



EMBASSY ROW
CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

FAMILY HANDBOOK

SCHOOL YEAR 2023-2024

Embassy Row Child Development Center Parent and Family Handbook

Dear Embassy Row Child Developmental Center Family,

Welcome to ERCDC! We are pleased to partner with you in your child's journey of learning and growth. ERCDC provides a safe and nurturing environment in order to create a developmentally appropriate learning experience for your child. We believe that creative early education will make a positive difference in your child's experience, especially in the most wonder-filled part of their life when learning begins.

Our staff members are passionate, well-qualified, credentialed, and continuously undergo professional development to ensure we are giving high-quality experiences and up-to-date care to our children in a safe environment. ERCDC is here to meet your needs in offering full-time service to children six weeks to five years old.

Our Center uses the Creative Curriculum® that serves as the foundation for effective learning. The curriculum is:

- **Innovative:** delivering cutting-edge resources that are unique, effective, and based on the latest research.
- **Responsive:** including solutions that address educators' challenges and help create a responsive learning environment.
- **Supportive:** providing robust guidance to support each educator's professional journey.
- **Comprehensive:** aligning to all state early learning guidelines and the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework
- **Developmentally Appropriate:** promoting learning experiences designed for each age-group and flexibly tailored to each child's needs with high-quality, research-based resources.

We are committed to creating a safe and fun environment that builds self-confidence, encourages discovery, and equips your child with the necessary tools for success.

Please read this handbook as it may answer most of your questions on the Center's policies and procedures.

We also encourage you to support and participate in our school activities and programs. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact your child's teacher or the Center Directors. We cannot wait for you to come and be a part of the ERCDC family!

Warm Regards,

ERCDC Admin and Staff

“We want to know what the children think, feel, and wonder. We believe that the children will have things to tell each other and us that we have never heard before. We are always listening for surprises and the birth of a new idea. This practice supports a mutual quest for understanding. It is a practice of searching together for new meaning. Together we become a community of seekers.” - Louise Boyd Cadwell

Embassy Row Child Development Center

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Washington, D.C. 20016

Phone number (202) 733-4152

Fax number: (202) 350-2683

Web address: www.EmbassyRowChildren.com

General email: info@embassyrowchildren.com

Center days and hours of operation

Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Before Care, 7:30 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.

After Care, 5 p.m. - 6 p.m.

(Center hours are subject to change. Before and after care are an additional fee to cover additional staffing and overhead costs.)

Please refer to our calendar for holidays and other closures.

(These are the dates the Center is officially closed. On half days, pick up is at 12:30 p.m.

Calendar is subject to change.)

Revised 7/2024

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Program Overview

Education & Developmental Philosophy

Embassy Row Child Development Center (ERCDC) provides a stimulating environment that guides children in the discovery of new information, skills, and concepts. ERCDC:

- Provides age and culturally appropriate learning activities aiming to stimulate, enrich, and reinforce learned skills.
- Uses a family-centric approach to deliver early education and supplemental services that meet the learning and safety needs of students with parental involvement.
- Respects each child as an individual possessing a unique personality, intelligence, and creativity.

The ERCDC team has established learning environments that meet the District of Columbia's Office of State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) Common Core Early Learning Standards and are clean, fun, creative, and student-centered.

Program Goals

UPDATED

As a vetted and licensed early education service provider, ERCDC follows the NAEYC code of ethical conduct and uses the Creative Curriculum®, a program based on the children's expressed interests for young learners ages six weeks to five years. The program provides high-quality learning experiences that foster incredible and exponential growth in children through creativity, which keeps children actively engaged through play and learning. It is our goal to meet each child right where they are. ERCDC also employs the usage of parent and teacher completed ASQ (Ages and Stages Questionnaire) forms 1-2 weeks before each parent/teacher conference to assess the child's progress towards developmental goals and milestones as compared to professionally established norms. We welcome parent feedback or questions regarding their children's development. Knowledge of your children helps to inform the educational experiences we provide them.

Core Goals:

1. **Creativity:** To create an atmosphere that is warm and welcoming to all who enter with a family feel that is inviting and comfortable.
2. **Engagement:** To engage students in creative learning through play in an environment that opens the world to children at every level.
3. **Provision:** To provide quality childcare for families.

Our program provides the necessary educational foundation by:

- Providing an atmosphere allowing children to freely and safely learn through exploration and experimentation.
- Educating the whole student by promoting the overall development of each child
- Providing a strong foundation for forming attitudes, establishing values, and discovering that they are persons of worth.

- Developing the ability to learn and solve problems (cognitive); interact with others, help themselves, and exhibit self-control (social and emotional).
- Understanding and using language (speech and language); using small (fine motor) and large (gross motor) muscles.
- Developing a sense of independence, self, family, and community.

Program Mission

To provide the highest quality care and education for preschool children in an international and multicultural environment by professional educators who are inspired, guided, and enabled by Christian love. Our mission is achieved by our commitment to create a culture that is marked by our values.

Values

- COMMUNICATION - Ensuring open, honest, and constructive communication between directors, teachers, parents, and children. Constant communication is encouraged to parents regarding the progress and accomplishments of their child. For quality control purposes, parents can express their thoughts on Center improvements. Parents are also encouraged to actively participate in parent/child activities.
- COMPASSION - Compassion for one another is expressed not only through kindnesses and love, but also in celebrations of personal joys and successes, and prayers and support for illnesses and distresses.
- CREATIVITY - Our loving and affirming environment encourages the creative expression of students, parents, and teachers. Freedom of creativity is expressed in lessons, story-telling, artistry, and songs.
- DEVELOPMENT - Through an age-appropriate curriculum and many extra-curricular learning experiences in faith, art, music, language, and recreation, children are provided an early, enjoyable experience of academic and social development.
- DIVERSITY - With a unique international environment here on 'Embassy Row', children are provided exceptional opportunities to learn and interact in diverse nationalities, cultures, faiths, and languages.
- SECURITY - All practical attention is given to maintaining a secure and sanitary environment for the safety and well-being of all children.
- UNITY - Given our diversity, children are provided with the opportunity to enjoy what unites us as human beings.
- SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLES - One of our unique features is that children are provided age-appropriate opportunities to enjoy and be inspired by Bible stories, songs, and prayers.

Initial orientation and professional development training

UPDATED

While ERCDC employs staff who have already displayed previous experience and /or knowledge of child development and curriculum, all staff undergo initial orientation and 'shadow' experienced staff members until they complete their initial orientation training. This training includes but is not limited to health, safety and emergency procedures, acceptable and unacceptable guidance, discipline and classroom management techniques, child abuse and neglect reporting procedures and a review of pertinent regulatory requirements before being allowed to work alone with children. We also provide ongoing extensive professional development training. Additionally, staff members receive further training from the OSSE LMS and other OSSE approved training websites and resources. During this period no staff should work alone with the children in a classroom or outdoors.

Non-Discrimination

ERCDC provides care for children and families with various backgrounds and beliefs. ERCDC is open to all students and their families and does not discriminate on the basis of a person's religion, color, race, gender, sexual orientation, age, national origin, disability, military status, and other status protected by law.

Children with Special Needs

UPDATED

ERCDC accepts children with special needs. ERCDC will make all reasonable efforts to accommodate such students. To accommodate children, parents must reveal the special needs of their child(ren). In the event that a parent may not be aware of a possible developmental delay or other special need, we will provide documentation and explanation for the concern and provide suggested next steps to parents. ERCDC will work with each family to assess needs and the best strategies for accommodations.

To aid in the accommodation, the District of Columbia's OSSE has implemented the Strong Start DC Early Intervention Program. This program is a statewide, comprehensive, coordinated, multidisciplinary system that provides early intervention, therapeutic and other services for infants and toddlers with disabilities. Provided services also include infants and toddlers with developmental delays. Services are designed to provide resources for both the children in this age range and their families. The Federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part C, along with the District of Columbia Public Law 1-2-119 mandate that infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families receive coordinated services early enough to make a difference. These services must be flexible, culturally responsive, and most importantly, meet the needs of the child and the family. The Strong Start DC Early Intervention Program serves as the single point of entry for infants and toddlers in Washington DC whose families have concerns about their development. Families should contact the Strong Start DC Early Intervention Program at (202) 727-3665 for more information.

Communication issues

UPDATED

ERCDC strives to provide families with clear, concise communication for a number of different purposes throughout the program. We communicate with parents or guardians who do not have a court order barring such communication. We communicate in person, through emails, flyers, newsletter, phone calls (ERCDC authorized phone) and the Procure app. If you should ever have any issues with the nature of our communications or understanding any aspect of something we have communicated, please feel free to contact us and we will address your concerns in a timely manner. We use the S.T.A.R. method and other professional communication techniques to ensure any problems are resolved quickly to everyone's satisfaction.

S.T.A.R method

Using the STAR method for conflict management can offer a variety of benefits for the people in conflict. It can help improve communication skills by teaching both parties how to articulate their thoughts and feelings in a clear, concise, and respectful way. People in conflict can also learn how to listen actively, ask open-ended questions, and use non-verbal cues to convey messages and understand the other party.

The S.T.A.R method stands for Situation, Task, Action, and Result.

If the conflict persists

ERCDC takes in consideration all comments and suggestions from families to provide the best service possible. If you have any complaints, disagreements, differences, (e.g. values and practices) about anything in the center and the S.T.A.R method does not satisfy the family's expectations please tell the person in conflict that the conflict will be escalated or progressed to the program's director, so that a solution be found as soon as possible.

If a solution cannot be found then the director will tell the owner of the center and a discussion with the owner, director, and yourself will be needed to resolve the problems.

Confidentiality

Within ERCDC, confidential and sensitive information will only be shared with employees of ERCDC who have a "need to know " or regulatory authorities upon request in order to most appropriately and safely care for your child Confidential and sensitive information about faculty, other parents and/or children will not be shared with parents, as ERCDC strives to protect everyone's right of privacy.

Confidential information includes, but is not limited to: names, addresses, phone numbers, disability information, and HIV/AIDS status or other health related information of anyone associated with ERCDC.

Outside of ERCDC, confidential and sensitive information about a child will only be shared

when the parent of the child has given express written consent, except where otherwise provided for by law. Parents will be provided with a document detailing the information that is to be shared outside of ERCDC, persons with whom the information will be shared, and the reason(s) for sharing the information. Any parent who violates the Confidentiality policy will not be permitted on the property thereafter. Refer to the policy regarding Parents Right to Immediate Access for additional information regarding dis-enrollment of a child when a parent is prohibited from accessing the property.

You may observe children at our center who are disabled or who exhibit behavior that may appear inappropriate (i.e. biting, hitting, and spitting). You may be curious or concerned about the other child. Our Confidentiality Policy protects every child's privacy. Employees of ERCDC are strictly prohibited from discussing anything about another child with you.

Enrollment

Every child has a right to quality early learning and development. ERCDC does not discriminate and invites children and their families from all ethnicities, races, cultures, religions, national origins, genders, and disabilities to apply.

ERCDC has rolling admissions and accepts full-time applications throughout the year. Enrollment and acceptance into our program is based on classroom availability and the completion of the application and enrollment process. We cannot guarantee that a space will be available at your requested start date and will contact families based on their space on the waitlist. (More information below.)

Application and Enrollment Process

Pursuant to the District of Columbia's OSSE, Office of Early Education, and Child Care Licensing Unit, ERCDC is required to maintain complete student files. Complete student files are required for all students including those enrolled in the ERCDC summer camp.

Each family is required by OSSE to complete and submit the following forms and return to ERCDC:

- ERCDC Enrollment Agreement
- Registration Record
- Parent Handbook Authorization (attached to the end of this handbook)
- COVID-19 Parental Notice & Waiver
- Travel Activity Authorization
- Authorization for Child's Emergency Medical Treatment

- DC Universal Health Exam Certificate (must be signed by a physician)
- DC Oral Health Exam Certificate (3 years old and up)
- Medication Authorization Record (This includes topical ointments such as sunscreen, bug spray, diaper ointment, antibiotic ointment, etc. ERCDC staff is **not** authorized to apply any topical ointments or administer any medications without this form signed and in your child's file.)

The underlined forms are due annually and must be updated per OSSE requirements.

Additional Forms required by ERCDC:

- Parent Tuition Fees Agreement
- Start Date Agreement
- Emergency Contact Form
- ERCDC Holiday Closure Schedule
- COVID-19 Policy Authorization (attached to the end of this handbook)

Once complete, parents should return all documents to the ERCDC Office. The packet may be returned in person, emailed to administrative staff, or faxed to 202-750-0422. Each packet must include the **non-refundable** \$75 registration fee and the **deposit of an entire month's tuition** which can be either via ACH, money order, or personal check. (Fees are explained further along in this handbook).

The Enrollment Application and Fee Agreements are not meant to serve as contracts guaranteeing service for any duration. **Enrollment is complete when submission of all forms and fees are accepted and approved by ERCDC administrative staff.**

Continued Enrollment

Continued ERCDC enrollment is contingent upon the parent's, alternate/emergency contact persons', and student's adherence to the policies and procedures of ERCDC as outlined in this handbook (i.e., timely payment of all fees and tuition). Parents are required to notify ERCDC immediately if any of the information collected at the time of enrollment changes. Failure to do so may result in the student(s) being dis-enrolled from the program and forfeiture of any registration fees.

Waiting List

ERCDC follows the "First Come, First Served" policy when it comes to our waitlist. The waitlist does not guarantee that you will receive care from us, but it is hopeful that down the road we can serve your child and family. This is so that you do not rely solely on us for care if we can

not assure you of a set date. If a slot is available for your child's age for the start date you requested when you were added to the waitlist, we will contact you for further enrollment steps.

All families have 48 hours to respond to the notification that we have an open space for your child. If we have not heard from you within 48 hours, we will move onto the next family on the list.

Tuition and Fees

ERCDC families are responsible for remitting tuition payments for all months the Center is open. ERCDC will bill each child's account on the 15th of the month for the following month. (For example, February tuition is billed on January 15.) Payments are due on the first of the billing month. A **\$25 late fee** is assessed to accounts when payment is not posted by the first of the billing month. If payment is not received by the last school day of the billing month, the student is terminated from ERCDC enrollment. Tuition payments do not include fees associated with field trips or other enrichment activities.

Once the tuition payment is rendered, and a parent/guardian decides to terminate the student's enrollment (regardless of reason), a refund will not be issued. ERCDC does not prorate tuition except for the first month based on start date.

You must submit in writing your intentions to terminate enrollment at least 30 days before your student's last day. Your deposit fee will be applied to the final month's tuition.

ERCDC accepts the following methods of payment:

- EFT/ACH transfer
- Certified checks or money orders
- Personal checks (\$35 fee applies when returned by the bank). Returned tuition checks are not redeposited. Parents are responsible for remitting a new check within 24 hours. If the second check is returned, ERCDC will require the family to remit tuition payments using an EFT/ACH transfer, certified check, or money order.

ERCDC **DOES NOT** accept cash payments.

Any increases in tuition or other fees will be given to parents with at least 30 days written notice.

Student Attendance

There is no tuition credit given for absences from scheduled school days, holidays, or unscheduled school closings. If the Center closes for more than ten consecutive days due to reasons or circumstances beyond normal control, the Center will issue a reduced tuition payment amount for the following month.

ERCDC cannot hold spots for extended absences without payment of tuition. (For example, if you will be on vacation for an entire month, tuition must still be paid for the spot to be held.) We

cannot make any exceptions to this rule.

**Please note our COVID-19 policy for any testing requirements after travel.*

Absences

If the enrolled student will be absent from the center for any reason, parents are to follow the notification procedures outlined below:

Contact ERCDC administrative office no later than 9:30 am by:

- Phone: (202) 733-4152
- Email: info@embassyrowchildren.com
- Other: Messaging via Procure

Registration Fee

There will be an annual registration fee (\$75) assessed to each student account on September 1st. Updated OSSE required enrollment forms, including medical records, for each enrolled child are also due on the same date. This ensures that everyone's required file is up to date.

Students who enroll between June and August will have their registration fee due on September 1 with everyone else. If, in this case, enrollment is terminated before that fee is charged, the registration fee will be due at that time.

Students enrolling only for Summer Sessions will need to pay the registration fee at the time of the deposit.

Multiple Child Discount

ERCDC provides a ten percent (10%) multiple child discount for enrolled siblings during the same school year. The discount is applied to the child whose tuition is the least. Discounts are only applicable when tuition payments are made on time.

Before and After Care

Before and after care are charged at an additional rate to cover the cost of additional staffing and utilities. These will be invoiced through Procure along with monthly tuition charges. You may change or cancel your before or after care enrollment with notice before the 15th of the previous month.

Drop-in care is not available as we must be able to plan for staffing to meet OSSE ratio requirements. If you are not enrolled and are late, late fees outlined below will apply.

Late Pick-Up Fees

UPDATED

For the first instance of the Late-Pick Up Policy, a fee of \$25 will be charged if a child who is not enrolled in the after-school program remains in the Center/Premises between 5:00 p.m. and 5:05 p.m. If the child has not been picked up by 5:06 p.m., the fee increases to \$35. Additionally, an extra \$5 per minute will be charged for every minute past 5:15 p.m.

Unless a parent has contacted ERCDC, at 6:00pm Child Protective Services (CPS) is contacted. At this point, a CPS officer will arrive to pick up any children remaining after 6:30pm. At this point, parent(s)/guardian(s) must contact CPS at (202) 442-6100 to follow up.

The guidelines below are followed if a parent/guardian is late:

- Center staff will remain with the student(s) until the parent(s)/guardian(s) arrive(s) or until CPS arrives.
- Parent(s)/Guardian(s) will be called using home, work, and mobile phone numbers provided on the child's enrollment forms. In the event parent(s)/guardian(s) cannot be reached, all authorized alternate/emergency contact persons will be called.
- In the event no one can be reached by 6:00pm, center staff will contact CPS. CPS will secure the child and the parent(s) must contact CPS for the release of their child/children. ERCDC staff are required to adhere to this policy.
- In the event a child is picked up late three times, the child's enrollment will be terminated for the remainder of the school year and may not:
 - Participate in ERCDC programming
 - Re-enroll until the next school year beginning September 1st
- In the event participation is terminated, tuition payments previously made are non-refundable.

Non-Payment of Tuition

Timely payments are essential for continued enrollment at ERCDC. Non-payment of tuition is grounds for immediate dismissal from the ERCDC program. However, should a family anticipate difficulty paying on time, an appointment with the Director prior to the end of the grace period should be made.

Withdrawal Policy and Termination of Service

Parent Withdrawal or Termination

At the parent's discretion, children may be withdrawn, or enrollment terminated from the ERCDC program any time during the academic school year. ERCDC requires parents to provide notification in writing 30 days before your child's last day. Your deposit fee will be applied to the final month's tuition. We do not prorate tuition in the child's final month and the deposit fee is nonrefundable.

- Example: If you anticipate leaving on October 17, you need to give written notice by September 17. Your deposit fee will then be applied to the whole month of October. Note: We do not prorate the last month of tuition.

This written notice must be submitted to the Center Director via email (info@embassyrowchildren.com) or by formal letter (in person or by mail). When sufficient notice is provided, the initial deposit paid will be credited to the final month's tuition.

When insufficient notice is provided, ERCDC will continue billing monthly regardless of the student's attendance. ERCDC does not allow a temporary student withdrawal.

Closing or deactivating an online account, does not constitute withdrawal from the center or end of payment obligation. If a parent withdraws a child and wishes to re-enroll, the registration and/or other enrollment fees are applied.

Incident Reports

UPDATED

Incident reports are provided to parents in the event that the child is involved in verbally unacceptable or physically related altercations with other students or teachers. Such reports are followed up with review of whether agreed upon parent and teacher intervention(s) and prevention of future similar behavior has been successful.

ERCDC Child Suspension

A child may be suspended from the program for incident report documented repeated identical or similar behaviors negatively affecting or influencing the safety of themselves, other children or their teachers. The length of suspension time, at the discretion of the director, measured in days, is influenced by the severity and/or frequency of the child's unsafe behavior or actions.

ERCDC Child Termination/Expulsion/Dismissal

On rare occasions, a student or family may not adjust to the Center's environment. In these cases, ERCDC teachers and administrators will make reasonable efforts to accommodate and work with each child and their family to correct these behaviors. As a general principle, ERCDC is opposed to the termination/expulsion or dismissal of a student. We have introduced numerous avenues for the exploration of behavioral solutions to reduce the probability of a child's required dismissal. Prior to exclusionary measures, ERCDC will take the following measures:

- Observations by teachers and directors
- Incident reports regarding the challenging or unacceptable behavior
- Offer resources to parents regarding the challenging behavior
- Conference with parents to discuss a collaborative action plan
- Continued observations
- Final decision made based on results

In the event reasonable accommodations cannot be made, ERCDC may terminate the child's enrollment. ERCDC will notify the child's parents and at the director's discretion, provide a reasonable timeframe in which to locate and enroll into another early education program.

A child can be dismissed from the ERCDC program for the following reasons which include but are not limited to:

- Fighting
- Putting other children or staff in danger
- Use of inappropriate language
- Inappropriate touching
- Bullying
- Disrespect of facility, staff, administrators, parents and/or peers

ERCDC does not permit violent play including NERF guns, pretend guns, or other forms of violence. If any child is observed engaging in this kind of play, we will notify the parents with resources to discourage the behavior.

Health and Wellness

Medical examinations and immunization records must be provided upon enrollment and kept current. ERCDC will not permit attendance unless all medical records including immunizations meet the regulations imposed by the District of Columbia, Department of Health and Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE). Families requesting a religious, personal or medical exemption, must meet with the Center Director prior to enrollment.

Health Insurance

All children must have healthcare coverage upon enrollment. Children cannot be enrolled if they are not covered under a family health insurance policy.

Immunization

Prior to enrollment, children must have all age-appropriate immunizations and tests as required by the District of Columbia Department of Health and Immunization. After admission to the center, parents are responsible for regularly updating the student's health files to reflect new immunizations and up-to-date health records. When parents are not in compliance, the child will be subject to interruption of services until completed health/immunization documentation is provided. Immunization requirements are determined and enforced by the District of Columbia's Department of Health (DOH). DOH maintains an immunization database of all students enrolled in child development centers. Hence, this policy is strictly enforced.

If there is no proper documentation from your child's physician excusing your child from any required vaccination/immunization, your child's attendance will be excluded until updated records are provided.

At this time, ERCDC does not require vaccination against COVID-19 for our students. This is subject to change based on OSSE and DC Health regulations.

Sick Policy/Illness

The purpose of the ERCDC sick policy is to reduce the spread of illness among children and to encourage full recuperation of sick children before returning to school. ERCDC depends on parents to assist in maintaining a safe and healthy environment for all children.

Coronavirus protocol

As per Coronavirus protocol, children should remain at home under the following conditions or symptoms associated with coronavirus:

- Fever of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher
- Loose bowels or diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Lethargy
- Constant coughing, sneezing or running nose
- Symptoms that require a health care provider clearance

Other illnesses

ERCDC reserves the right to send any child home demonstrating signs of illness at school. Any student who becomes ill at school will be made comfortable until his/her parent can be notified and the student is picked up from ERCDC. A parent or alternate authorized person must pick up the ill child within an hour after notification. ‘

A sick child must stay home where he/she is most relaxed and comfortable. Children may be sent home if they have any specific symptoms listed below. Children must be free of all specified symptoms for at least 24 hours WITHOUT the assistance of medication before he/she can be returned to school. These symptoms are as follows:

- A fever of 100 degrees or more
- Vomiting within the previous 24-hour period
- Diarrhea within the previous 24-hour period (including recurring episodes of diarrhea at school)
- A heavy nasal discharge indicative of infection
- A constant cough or sore throat
- Fussy, cranky behavior and generally not himself/herself
- A skin rash, excluding diaper rash
- Head lice
- Symptoms of a communicable disease

Following an illness, a child may return to school once he/she has either been seen by a clinician or it has been determined that the illness is not contagious. A doctor's clearance will be requested upon return to the center.

Children with siblings who are ill with a contagious illness (COVID-19, streptococcal infection, conjunctivitis, RSV, flu, etc.) should be kept at home to avoid spreading the illness to the center. Some illnesses require a different set or quarantine or isolation rules regarding the period of time they must be sequestered from others.

ERCDC reserves the right to refuse a child's re-entry if the center administrative staff believes the child is too ill to participate in the day's program. Children excluded from the program due to a fever may not return until they are fever-free, without fever reducing medication, for 24 hours unless a physician recognized illness is present that requires longer sequestration/quarantine before the child's return to school. Some illnesses require a different set or quarantine or isolation rules regarding the period of time those infected must be sequestered from others. ERCDC requires physician-issued documentation providing such information to be submitted prior to the child's return to school. A physician's order regarding a required longer time allotment a child must be sequestered or quarantined from others supersedes school policies and must be followed.

Communicable Diseases/Illnesses

In the event of a communicable disease outbreak, ERCDC will notify all families and staff. Student confidentiality will be maintained. In the event that a communicable outbreak occurs, ERCDC will temporarily exclude non-immunized students from the program. A list of communicable diseases requiring a health care provider clearance is found in Appendix A.

Our COVID-19 policy can be found in Appendix B.

Medications

UPDATED

ERCDC has staff who are trained in medication administration and ensures they maintain their certification at the required renewal interval. Any prescribed medication and its instructions requiring specialized treatment procedures such as the use of an epi-pen, asthma inhalation device or other specialized medicine must be provided as part of the child's medical records. Should the need for such medication ever occur, a trained staff member in its dispensation will be on site at all times between the child's scheduled arrival and departure time. The following rules apply in order for a trained ERCDC staff to administer medications to children:

- A Medication Authorization form signed by the parent/guardian and physician must accompany all medication. The form must specify the dosage to be administered, the time to be administered, the length of time the student is expected to be on the medication, and how the medication is to be stored.
- ERCDC will maintain a log, on a form approved by ERCDC; the form shall record date and time of day, medication, medication dosage, method of administration, and the name of the person administering the medication, and each time any medication is

administered to the student

- Written authorization on the OSSE Medication Authorization Form from the parent or guardian is also required for application of any topical products. (i.e., lotions, diaper ointment, or sunscreen). For prescription medications, this form must include a doctor's signature.
- All medication - prescription or not - must be in the original container with the child's name on it.
- Prescription medication must be clearly labeled with the full pharmacy label including:
 - The student's first and last name;
 - The date of the prescription;
 - The name of the medication;
 - The medication dosage;
 - The administration schedule;
 - The method of administration;
 - If applicable, special instructions, such as "take with food";
 - The duration of the prescription;
 - An expiration date that states when the medication is no longer useable; and
 - The name and telephone number of the child's licensed health care practitioner.
- Prescription medication shall be used only for the student named on the label
- A list of side effects must accompany medications
- Medication is not allowed in cubbies or book bags and will be kept in a locked container in the office.
- Medication cannot be mixed with food, formula, or juice. ERCDC will not dispense any medication in a bottle or cup
- Over-the-counter medications can be dispensed if a doctor's note detailing reasons and recommended dosage(s) have been included. Parents are required to supply an unopened bottle of the medication clearly labeled with their child's name.
- In the absence of a medical authorization form, ERCDC will not administer medicines or perform procedures requiring specific skills or prior medical training.

ERCDC encourages parents to administer medication prior to or after departure from school.

Allergies

Parents are required to provide ERCDC a complete and specific list of their child's allergies. This information must be included on the appropriate enrollment forms. Allergies include but are not limited to food, medicines, over-the-counter products, animals, and environmental allergens.

ERCDC is a nut-free zone. In efforts to maintain a healthy environment for all children, ERCDC prohibits all foods containing nuts or uses nut flavorings. Any parent concerned about their child's exposure to nuts is to schedule an appointment with the Center Director for a discussion and plan to ensure that your child is not exposed to nut allergens.

If there is medication prescribed for your child in the event of exposure to an allergen, the parent is to follow the medication protocol as described previously in the medication section of this handbook.

Diapering and Toilet Training

ERCDC has implemented a diapering procedure which allows children to feel well cared for, secure and respected. During the changing process, ERCDC adheres to all health and safety guidelines and procedures recommended by the District of Columbia, Department of Health and the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). The ERCDC diapering procedure is posted near the changing area.

Parents are required to provide ERCDC a two-week supply of disposable diapers and wipes for a child in diapers or in the process of toilet learning. A parent may request that a diaper cream be applied to resolve rash or irritation problems. Parents must follow the medication protocol for the application of diaper cream or other topical ointments. ERCDC requires parents to provide an extra set of underwear, pants/shorts, and a top to replace soiled garments.

For hygienic reasons, ERCDC requires pull-ups for students who are potty training. ERCDC will discuss with parents when a child is ready to move to underwear at school.

While children are in the toilet training process, ERCDC requires parents to refrain from dressing children in overalls, tights and items with snaps or with belts, as well as pull ups that do not have sides that snap easily. These items can hinder a successful independent bathroom learning experience. ERCDC encourages open dialog about toilet training with teachers to ensure a consistent regime and practice.

While ERCDC will work with parents to help their child reach this milestone, parents must be actively involved in this process. We will be happy to provide you with resources to assist with this milestone. This process is a collaborative effort between parents and ERCDC staff.

Discipline and Behavior Management

Classroom Behavior

ERCDC firmly believes that an active and engaged learning environment decreases the frequency of disruptive classroom behavior. ERCDC staff are trained in the use of positive alternatives to punishment and have attained expertise in the various techniques of prosocial behavior management.

The ERCDC approach to student discipline and behavior management is to solve behavior concerns using modeling, redirection, verbal limit-setting, and positive reinforcement. ERCDC teachers set age appropriate classroom standards that will foster the student's ability to self-discipline.

ERCDC encourages students to openly communicate about a problem rather than engaging in a physical expression (hitting, biting, grabbing items, etc.). ERCDC provides students opportunities to calm down and time to think about what is frustrating or upsetting. ERCDC teaching staff helps students discern problems and determine reasonable resolutions using age and developmentally appropriate techniques. ERCDC students receive positive reinforcement for playing and solving problems cooperatively, negotiating with peers (sharing), and respectful communication. ERCDC does not:

- Use punitive actions to correct behavior
- Label children

DISCIPLINE AND CHILD GUIDANCE

At ERCDC, we believe that keeping children busy and actively engaged decreases the frequency of behavioral problems in the classroom. Transition activities help the children move smoothly from one activity to another. Employees will use only positive guidance and redirection. Setting consistent, clear, understandable limits fosters the child's ability to become self-disciplined, which is our ultimate goal. We encourage employees to try to ignore negative behavior as much as possible—as much of it is an effort for attention—and reinforce appropriate behavior. This helps to incorporate the child into the group and avoid the need for frequent discipline.

When these methods do not work, we encourage employees to speak to the child and redirect as a first step. We feel that too much discipline, or correcting a child for every little thing, can destroy their spirit. By teaching the child that each choice they make has a direct consequence, they will begin to learn to be responsible for their own actions and associate that a negative choice will result in a negative consequence.

ERCDC prohibits corporal punishment of any kind, cruel or severe punishment, humiliation, or verbal abuse. Corporal punishment is the infliction of physical pain on a child as a means of controlling behavior, including but not limited to spanking, hitting, shaking, slapping, thumping, or pinching a child.

No child will be denied food as a form of punishment nor punished for soiling or wetting their clothing. If a behavior problem presents itself, every attempt will be made to remedy the situation. However, dismissal of a child for behavior problems will be at the sole discretion of our staff. Children act out and test our limits at all stages of development. The behavior will pass if we are all consistent. Employees should notify a parent of any behavior they feel should be reinforced at home.

Biting

Biting is not uncommon among toddlers. There are situations that may occur that would provoke a toddler to bite. Examples include but are not limited to, fear, changes or transitions, conflicts over a toy, or retaliation from getting hit or being bitten by another child. ERCDC does not encourage children to use biting as a means of communicating. ERCDC staff makes every attempt to support children by helping them to use words.

If biting occurs, ERCDC staff will immediately comfort the child who was bitten, clean the area, notify all parents, and submit an incident report to the center administrative staff. The biting child will be immediately redirected to another activity. As developmentally appropriate, the teacher will speak with the biting child about communicating using words.

ERCDC staff cannot discuss the medical history of any child involved in a biting incident with the other parties. Seeking medical attention is left to the parent's discretion.

Please Note: If excessive biting occurs and the behavior cannot be corrected, the center reserves the right to request early pick up or possible removal from the program.

Safety

Mandated Reporting of Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect

Under the Child Protective Services Act, ERCDC staff are considered a mandated reporter. Under this act, mandated reporters are required to report any suspicion of abuse and/or neglect to the appropriate authorities. If a child is suspected of being abused or neglected, it is the responsibility of ERCDC, as required by the District of Columbia Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect Act of 1977, to report to the Child Protective Service Division of the Child and Family Service Agency or the Metropolitan Police Department.

Causes for reporting suspected child abuse or neglect include, but are not limited to:

- Unusual bruising, marks, or cuts on the child's body
- Severe verbal reprimands
- Improper clothing relating to size, cleanliness, or season
- Transporting a child without appropriate child restraints (e.g. car seats, seat belts, etc.)
- Dropping off or picking up a child while under the influence of illegal drugs or alcohol
- Not providing appropriate meals including a beverage for your child

- Leaving a child unattended for any amount of time
- Failure to attend to the special needs of a disabled child
- Sending a sick child to school over-medicated to hide symptoms, which would typically require the child to be kept at home until symptoms subside.
- Children who exhibit behavior consistent with an abusive situation

Arrival and Dismissal Security

Keeping the children safe is one of the Center's core values. ERCDC has implemented security systems to maximize the center's safety.

All adults must adhere to the Center's daily sign in/out procedures. Staff will sign the child in or out for the day using Procure. Parents or guardians may enter the building to drop children off at their classroom door. Arrival time, however, is not reserved for extended conversations or meetings with teachers. If you require a time to discuss any concerns you may have, you may do so through procure or request a scheduled meeting time from the child's teacher(s). As you exit the building, please be sure that the door has closed completely before walking away.

Only custodial parents have the right to make changes or additions, in writing, to the enrollment application regarding authorized persons picking up children. At dismissal, authorization of the release of each child will be granted to those that are on the enrollment application. Upon parent/guardian arrival, an ERCDC staff member will check to ensure that the person has been authorized as a contact for pickup as per the enrollment application. The persons designated as alternate or emergency pick-up must present government issued photo identification. Teachers or administrators will escort the child from their classroom or waiting area to the parent/guardian or emergency contact waiting outside. ERCDC does not release children to anyone under the age of 18 years old.

ERCDC reserves the right to refuse/ban any person listed on the Emergency/Alternate Contact Form for any reason, including but not limited to violations of the policies/procedures.

Any authorized person appearing to be impaired by drugs including alcohol during children pick-up will not be allowed to remove the child from the ERCDC campus. Although ERCDC cannot deny the parent's right to immediate access to their child even while under the influence, the Center will delay the impaired person departing with the child from campus. The Center Director or Assistant Director will contact the other parent, or alternate/emergency persons as indicated on the enrollment application. If contact cannot be made, the Center will contact the local police and Child Protective Services.

Accidents

Ensuring child safety is a ERCDC core value. While ERCDC staff makes every effort to ensure the child's safety, accidents may occur. In the event of an accident, staff will notify the administrative staff. The administrative staff will notify the parents or direct a teacher to notify

parents of the involved children of the accident and remedies taken. ERCDC staff is required to complete and submit an accident/incident form for the child's file.

ERCDC staff members are trained and certified in infant/child CPR and First Aid and emergency procedures and certification is updated every two years. When emergency medical attention is needed, ERCDC will call 911 for assistance and notify parents immediately. If parents cannot be reached, the person(s) listed and designated as emergency contacts will be called.

The child's doctor may also be notified. An ERCDC staff member will accompany the student to the hospital and remain with him/her until parents or emergency contacts arrive.

If parents have any religious beliefs which may affect medical treatment, ERCDC must have instructions in writing at the time of enrollment.

Unusual Incidents

Unusual incidents include anything occurring while on ERCDC campus or during field experiences that are outside of normal day-to-day occurrences.

Reporting Unusual Incidents

ERCDC staff witnessing an incident will complete the Unusual Incidents Form and report to the Center Director or Assistant Director immediately. All parents of involved children will be notified by the Center Director. Unusual incidents include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Injury to, or illness of, any child, that occurs during the hours the child is enrolled in the ERCDC program
- Injury to, or illness of any child that requires hospitalization or emergency medical treatment
- Damage to the facility, or to any facility vehicle or equipment, that interferes with the capability of the facility to protect the health, safety and well-being of the students and adults in the facility
- The presence of any individual in the facility who has, or is suspected of having, a communicable disease that must be reported to the District of Columbia Department of Health in accordance with Title 22 of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations
- The elopement of an enrolled child or any circumstances under which a child is deemed missing or unaccounted for
- A traffic accident involving a vehicle owned, maintained, or contracted for or by the facility and in which children are being transported at the time of the accident
- Death of a person occurring within the facility
- Any other occurrence at the facility that involves a response by police, fire, ambulance, or any other emergency service.

Rules for Vehicles While at the Center

Because the safety of our children is of paramount concern, all parents/guardians/alternate pick up persons are required to adhere to the following rules of the road while on school grounds/campus:

- There is a five (5) miles per hour speed limit at all times while on center property
- Park in designated parking spaces only
- While on school grounds, pedestrians always have the right of way
- Vehicle ignitions MUST be turned off, and the keys removed, while parked on center grounds
- Children may NOT be left unattended in a vehicle at any time or for any reason
- Violations of these rules may result in a warning. If a violation is serious, or if violations continue, school personnel are authorized to take a tag number for a report to the local police.

Babysitting

ERCDC staff is not permitted to provide babysitting and/or nanny services on their personal time to families enrolled in the ERCDC program.

Custodial Orders

ERCDC requires that parents create or modify parent pick up schedules when family dynamics change. Parents are to make modifications to the official enrollment documents. If custody orders have been issued by the courts, a copy of the order must be shared with ERCDC which will be placed in the child's file. ERCDC will follow the schedule as per the court issued custody order.

Emergency Preparedness Plan

A copy of the emergency plan is available upon request. Building evacuation plans are displayed in each classroom. In case of a real fire children will be taken to the emergency site and parents will be contacted immediately, if phone lines are operable.

Fire and Other Safety Drills

As required by law, ERCDC conducts regular fire and safety drills. It is expected that all children at the center at the time of such drills fully participate. At times, these drills may take place in inclement weather. All attempts will be made to assure that children are properly attired at such times. Parents are expected to fully comply with all procedures when on campus during such a drill. ERCDC encourages parents to review and discuss the importance of such drills with children for familiarity with emergency routines. Teachers will not accept nor release students

during drills. Parents must stay with their children until re-entry into the school building is granted.

Contingency Location

In the event, ERCDC must evacuate the school building and leave campus, children will be taken to the designated contingency location to await parent pickup. Parents must pick up students from this location. The same procedures apply for signing children out for the day.

Annunciation School
3825 Klinge Place, NW
Washington, DC 20016
202-362-1408

Holiday and Center Closures

ERCDC follows the federal government and DCPS guidance for inclement weather delays and closures. If the federal government issues a liberal leave or telework option, the Center will be open with a possible delay.

Unscheduled closures

ERCDC is required to provide a healthy and safe environment for children and staff. If, after opening, the Center must close due to unforeseen circumstances (i.e., loss of utility), the Center will contact parents using Procure for an early pick-up. If parents cannot be directly contacted, center staff will communicate with the identified alternate/emergency persons. It is expected that parents or alternative/emergency persons arrange for child pick up within a reasonable time frame.

Closing Schedule

ERCDC has pre-designated closure dates. Refer to the holiday schedule sheet included in the enrollment packet.

Professional Development

ERCDC is required to provide on-going professional development for staff. The Center will be closed to children on professional development days. The specific dates are determined at the beginning of the calendar year, but will always be conducted in the spring and fall seasons of every year.

Early Education Child Development Center Licensing

ERCDC has been carefully established and is licensed through the District of Columbia, Office of the State Superintendent of Education, Child Care Licensing Unit to provide early education and services to young learners. Governmental standards for licensed child development centers ensures that ERCDC meets Common Core Early Learning Standards, selects and implements an industry proven early education curriculum, correctly supervises children, implements industry acceptable discipline practices, maintains correct child/staff ratios, provides equipment, materials and other supplies that are in good use, provides a suitable indoor and outdoor environment, thoroughly vets all staff, and provides nutritious menus and food.

ERCDC is subject to both scheduled and unscheduled inspections by the District’s Child Care Licensing Unit, Fire Marshall, Department of Health and other District offices to ensure compliance. ERCDC must maintain compliance with all regulations to remain licensed as a child development center.

Child to Staff Ratios

Group	Ratio	Maximum Group Size
Infants (6 weeks- 12 months)	4:1	8
Toddlers (12 months - 24 months)	4:1	8
Twos (24-30 months)	4:1	12
Preschool (30-48 months)	8:1	16
Pre-K (48-60 months)	10:1	20

UPDATED

The child to staff ratios shall be maintain at all times, in the classroom and other indoor spaces, and during outdoor learning environments.

In the infant program, we have Guppies A and Guppies B. We prioritize maintaining a consistent and stable environment for the infants. The duration of enrollment for each child is a minimum of twelve months ensuring that infants have the opportunity to develop strong bonds with the same educator over an extended period. This approach promotes a nurturing and familiar setting, fostering a sense of security and trust for the infants in their early learning experience.

In the toddler program, specifically in classes like Sea turtles, Seahorses, and Starfish, we ensure a minimum enrollment commitment of nine months, allowing toddlers to stay with the same educator for an extended period. The maximum duration extends up to twelve months, providing a consistent and stable learning environment for the children. This approach is designed to foster strong connections, trust, and a sense of security between the toddlers and their dedicated educators, promoting a positive and enriching early childhood experience.

Classroom Experience at ERCDC

UPDATED

Meals

ERCDC offers two menu options:

1. Regular Meal (including dairy and without any restrictions).
2. Vegetarian Meal.

Once a choice is made, it will be consistently adhered to, and parents cannot switch between menus daily. Any changes must be requested with a minimum of 5 working days' notice to allow for processing by our food provider.

If there are any specific food items from our menu that parents do not want their child to consume, they must provide their own meals for any mealtime. Please communicate this with the teacher through Procure. ERCDC allows children to bring their own food items, with the restriction of not using nuts in any of the provided meals. In such instances, parents are responsible for providing a food item that complies with the nutritional standards set by the USDA (United States Department of Agriculture).

Infants

ERCDC requires parents to provide food for infants six weeks to six months. Parents may supply bottled breast milk or formula. Bottles must be brought to the center each day previously prepared.

Bottles must include the child's first and last name, current date, and contents (i.e. breast milk or formula). Teachers cannot add cereal, medication, or solids to a bottle.

Food and bottle contents will be discarded if left overnight. ERCDC is required by OSSE to discard formula one (1) hour after feeding. ERCDC will not return leftover breast milk to the refrigerator once it has been heated up at the risk of reheating the milk. However breast milk will be sent home at the end of the day unless less than one (1) ounce remains.

For the safety of all infants, glass bottles will not be permitted.

Toddlers and older

ERCDC provides a nutritious breakfast, lunch and an afternoon snack for toddlers, preschool, and Pre-K children catered by Smart Lunches. Breakfast is served 8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m., lunch 11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and afternoon snack 2:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Parents are welcome to send additional snacks/food if their child is enrolled in after care, or if they would prefer their child to eat something other than what is on the planned menu for the day.

ERCDC strictly prohibits foods containing nuts or nut products. If a child has any allergies or special dietary requirements or restrictions, parents are to include the information on the enrollment application and discuss it with the administrative staff. To accommodate those with food allergies, ERCDC may restrict food items served or food brought from outside the center.

While ERCDC tries to accommodate all dietary restrictions and allergies, we ask that parents look carefully at the menu to ensure it meets their child's needs and send in supplemental food if needed.

Potty Training

UPDATED

ERCDC works in conjunction with families regarding the appropriate timing of potty training. ERCDC uses national best practice methodology established by ITERS regarding potty training and the use of the toilet. ERCDC uses toilet seat adapters to train the children on the full size toilet, not potty chairs. As all children are different in their timing and procedure in potty training, this will be thoughtfully guided by the teachers at ERCDC. It may be necessary for children to continue wearing pull-ups during the training process and for a while afterward, both during waking hours and naptime. During their time potty training and directly after, we ask that you provide at least 3 extra changes of clothes in seasonably appropriate attire. If children have shown some success in training and are wearing underwear but experience 2 or more accidents, the use of pull-ups may be necessary until such time the child is able to tell teachers when they need to go to the toilet consistently.

Curriculum ERCDC uses the Creative Curriculum®. This curriculum balances both teacher-directed and child-initiated learning, with an emphasis on responding to children's learning styles and building on their strengths and interests. This curriculum applies the latest theory and research on best practices in teaching and learning and the content standards developed by states and professional organizations. While keeping the original environmentally-based approach the Creative Curriculum® clearly defines the teacher's vital role in connecting content, teaching, and learning for children. It features goals and objectives linked directly to our valid and reliable assessment instrument.

The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool translates new research and theory from the field of early childhood education into a practical, easy-to-understand approach to working with children and their families. It is a comprehensive curriculum with a clear organizational structure

and a focus on interest areas.

Activities in all age groups are based on the most up-to-date practices recognized by experts in the field of early childhood education. ERCDC staff has access to publications and conferences on the latest developments available.

Assessments

UPDATED

ERCDC uses a variety of research-proven methods and tools to monitor and support student progress and milestone achievement. ERCDC teachers maintain anecdotal notes and work samples. Evaluation records are kept for each student from infancy to Pre-Kindergarten (pre-K).

Parents are also able to complete Ages and Stages Questionnaires- Social emotional version (ASQ-SE) to help teachers get a well-rounded view of the child's development. ASQs are kept in the child's file.

Conferences

UPDATED

Upon enrollment, there will be an intake meeting with the teachers to discuss parent goals, needs, and concerns. Parents are also welcome to schedule a meeting with the Center Director(s) to discuss any additional questions or concerns, as well as go over the Family Handbook.

Quarterly, ERCDC schedules parent/teacher meetings that allow specified time to discuss children goals and progress, ask questions, and review portfolios and assessments. During the parent/ teacher meetings the staff will provide a written developmental report to families and an action plan with goals for the children, staff and families.

Transition conferences are conducted when children are transitioning from one class to the next. These conferences are optional as some parents may not deem it necessary for moving the child. All conferences must be scheduled in advance so that the teacher's schedules may be adjusted to accommodate the family.

Transitions

Transitioning a child to a new classroom is an exciting milestone. Transitions are identified in a collaborative process with teachers and admin determined by age, developmental readiness, space availability, and other factors.

Transitions are determined in a three step process:

- 1) Teachers and admin will identify children who are ready to transition
- 2) Teachers, admin, and parents collaborate on a plan for the transition including areas the child might still need to work on
- 3) On the day of the transition, we made the transition milestone exciting for the child and

parent

When a student is ready for transition, teachers and parents can discuss the new class in a transition meeting.

A typical transition schedule for a student between classrooms may include:

- Day 1 & 2: Visit new class for the first half of the day
- Day 3 & 4: Visit new class for the second half of the day
- Day 5: Visit new class for an entire day. Parent drop off in new class.

Note: Transition protocols are subject to change due to COVID-19 policies.

School Day Field Experiences

Classes may walk to the park, or other local venues to explore education and enhance learning experiences. Classes will occasionally take walks around the neighborhood to explore the many educational and engaging activities and events that our community, which can include local businesses, has to offer. Parents are always welcome to join the children on their walks.

There will not be a need for permission slips for neighborhood walks, as the Travel Authorization Form included in the enrollment packet provides center staff with blanket permission for such activities. Emergency backpacks are brought on every walk. Backpacks contain each child's emergency contact information and a first aid kit.

Clothing

Play is an essential program component. Due to these activities, children are required to be dressed comfortably and seasonably appropriate.

ERCDC requires parents to provide appropriate seasonal clothing for their children. Coats, hats, gloves, scarves and winter boots must be provided in the winter months. During warmer months, parents are to provide lighter clothing, hats, and other sun protective garments.

It is not necessary for the child to wear their winter boots to school. Teachers will change/assist children into their winter boots upon outdoor play.

Children are not permitted to wear open toe, and/or open backed shoes, or slippers. The most appropriate type of shoes for participation in school activities are rubber-soled sneakers/tennis shoes.

All children are required to have three (3) seasonably and size-appropriate complete change of clothing at the center that accommodate the current season's requirements at all times. Toddlers and preschoolers need outdoor and indoor shoes. A complete change of clothing includes shirt, pants, underwear, socks, and shoes. Teachers will post reminders for parents to update changes of clothing as the seasons and weather changes. All clothing items must be clearly labeled with the child's first and last name. This includes coats, hats, gloves, scarves, and boots.

Children are not permitted to wear jewelry of any kind as this poses a student safety hazard. ERCDC is not responsible for damage to or loss of and articles of clothing.

For children who are potty training, parents should refrain from dressing children in overalls, tights and items with snaps or with belts, as well as pull ups that do not have sides that snap easily. These items can hinder a successful independent bathroom learning experience. ERCDC encourages open dialog about toilet training with teachers to ensure a consistent regime and practice.

Outdoor Play

Outdoor play is an essential part of the student's daily activities. Outdoor play is scheduled at least twice per day (two hours total). This includes walks and trips to local playgrounds or other activities. During inclement weather, alternate indoor activities will be substituted. During the summer months, students are required to wear sunscreen. **See medical authorization form for application.**

Nap Time

ERCDC provides a daily nap schedule (12:30 - 2:30 p.m.). ERCDC provides safety approved cribs and toddler cots.

Parents in the Guppies A class must provide five (5) sheets per week.

All other classes are required to have one (1) sheet per week. Linens for toddlers and older children (including blankets) are provided by the parent(s).

At times, there are children who do not nap during school hours. Students who do not nap are encouraged to quietly rest, read a book, play with puzzles, or participate in an activity with the teachers. They are not required to nap.

Parental note:

- Infants will sleep according to their needs and individual plans provided by families
- Infants will never be placed on stomachs to sleep
- If your family requires a child to be swaddled, a written authorization is required
- Pacifiers are only permitted in the crib if it is in the child's mouth.

ERCDC is required to follow Safe Sleep protocols.

Birthdays and Celebrations

UPDATED

ERCDC allows parents to celebrate their child's birthday in school. ERCDC requires that all foods be store-bought, nut-free, and brought in the original sealed container with all ingredients listed. ERCDC does not accept home-made food items or food items from fresh bakeries, restaurants or other such establishments that do not include ingredients listings on the packaging. Parents are to party plan with the child's teacher(s) and ensure ample food and

supplies are included for all students in their class.

Parent Involvement, Communication, and Training

Parent Involvement

ERCDC has varying opportunities for participation, such as donating time or treats for parties, accompanying field trips, etc. ERCDC encourages parent participation and volunteering. Parents are welcomed to visit and observe our classrooms/activities in operation at any time. The visit does not have to be scheduled or announced as ERCDC maintains an open-door policy.

ERCDC may schedule a variety of events which may include Back to School Night, Fall Festival, Spring Flings, etc. Special events and reminders will be publicized by newsletters and other forms of communication ahead of time. Parents will also be asked to participate in parent teacher conferences throughout the year to discuss student progress. Continued parental support is essential in creating a positive learning atmosphere for students.

Parent Communication

ERCDC encourages open channels of communication with parents or legal guardians. Parents not subject to a restriction (such as a court order) are able to interact with their child's teacher, and other staff members involved with their children, on a regular daily basis during normal business hours of operation.

Parents will receive biweekly newsletters from ERCDC with important information about program updates, reminders, resources, and other information. It is important that parents read these newsletters to remain up to date on what is happening at ERCDC. These newsletters are sent via the email address used for Procure. If parents would like to receive a hard copy, they can send an email to ERCDC administration with the request.

Parent Participation / Volunteering

Parents are invited to be involved in their child's school activities. There are many ways in which parents can participate and volunteer. Parents may volunteer to attend trips, read to children, assist teachers, and/or coordinate special events. Parents not interested in volunteering directly in the classroom may donate items.

Each classroom should have a room parent who can help to coordinate classroom activities and parties or celebrations. Parents interested in being their classroom's room parent can let their child's teacher know. Room parents are responsible for organizing the parents in that room for celebrations, events, and other activities as needed. Parents who do not wish to have their contact information shared with their room parent should mark as such on the enclosed form.

Teachers will have volunteer opportunities posted in the classrooms. Any parent who volunteers will be required to pay for and secure all criminal background checks, fingerprinting, and physical examinations as required by our licensing regulations.

Any person, including parents, with felony convictions, sex offender convictions and/or open investigations into any criminal activities will not be permitted to volunteer in the classroom, or on field trips. Parents with court orders detailing custodial arrangements will be permitted to volunteer on days in which they are afforded custody (joint/shared custody arrangement) as per the court order. Parents with visitation only (sole/exclusive custody arrangements), will be permitted to volunteer with the express written permission of the custodial parent.

Parent Trainings

UPDATED

ERCDC offers six parent training sessions per academic year. These sessions are offered at no additional cost to our parents. Parents will receive a calendar for the year's sessions including the date, subject, and presenter for each session. Parent training sessions topics are about the community needs, potty training, routines, developmental milestones, assessments and observations, etc. These sessions are offered in the evening via Zoom and the link for the session will be shared with parents via Procare prior to the session.

Community and Family Services

UPDATED

ERCDC is committed to help families to find resources that fit their unique family needs. These are some organization within the District of Columbia that are helping families in different ways:

- Child and Family Services Agency (Cfsa): Resources about adoption, foster care, welfare of a child.
- DC Department of Human Services (DHS): Administers the adult protective services, refugee resettlement, case services, Community Services Block Grant, and teen parent assessment programs. Provides oversight of the homeless services program.
- Inner City Family Services: behavioral health and community development leader
- Mary's Center: Mary's Center welcomes all communities and provides high-quality healthcare, education, and social services to build better futures.

APPENDIX A

Symptoms/Illnesses Requiring Health Care Provider Clearance

- Chicken Pox
- Conjunctivitis (pink eye, discharge from the eyes)
- COVID-19
- Diarrhea (Bloody Stool only)
- Diphtheria
- Hand-Foot-and-Mouth Disease
- Hepatitis A
- Hepatitis B
- Impetigo
- Influenza (Flu)
- Lyme Disease
- Measles
- Meningitis
- Mouth sores
- Mumps
- Pertussis
- Whooping Cough
- Rash (pus and blood present)
- Rubella
- Salmonella
- Scabies
- Shigella
- Strep Throat
- Tuberculosis
- Zika Virus

Symptoms requiring 24 hours' clearance (Symptom free)

- Fever of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or greater
- Diarrhea (three times within 24 hours)
- Vomiting (twice within 24 hours)
- Abdominal Pain
- Nose Discharge (green or yellow)

****Please note: we will require a health clearance for other illnesses at our discretion. Physician's orders regarding illness supersede ERCDC policies**

APPENDIX B

ERCDC COVID-19 Policies and Procedures

Updated July 2022

ERCDC follows a conservative approach to COVID-19 mitigation based on the CDC Community Levels. This is in an effort to keep our students, staff, and families as safe as possible in ever-changing times.

Please note that while COVID-19 vaccines are not currently required for children under 5, we strongly encourage them as vaccination is the best safeguard against serious illness.

Everyday prevention measures:

Regardless of COVID-19 Community Level / Low Community Levels

- COVID-19 vaccination
(Mandatory for ERCDC staff, highly recommended for all students ages 6 months and older)
- Staying home when sick (see ERCDC illness policy)
- COVID-19 diagnostic testing when symptomatic or after possible exposure
- Isolation (for symptomatic or COVID-19 positive people)
- Quarantine (for people exposed to COVID-19 based on vaccination status)
- Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette
- Optimizing indoor ventilation and air quality
- Regular cleaning and disinfection

At this time, ERCDC staff are still required to wear masks indoors.

Enhanced prevention measures:

For Medium *or* High COVID-19 Community Levels

- Prevention measures listed in above *and*
- Masks/respirators mandatory
- COVID-19 screening testing

For High COVID-19 Community Levels

- Prevention measures listed in above *and*
- Avoiding crowding in the facility
- Prioritizing outdoor activities
- Cohorting

Additional Facility Responsibilities

Contact identification and communication

When a case of COVID-19 is identified at a school or childcare facility, contact identification will be carried out by ERCDC administration to identify and dismiss potential close contacts. ERCDC will use Procure messaging to notify individuals who may have been exposed to COVID-19 at the facility.

Contact identification will focus on COVID-19 cases who started having symptoms or tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 5 days. Contact notification will focus on those who were exposed in the last 5 days.

ERCDC will share the following with potentially exposed staff and parents/guardians of potentially exposed students:

- Education about COVID-19, including the signs and symptoms of COVID-19
- Referral to guidance for close contacts of a person confirmed to have COVID-19
Quarantine and testing, available at coronavirus.dc.gov/healthguidance
- Information on options for COVID-19 testing in the District of Columbia, available at coronavirus.dc.gov/testing.

The privacy of the staff or student must be maintained. We cannot disclose the name of anyone who tested positive.

Reporting

All DC schools and childcare facilities must:

- Notify DC Health if they have 25 or more confirmed COVID-19 cases tied to a single event that occurred at or was hosted/sponsored by the facility.
- Notify DC Health by submitting an online form on the DC Health COVID-19
- Notified DC Health on the same day the outbreak was reported to the facility, as soon as possible after the facility was notified.

Note: Childcare facilities licensed by OSSE must report any instance of communicable disease, including COVID-19, to OSSE by submitting an unusual incident report, as required by OSSE licensing regulations.

Quarantine after close contact in their household

ERCDC requires quarantine when a child has been in close contact with someone in their household who has COVID-19.

Children under 2 years of age need to quarantine for 10 days.

Children 2 and older should quarantine for 5 days and do a home test on day 6. The child may return to ERCDC on day 6 after exposure if completely asymptomatic and tested negative.

If a child tests positive on day 6 they need to continue to isolate for the duration of 10 days and may only return to the center with a negative test result and completely asymptomatic.

Regardless of vaccination status, if a close contact develops symptoms, they should isolate and get tested immediately. Children or staff members may only return to the center with a negative test result and completely asymptomatic.

Child tests positive for COVID-19

When a child tests positive for COVID-19, ERCDC requires that the child remains home for 10 days even if they don't have symptoms.

Children who tested positive, may return to ERCDC on day 11 after the positive test result or onset of first symptoms. ERCDC requires a negative test result and that the child is completely asymptomatic before their return.

We know from our classroom experience that our children are not able to consistently wear a face covering or safely social distance while in their classrooms. Because of this, we will require that children who test positive for COVID-19 stay home for 10 days regardless of their age.

Sick Policy/Illness

Any student who becomes ill at school will be made comfortable until the student is picked up from ERCDC. A parent or alternate authorized person must pick up the ill child within an hour after notification. Children may be sent home if they have any specific symptoms listed below. Children must be free of all specified symptoms for at least 24 hours WITHOUT the assistance of medication before he/she can be returned to school. These symptoms are as follows:

- A fever of 100 degrees or more
- Vomiting within the previous 24-hour period
- Diarrhea within the previous 24-hour period (including recurring episodes of diarrhea at school)
- A heavy nasal discharge indicative of infection, congested or runny nose
- A constant cough or sore throat
- Fussy, cranky behavior and generally not himself/herself
- A skin rash, excluding diaper rash
- Fatigue/Lethargic, overly tired, unusually calm or quiet
- Poor feeding or poor appetite

Following an illness, a child may return to school once he/she has a negative COVID-19 test result. An antigen test for this purpose is acceptable.

If a child has been sick at home or is excluded from the center, ERCDC requires a negative COVID-19 test before returning to the center.

If multiple children from the same classroom have tested positive, ERCDC reserves the right to close down the classroom for at least 3 days to stop any further potential spread. All children in that classroom should send a negative antigen test result to administration before returning (lidiani@embassyrowchildren.com or kiley@embassyrowchildren.com).

Whenever ERCDC receives notification of a positive case of COVID-19 among the students, all parents in that class will be notified. To prevent further spread, ERCDC will require that all children who were exposed to the positive case of COVID-19 present a negative test result before returning to the center.

Testing

ERCDC requires that a home test result should be sent to administration (lidiani@embassyrowchildren.com/ kiley@embassyrowchildren.com) before coming to the center when children or staff has:

- Had a fever spike above 100F
- Been sick at home with any of the symptoms related to COVID-19
- Tested positive for COVID-19 (stay home for 10 days)
- Been in close contact to a member of his/her household who tested positive (stay home for at least 5 days if older than 2 and has a negative test result on day 6)
- Been in a classroom where someone has tested positive

Free rapid home test pick up locations

<https://coronavirus.dc.gov/rapidantigen>

Free PCR Test yourself DC

<https://coronavirus.dc.gov/testyourself>

COVID-19 vaccination

Vaccination is the most important public health intervention for ending the COVID-19 pandemic. The vaccine has been demonstrated to be safe and effective for children as young as 6 month old. The COVID-19 vaccine is widely available and free.

At this time, ERCDC is not requiring that children be vaccinated against COVID-19. We will continue to monitor requirements set by OSSE, DC Health, and the District of Columbia.

All ERCDC staff are required to be vaccinated against COVID-19 under Mayor's Order 2021-99.

Free Vaccines and free testing - COVID Centers in DC

<https://coronavirus.dc.gov/page/get-vaccinated>

<https://coronavirus.dc.gov/covidcenters>

References

COVID-19 quarantine and isolation recommendations (CDC)

[cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fphp%2Fpublic-health-recommendations.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fphp%2Fpublic-health-recommendations.html)

Symptoms, testing, what to do if sick, daily activities, and more (CDC)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/determine-close-contacts.html>

Quick Guide: COVID isolation flowchart (CC)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/communication/print-resources/COVID-ChildCareProgram-Flowchart-H.pdf>

This policy is subject to change in the coming months based on case rates and vaccination rates.



Parent Acknowledgement of Family Handbook

Student Name _____ <i>(Please Print)</i>
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Your Home Phone: _____ Work: _____ Cell: _____

This Family Handbook was created to promote an understanding of the policies and procedures of Embassy Row Child Development Center, Inc.

The information in this Family Handbook applies to all Embassy Row Child Development Center programming and activities. It is important that parents and/or guardians are familiar with the Center's policies and procedures. Your signature means that you have received this Family Handbook and understand the policies and procedures of Embassy Row Child Development Centers, Inc.

I have read and understand the policies and procedures in the **Embassy Row Child Development Center's Family Handbook**. I agree to abide by them as well as my child(ren).

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

This page must be submitted along with your child's Enrollment Agreement form. A new page must be signed for each child enrolled.



Parent Acknowledgement of ERCDC COVID-19 Policy

Student Name _____ <i>(Please Print)</i>
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Your Home Phone: _____ Work: _____ Cell: _____

This COVID-19 policy was created to promote the health and safety of everyone at Embassy Row Child Development Center, Inc.

The information in this policy applies to all Embassy Row Child Development Center families. It is important that parents and/or guardians are familiar with this policy. Your signature means that you have received this policy and understand the policy of Embassy Row Child Development Centers, Inc.

I have read and understand the policies and procedures in the **Embassy Row Child Development Center's COVID-19 Policy**. I agree to abide by them as well as my child(ren).

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

This page must be submitted along with your child's Enrollment Agreement form. A new page must be signed for each child enrolled.



Parent Consent to Share Contact Information with Room Parent

Student Name _____ (Please Print)
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Your Home Phone: _____ Work: _____ Cell: _____

In order to facilitate communication between you and your child's room parent, ERCDC would need to share contact information. This form serves as your consent to share that information.

I consent for ERCDC to share my contact information with my child's room parent, including:

- Phone number
- Email address

I do not consent for ERCDC to share my contact with my child's room parent. ERCDC will consult with me before sharing this information as it is requested.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

This page must be submitted along with your child's Enrollment Agreement form. A new page must be signed for each child enrolled.