetteville
479-521-1270

Mission Northwest Arkansas
1709 Johnson Road, Springdale
479-756-7151

Arkansas Crisis Hotline
800-274-7472

The Arkansas Crisis Center has a 24/7 hotline. The hotline now assists with calls concerning suicide, substance abuse, physical and emotional abuse, relationship violence, divorce, loneliness, rape, depression, HIV/AIDS, financial difficulties, runaways and other youth issues, emergency shelter, pregnancy, sexual orientation, battered women's shelters, counseling centers, rape crisis centers and many other community service providers to ensure that our callers receive the help needed during times of crisis.

St. Francis Clinic of Siloam Springs
304 S. Maxwell, Siloam Springs
479-524-9550

Offers healthcare services for adults and pediatrics; prescription assistance programs, patient health education and identification of more serious conditions and arrangement for consultation when possible.

Arkansas School for the Blind
2400 W. Markham, Little Rock
501-663-3536

The Arkansas School for the Blind will offer statewide quality educational programs and resources to students who are blind or visually impaired, birth through twenty-one, enabling them to become productive, self-sufficient citizens through the involvement of all students, staff, parents and the community.

Arkansas School for the Deaf
2400 W. Markham, Little Rock
501-324-9541

The Arkansas school for the Deaf's Outreach and Family Services department is committed to all children who are deaf and hard of hearing, their families, and service providers, by giving unbiased information on child development, language acquisition, and appropriate intervention to prepare children to reach their fullest potential.

Visa Health
4253 Crossover Road, Fayetteville

Visa Health
Bentonville

479-521-5731

479-464-5955

Visa Health is committed to providing compassionate, high-quality care to those in need of mental health services. They treat adults, adolescents and children with therapeutic day treatment as well as inpatient and outpatient treatment.

Life Made Simple

PO Box 8964, Fayetteville

479-313-6233

Respite care refers to a qualified individual giving a caregiver a break by caring for their child with autism for a period of time to allow the caregiver to go to appointments, go to movies, travel to conferences, etc.

Recovery Connection

Arkansas Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services

1-800-993-3869

It can be a challenging experience to try and decide which Arkansas drug rehabilitation or alcohol rehabilitation program is best for you. Recovery Connection's staff is experienced in matching your rehab needs with a program capable of meeting them.

Youth Bridge

Washington County 479-575-9471

Benton County 479-636-0083

Youth Bridge is a non-profit for impact agency that serves teens and their families in the areas of abuse, neglect, addiction, homelessness, mental health issues, and behavioral problems. Services range anywhere from providing an immediate safe haven, to individualized treatment plans, aftercare and support, prevention programs to offering transitional living.

Arkansas Crisis Hotline

1-800-274-7472

The Arkansas Crisis Center has a 24/7 hotline. The hotline now assists with calls concerning suicide, substance abuse, physical and emotional abuse, relationship violence, divorce, loneliness, rape, depression, HIV/AIDS, financial difficulties, runaways and other youth issues, emergency shelter, pregnancy, sexual orientation, battered women's shelters, counseling centers, rape crisis centers and many other community service providers to ensure that our callers receive the help needed during times of crisis.

Samaritan Community Center

1211 Hudson Road, Rogers

479-636-4198

Here to share hope to the poor, hurting and homeless in Northwest Arkansas. Our focus is to provide both immediate assistance and long-term encouragement by focusing on the whole person (physical, emotional, financial and spiritual) allowing us to help clients develop life action steps that will truly make a lasting difference in their lives.

Recovery Connection
Arkansas Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services
1-800-993-3869

It can be a challenging experience to try and decide which Arkansas drug rehabilitation or alcohol rehabilitation program is best for you. Recovery Connection's staff is experienced in matching your rehab needs with a program capable of meeting them.

Parenting/Childcare

NWA Childcare Resource and Referral Center DBA Child Care Aware of NWA
614 E. Emma, Suite 135, Springdale
479-751-3463 or 800-543-7564

Locates a childcare provider given your specific needs. Free referrals, trainings for child care providers and parenting classes. Monday – Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Arkansas State PIRC/Center for Effective Parenting
614 E. Emma Suites 109 and 113, Springdale
479-751-6167 www.parenting.ed.org

Provides free parenting resources including education classes. Monday – Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Head Start
Benton County 479-636-4506
Washington County 479-521-5571

Child development programs for children in low-income families and disabled children (up to age 5). Must meet income guidelines. Complete application packet, which requires child's birth certificate, immunization records, social security card and proof of household income for past year.

Big Brothers/Big Sisters
610 E. Emma, Springdale
479-756-5683

Provides and support one-on-one adult-child mentoring relationships. Serves NWA children

ages 6-14. Targeting single parent families. Monday – Friday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

NWA Kids Guide www.nwakidsguide.com

A website resource guide for busy families in Northwest Arkansas, including activities, services, and businesses.

Grandparents AS Parents Share and Care Group

Center for Effective Parenting

479-7516168

1-800-727-3680

Support for grandparents and other relatives raising children that include state-specific data and programs.

Youth Can

818 N. Sang, Fayetteville

479-442-8586

A positive youth development organization whose mission is to enhance educational opportunities for youth in NW Arkansas and to promote community development through accessible arts programs for youth and families.

Arkansas Children’s Directory of Organizations and Resources

800-752-2160

Arkansas Support Network

<http://www.supports.org>

School Kids Connection After School Program

Boys and Girls Club

560 N. Ruppel Road, Fayetteville

479-442-9242 www.fayettevillekids.org

Jones Center

922 E. Emma, Springdale

479-756-8090 www.jonesnet.org

Rent/Utilities

Springdale Housing Authority

5 Applegate Dr. Phillips Plaza, Springdale

479-751-0560

Rental assistance (3-4 month wait), housing placement.

Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program

Washington County 479-872-7479

Benton County 479-636-7301

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program provides financial assistance to approximately 60,000 households each year to help them meet the costs of home energy. It also offers weatherization services and case management activities designed to encourage household to reduce their energy costs and need to financial assistance.

Salvation Army

315 Holcomb, Springdale

479-751-7352

Subsidizes utilities.

Project Compassion of the Salem Lutheran Church

1800 W. Emma, Springdale

479-751-9359

When funds are available, can help with utilities, food, prescription drugs and eviction notices.

Mission NWA Ministries

1709 Johnson Road, Springdale

479-756-7151

Subsidizes utilities, rent, gas vouchers and prescription drugs. Must have a shut-off notice. Call Thursdays for Monday appointment.

Life Ministries

881 Stills Road, Prairie Grove

479-846-5433

Subsidizes utilities/gas depending on funds. Only serves individuals living in Prairie Grove area.

Bread of life

206 W. Johnson Avenue, Springdale

479-750-5229

Springdale residents only. Wednesday and Thursday 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

Christian United food Pantry

714 W. Huntsville Road, Springdale

479-756-5687

Subsidizes utilities depending on funds. Serves all of NWA. Bring ID. Monday 9:00 am to 12:00 pm and Thursday 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

Cooperative Emergency Outreach

419 W. Mountain, Fayetteville
479-444-7500

Subsidizes rent/utilities once per 6 month period per customer depending on funds.

Economic Opportunity Agency (EOA)
614 E. Emma, Springdale
479-872-7479

Utility assistance depending on funds. Bring bills and ID.

Fayetteville Housing Authority
1 N. School Street, Fayetteville
479-521-3850

Rental assistance (12-16 month wait), housing placement. Must meet income guidelines and complete application. Monday – Friday 8:00 am to Noon and 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm.

Second Mile Ministry
319 W. Lafayette, Fayetteville
479-521-7776

Transportation

Ozark Regional Transit
2423 E. Robinson, Springdale
479-575-7433 www.ozark.org

Serves Washington, Madison, Carroll and Benton counties. Monday – Saturday, various hours.

Razorback Transit
155 Razorback Road, Fayetteville
479-575-7433

Free bus service on UA campus and selected Fayetteville locations.

Shelters

Seven Hills Homeless Shelter
1561 E. Huntsville Road, Fayetteville
479-521-7776

Soul's Harbor
1206 N. Second Street, Rogers
479-631-7878

Peace at Home Family Shelter

Crisis Line 479-442-9811 or 877-442-9811

Their mission is to end domestic violence through services, prevention, education and to offer emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence with a 24/7 crisis line.

Northwest Arkansas Children's Shelter
For more information call 479-795-2417

Northwest Arkansas Women's Shelter
Crisis Line 479-246-9999 or 800-775-9011

Confidential services for victims of family violence, including safe shelter, outreach, community education, children's programs, referrals and support groups. Serving women across all areas of Northwest Arkansas.

Salvation Army
Fayetteville—479-521-2151
Rogers—479-636-8522
Bentonville—479-271-9545
Siloam Springs—479-751-7352

Siloam springs Housing Authority
2802 Highway 412 East, Siloam Springs
479-524-8117

Rebuilding Together of Northwest Arkansas
479-725-2488

www.nwa.rebuildingtogether.org

Home repair and rehabilitation for low income homeowners who are elderly, disabled and families with children.

Genesis House (day shelter)
1030 E. Ashley, Siloam Springs
479-549-9438

Hanna House (men only)
321 E. Walnut Street, Rogers
479-936-7990

Havenwood (transitional housing)
Bentonville 479-273-1060

Project for Victims of Family Violence
Fayetteville 479-442-9811
Souls Harbor
1206 N. 2nd Street, Rogers
479-631-7878

Springdale Housing Authority
5 Applegate Drive, Springdale
479-751-0560

Women's Shelter of Benton County
800-775-9011

32 SUMMATION

All children enrolled in this facility are treated with love and respect and provided with the opportunity to engage in a wide variety of activities. Our most fundamental objective is to provide for your child a safe, clean and loving environment, in which each child will feel that he/she is loved, valued and wanted.