



C.A.R.E. Academy

Caring. Assisting. Reaching. Educating.

Parent Handbook Policies and Procedures

2025 –2026



Welcome to C.A.R.E Academy

Welcome to C.A.R.E Academy! We are truly honored and blessed to have the privilege of caring for your child.

At C.A.R.E Academy, we specialize in providing full-day care for children ages 6 weeks to 5 years, as well as before and after-school care for children ages 5 to 7. Our mission is to deliver the highest quality care to both you and your child, ensuring a nurturing, safe, and supportive environment.

Our goal is to offer you peace of mind and a deep sense of security, knowing that your little one is in loving and capable hands while you are away. As parents, we understand your desire to provide the very best for your child, and at C.A.R.E Academy, we wholeheartedly share that commitment.

We hope your family will experience joy, growth, and fulfillment during your time with us. To help ensure a smooth and enriching journey, we kindly ask that you review our comprehensive **Parent Handbook** to familiarize yourself with our childcare policies and procedures. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to our director, who is here to assist you every step of the way.

Thank you for choosing C.A.R.E Academy. We look forward to partnering with you and creating a positive, enriching experience for your family.

Happy Learning,

Ms. Brown, Director/Owner

Mission Statement

Caring, Assisting, Reaching, Educating

C.A.R.E. Academy exists to provide a high quality and stimulating early childcare experience for children in the Charleston area. It is our mission to care for each child, assist them in building life-long learning skills, to reach each child in our care and leave behind none, and to educate each child beyond parent's expectations.

Vision

C.A.R.E. Academy will be an example in Charleston County for high quality, community based and progressive yet stimulating early childhood education. Our children will be lifelong learners.

Philosophy

We believe that the quality of childcare facilitates growth and development of each child, that exposure to the arts, music and science creates an environment where children can go beyond creative. Each child in our care receives an educational experience that is imaginative, stimulating and fun. Opportunities through play, decision making, and social interaction with peers are fostered through a loving environment.

We recognize that every child learns differently, therefore we will always use every type of learning style to ensure state objectives are met. Our environment will create an atmosphere for physical, cognitive, social, and emotional growth, as we provide a safe, affordable service for the Charleston Community. Every child has equal value to our program, and we actively work to promote and support full inclusion of children with diverse abilities and disabilities as well as those from all socio-economical, ethnic, and religious backgrounds. Our children are treated with respect and are made to feel safe and secure.

We believe that every teacher employed with C.A.R.E. Academy has a heart for children and wants to see every child in their care become confident learners. All teachers promote independence in group settings while assuring a balance of support and authority, cultivating an atmosphere of love, positive self-control, self-correction, and positive self-concept.

As Parents your voice matters to us, and we take your suggestions and concerns and turn them into life learning experiences. We welcome diversity and multi-culturalism, and we encourage acceptance in that even though we are different, we are at the same time, the same. We promote parent involvement as we recognize the importance of family experiences and that it enhances the quality of care and learning at our center. We believe parental closeness is important at home as it helps to encourage parent involvement in our center. Parents are the child's first teacher and children learn best when their parents are involved.

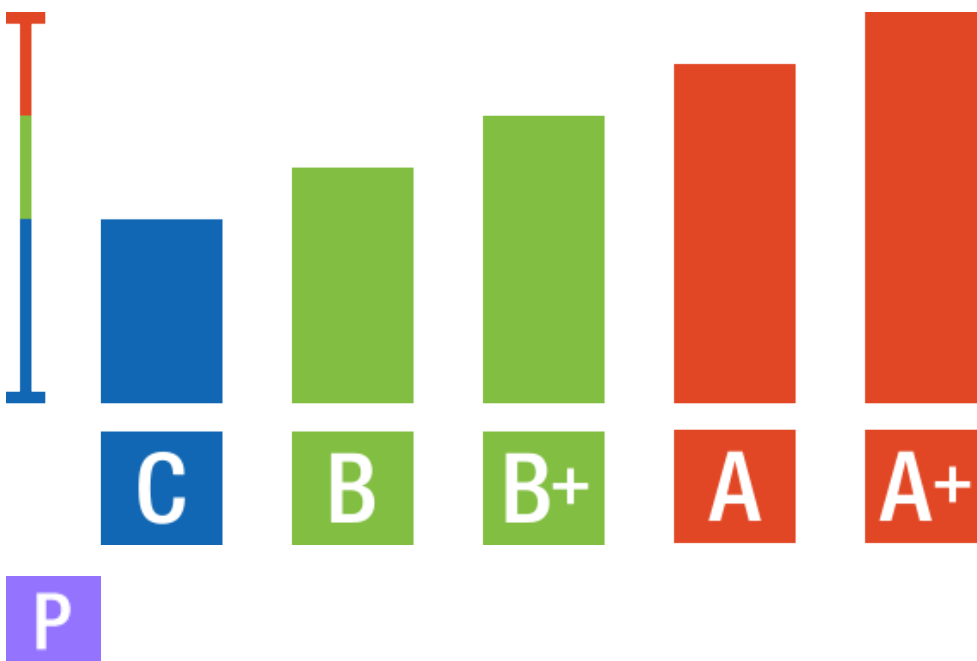
Qualifications of Center Staff

C.A.R.E Academy is licensed through the South Carolina Department of Social Services Childcare Licensing Division #24273 and is an ABC Quality and First Steps partner childcare facility. Our center is thoroughly inspected by DPH and the DSS South Carolina State Fire Marshall. Fire, earthquake, and tornado drills are conducted throughout the year. Our building is equipped with a complete fire and smoke alarm system. Emergency exits, as well as fire extinguishers, are present throughout our facility and are maintained as required.

All staff members are required to obtain an extensive background check before being hired. All staff must attend 20 hours of training a year, mandated, and provided by DSS and ABC Quality. This training is in all aspects of Early Childhood Education. The staff must complete a Blood Borne Pathogens class each year and all staff must be CPR and First Aid Certified renewed bi-annually.

What is ABC Quality?

Within Levels A and B, the highest performing providers are recognized by A+ and B+ designations. At each level, programs receive regular on-site reviews to measure performance on the program standards for that level.



(1) P = pending

Programs that have received a P rating are enrolled in ABC Quality and are waiting for their quality level to be assigned.

Operating Information

Hours of Operation

C.A.R.E. Academy is open Monday - Friday, 6:30 am – 5:30 pm.

Holidays and Closings

The center will be closed on the following Holidays:

New Year's Day	Memorial Day	*Columbus Day
*Juneteenth		*Veterans Day
Independence Day		Thanksgiving Holiday
Labor Day		Christmas Holiday

Please note if a major holiday falls on a weekend, the Center will be closed on the day closest to the Holiday. Our school calendar may be found on our website, careacademyschools.com, Playground, and on the following page and is subject to change from year to year. Please review for closings.

* **Holiday Observance Policy**

While CARE Academy aims to honor holidays as stated on our annual calendar, please note that circumstances beyond our control may necessitate changes. Scheduled holidays may be adjusted, modified, or not observed as planned based on the needs of the school, unforeseen events, or other factors.

We are committed to keeping families informed of any changes as early as possible and will communicate updates via email, school Playground, etc. We appreciate your understanding and flexibility in these matters.

 C.A.R.E. Academy LLC Schedule for 2024 School Year *Calendar subject to change*	
2024	
C.A.R.E. Academy/SC First Steps 4k Closed for Spring Break	Monday - Friday, April 1-5
C.A.R.E. Academy Parent/Teacher Conferences	Monday - Thursday, April 15 -18
Teacher Appreciation Week	Monday - Friday, May 6 - 10
Muffins for Moms- Happy Mother's Day	Friday, May 10 (at drop off)
Spirit Week	Monday - Friday, May 13-17
C.A.R.E. Academy Closed for Memorial Day	Monday, May 27
SC First Steps 4K Last Day of School Year (Half Day)	Friday, May 31 @ 12pm
<i>SC First Steps Last Day of School Year/Graduation Graduation held @ Magnolia Hall, 720 Magnolia Rd.</i>	Friday, May 31 @ 6 PM
SC First Steps First Day of Summer School	Monday, June 3
Donughts for Dads-Happy Father's Day	Friday, June 14 (at drop off)
C.A.R.E. Academy Closed for Independence Day	Thursday-Friday, July 4-5
Last Day SC First Steps 4K 2023-2024	Tuesday, July 30
C.A.R.E. Academy Closed for Professional Development	Wednesday, July 31
C.A.R.E. Academy Closed for In-Service	Monday, August 12
Welcome New Students- First Day SC First Steps 4K and 4K Siblings + 2024-2025	Monday, August 19
C.A.R.E. Academy Closed for Labor Day	Monday, September 2
C.A.R.E. Academy Closed - Parent/Teacher Conferences/SC First Steps 4K PD Day	Monday, September 23
C.A.R.E. Academy Fall Pictures (contingent on weather)	Wednesday - Friday, October 9-11
Halloween (kids may wear potty training friendly costumes)	Thursday, October 31
SC First Steps 4k Closed-Professional Development Day	Monday, November 4
C.A.R.E. Academy Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday	Wednesday - Friday, November 27-29
Holiday Community Service Project	Monday- Friday, December 2-15
Holiday Celebration	Friday, December 20
SC First Steps 4k Closed- Winter Break	Monday - Friday, December 18 -January 3, 2025
C.A.R.E. Academy Closed for Christmas and New Years Break	Monday-Wed, December 23-January 1, 2025
2025	
Annual Re-Enrollment Fee Due	Friday, January 17
C.A.R.E. Academy Closed Professional Development SCECA Conference (Half Day)	Wednesday, February 5 @ 12pm - Friday, February 7
SC First Steps 4k Closed-Professional Development Day	Friday, March 7
C.A.R.E. Academy Spring Pictures (contingent on weather)	Wednesday-Friday March 12-14
C.A.R.E. Academy Parent/Teacher Conferences	Monday- Friday, April 7-11
C.A.R.E. Academy Closed for Spring Break	Monday - Friday, April 14-18
Teacher Appreciation Week	Monday-Friday, May 5-9
Muffins for Moms- Happy Mother's Day	Friday, May 9
Spirit Week	Monday, May 12-16
C.A.R.E. Academy Closed for Memorial Day	Monday, May 26
<i>SC First Steps Last Day of School Year/Graduation Graduation held @ TBA</i>	Friday, May 30 @ 6 PM

2507 Ashley River Road, Charleston SC 29414

843-277-2177 center 843-789-4683 fax

Enrollment, Waitlist and Withdrawing Policies

Enrollment Information

To enroll your child in C.A.R.E. Academy, you will need to complete registration by going to www.careacademyschools.com.

The following items are a part of the enrollment packet and must be turned in at least two weeks before your child's start date. **Immunization must be submitted prior to your child's first day.**

The information on these items must be kept current. If there are any changes, the Parent is required to provide the updated information to the center in a timely fashion (two weeks from immunization expiration date).

Enrollment Packet

- Online Parent Handbook
- DSS 2900
- Signed Enrollment Agreement
- Child's Immunization Form— must be signed by child's physician and on a SC state approved form. Please see Policy on Immunization
- Child Information form
- Discipline Policy
- Physical Policy
- Nutritional Policy
- CACFP Meal Application
- Infant Statement (if applicable—all under 12 Months)

Application/Annual Enrollment Fee

Application fee is \$15 per family and the Enrollment fee is \$110.00 per child at enrollment, \$100 annually, and is payable to secure your child's spot in the center. The enrollment fee is non-refundable and if paid ahead of time assures your child's spot if one is available or bi-passes our initial waitlist. (See Tuition and Fees for a breakdown of the Enrollment/Registration Fee).

Effective 1/1/2025

Birth to 2.5 years	\$312.00 per week
2.6 years to 3.5 years	\$307.00 per week
3.6 to 5 years	\$277.00 per week

***5% Multi Child Discount taken off eldest child
We participate in the Military Child Care in our Neighborhood-Plus***

Fee Schedule

Late Pick up rate:	\$2.00/per minute
NSF Checks or other returned	\$35.00/item items
Late payment	\$50.00/per instance
Registration Application Fee: (Nonrefundable)	\$15.00 per family (at time of registration)
Enrollment Fee: (Nonrefundable)	\$110.00/\$100.00 annually

Tuition and Registration fees are subject to change with adequate notification. Fee schedule can be found on our website under the enrollment tab.

Waitlist Policy

At C.A.R.E. Academy, we are committed to providing high-quality care and education for all children. To ensure a fair and transparent enrollment process, we have established the following waitlist policy:

1. **Priority for Returning Families:**

Returning families receive priority placement on the waitlist. This ensures that current families have the opportunity to continue their child's education with us.

2. **New Families:**

Families new to C.A.R.E. Academy are welcome to join the waitlist by visiting our website at www.careacademyschools.com. Joining the waitlist has an application fee of \$15.00.

3. **Notification of Openings:**

When openings become available, all waitlisted families within the applicable age group will be notified simultaneously via email. Families will be guided through the next steps for enrollment based on their eligibility and availability of spots.

Withdrawals

If a parent decides to terminate their child's enrollment at C.A.R.E. Academy, the following policy will apply:

1. **Notice Requirement:**

A 30-day written notice must be submitted to the center prior to the termination of enrollment. This notice ensures proper planning and transition for the child, classroom, and staff.

2. **Tuition Obligation:**

Tuition must be paid in full for the 30-day notice period, regardless of whether the child is present or not during that time.

3. **Policy Applicability:**

The Termination Policy is in effect for all terminations, regardless of the reason for the decision.

We kindly request that all families respect this policy when terminating their agreement with C.A.R.E. Academy. Adherence to this policy helps us maintain the quality of care and services we provide to all enrolled families. **Families will be billed for the entire period once termination is requested.**

If you have any questions regarding this policy, please contact the center's administration.

Billing Policies

How to Pay for Tuition

Once a parent has enrolled their child in C.A.R.E. Academy, the parent is then responsible for enrolling in Playground to make online payments. As the parent you will need to follow the steps below to sign up and gain access to your billing statements. Statements are also emailed weekly on Wednesdays as a courtesy. Should you not receive a statement, you may log into Playground to view your balance. C.A.R.E. Academy is not responsible for non-payment due to parents not receiving or not reviewing statements.

Rates and Payments

All tuition payments are due in full and in advance of the week services are rendered. ***This includes whether your child attends or is absent.*** Tuition credit is not given nor is it refundable for holidays, sick days, inclement weather days or any other absences that may occur. Tuition must be paid in full at the close of business to continue to be enrolled and have access to the center. Our tuition rates are based on year-round tuition, which is broken down into weekly rates, and guarantees your child a year-round spot. This rate is subject to change upon adequate notice.

Tuition Policy

1. **Tuition Due Date:** Tuition is due by Friday at 6:00 PM.
2. **Grace Period:** A grace period is provided until Monday morning at 6:30 AM. Payments made during the grace period will not incur a late fee.
3. **Late Fee Assessment:** If payment is not received by Monday morning at 6:30 AM and you have not contacted administration to discuss your situation *before* the payment due date, a late fee will be applied to your account.
4. **No Late Fee Removal:** Late fees cannot be removed if no communication with administration occurred prior to the due date.

We understand that unexpected circumstances may arise, and we encourage open communication. If you anticipate any challenges meeting the payment deadline, please reach out to us as soon as possible to discuss options.

Forms of Payment

You may choose whether you would like to make weekly, bi-weekly or monthly payments ***as long as your payments are in advance of the preceding care week. You may also choose how you will make your online payments. Link a bank account (ACH) or Credit Card. Credit Card processing fees apply. CASH and CHECKS ARE NOT ACCEPTED.***

Link Bank Account

There are two ways to add and save a bank account payment method in Playground.

1. Link the account through a secure 3rd party partner directly in the Playground mobile app or web dashboard. All you need to do is [follow the prompts](#) below to link your account.
2. If the banking institution is not listed in the above option, please follow [the steps below](#) to manually add and verify the bank account.

Link bank account with login

This is the simplest & easiest way to add a bank account. This is available for most nationwide banking institutions in the United States and utilizes a secure 3rd party partner called [Stripe](#) to instantly connect and verify the information provided.

Mobile

1. From the Home screen tap the ☰ Menu icon in the top left corner.
2. Tap Payments to reach the Payments Portal screen.
3. Tap Payment methods.
4. To add a new method, tap the blue + sign.
5. Tap bank.
6. To instantly connect and verify your bank account, click "Agree".
7. Select your bank and login to your online bank account.

Web

1. Log in to [Playground](#).
 2. Click on the **Billing** tab on the left hand side.
 3. Click **Add payment method**.
 4. Select **Bank Account**
 5. Click **Agree and continue** to instantly connect and verify your bank account through a secure 3rd party partner called [Stripe](#).
-
1. Select your bank and login to your online bank account.
 - a) If your bank isn't listed, link your bank manually by following [these instructions](#)
 6. Click **Done** once account is connected.

Online Payments (Credit or Debit Card Payments)

Should you choose the online payment method: Credit or Debit Card Payments should be made by going to Playground. Follow these instructions.

Mobile

1. From the **Home** screen tap the ☰ **Menu** icon in the top left corner.
2. Tap **Payments** to reach the **Payments Portal** screen.
3. Tap **Payment methods**.
4. To add a new method, tap the blue + sign.
5. Enter the required information in the appropriate fields
6. Tap **Submit**
1. You'll be returned to the **Payment Methods** screen, with a notification confirming your new payment method has been added.

Web

1. Log in to [Playground](#).
2. Click on the **Billing** tab on the left hand side.
3. Click **Add payment method**.
4. Click **Credit card**.
5. Enter the required card information and click **Add payment method**.

SC Voucher Payments (ABC)

C.A.R.E. Academy will accept voucher payments for enrolled children when the following conditions are met:

- SC Voucher authorizations must be received BEFORE children can begin attending any C.A.R.E. Academy program, unless the tuition is paid in advance by the parent. This money will be refunded/ credited once ABC authorizes payments for those days.
- Parents are responsible for submitting the necessary paperwork to ABC in a timely manner to ensure authorizations are renewed before the current authorization expires. Parents/guardians will be charged for any days that a child attends after authorization have expired.
- Please note that ABC will only pay for a limited number of absentee days. If these limited days are used and absences continue excessively, parents will be notified and could result in the child being dropped from the program.
- Vouchers will not cover additional expenses for enrolled children (field trips, late pick-up, etc.). Parents/guardians will be responsible for these costs.
- Parents/guardians will be charged for days that are not covered by ABC if the child continues to attend the center.
- Parents/guardians are required to notify ABC and the center of changes in employment and/or school enrollment status.

No child will be guaranteed a spot in any C.A.R.E. Academy's program without a current SC Voucher authorization agreement in place or advanced payment of the following week's tuition.

Delinquent Accounts

Accounts two weeks or more delinquent, the Director has the right to discontinue services. All unpaid accounts will be turned over to a collection agency. At times Parents will be granted a payment plan with a required auto pay. Any balance left unsettled will be sent to collections after 30 days.



at C.A.R.E. Academy

Who We Are

South Carolina First Steps is the states only dedicated, comprehensive early childhood initiative focused on getting children ready for school and life success. We partner with families, early educators, and communities statewide to support the success of children from birth through age five.

First Steps was established in 1999 by the South Carolina General Assembly to close the gap on student's preparedness for success in school. Since the beginning, we have taken a holistic approach to accomplishing our mission, offering services that improve children's health, strengthen families, expand access to quality early care and education, and help transition rising kindergartners into school.

Because our mission is a shared endeavor, we also mobilize partners in building a more effective and efficient early childhood state system. In our role as the connector and convener of all early childhood serving agencies, South Carolina First Steps operates the Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC). Our trustees serve concurrently as ECAC members and our staff coordinates their collaborative efforts to support families and help young children thrive.

OUR VISION

We will be successful when all children reach their highest potential.

OUR MISSION

South Carolina First Steps works collaboratively to ensure that all children start school ready to reach their highest potential with engaged support from their parents, caregivers, and communities.

OUR VALUES

Children. From prenatal development through age five, our focus and priority are young children and their families and caregivers.

Relationships. We cultivate positive, supportive, respectful, and reinforcing interactions between people that shape development, build community, increase success and productivity, foster learning, and growth, and affirm the unique value of individuals, caregivers, parents, and children.

Equity. We ensure all people have the opportunity and resources to be successful and that all voices are solicited and heard.

High quality. We ensure that our programs and services are culturally responsive, inclusive, and developmentally appropriate and are delivered with fidelity to the model being implemented. Our products, services, and operations are marked by excellence.

Results. We produce meaningful and measurable impact and outcomes.

Butterflies 4-4K Daily Routine

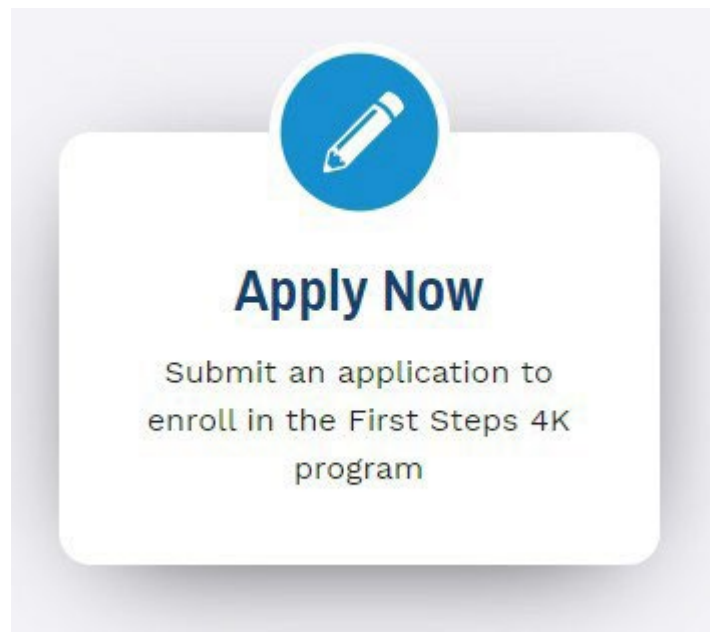
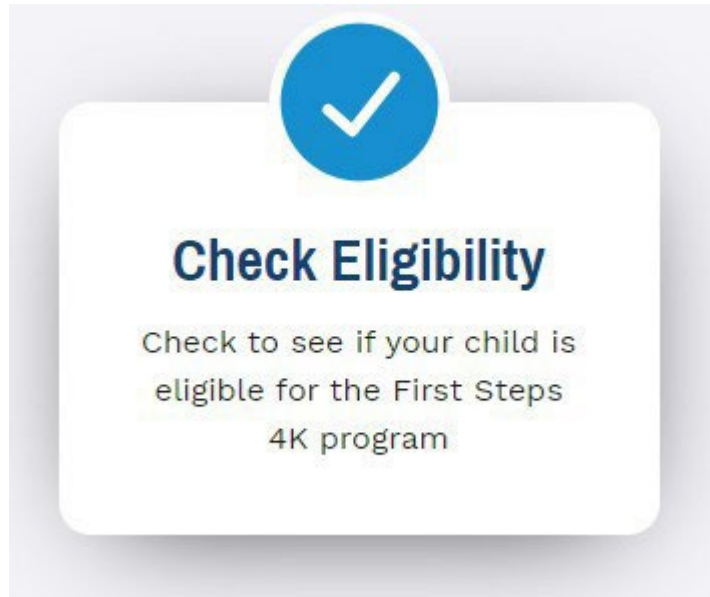
6:30 – 8:00	Morning Care
8:00 – 8:30 (30 min)	Greeting Time/Learning Centers/Clean Up: Greet families and children individually. Help children store belongings, select a quiet activity, plan our day.
8:30-8:50 (20 min)	Breakfast
8:50-9:00 (10 min)	Personal Care
9:00 – 9:50 (50 min)	Outside Time: Children and teacher spend time outside, enjoying vigorous and often noisy play in the fresh air. Help children to put away or carry in toys and materials, hang up jackets, toilet, and wash up. (Planned Activity at least 5 min)
9:55 – 10:10 (20 min)	Large Group Time/Read Aloud: Building a sense of community. Movement and Music, interactive storytelling, and reviews.
10:10 – 11:10 (60 min)	Learning Centers: Children can plan what they want to do during work time, time to carry out their plans, and a period for reviewing and recalling what they have done and learned.
10:50 -11:10 (20 min)	Small Group time: Small groups of children meet with the teacher to experiment with materials, try out new skills, and solve problems. Activities are developed based on children’s interest and skills, materials or content area that suit children’s development learning needs.
11:10-11:15 (15 min)	Personal Care
11:15 – 11:45 (30 min)	Lunch: Help children to prepare the tables for lunch. Encourage conversations about the day’s events, the meal itself, and topics of interest to children.
11:45-12:00 (15 min)	Personal Care
12:05-12:15 (10 min)	Read Aloud/Music and Movement
12:15-1:35 (80 min)	Rest/Quiet Time: Help children relax so they can fall asleep.
1:40-1:50 (10 min)	Personal Care
1:55-2:35 (40 min)	Outside Time: Supervise the playground toys and materials (swings, climbers, slides).
2:40 – 3:00 (20 min)	Snack: Set up snack so children can serve themselves and prepare some quiet activity choices.
3:00 – 3:45 (45 min)	Small groups: Set out a limited number of choices for children such as computers, library, toys and games.
3:45 – 4:00 (15 min)	Departure
4:00 – 6:00	Aftercare

Adopted: 8/15/2019

*Inclement Weather: Children receive the proper amount of physical activity during time of inclement weather. A rotating variety of safe indoor equipment will be available.

For the 2024-25 school year, a child must be:

- 4 years old on September 1, 2024
- Eligible for Medicaid, free/reduced-price lunch, or SNAP/TANF recipient; experiencing homelessness or transiency; or in foster care
- A resident of South Carolina



Required documents to apply:

- Birth Certificate (state certified/official- not a hospital memento)
- Medicaid Card **OR** Proof of Income
- Proof of Residence

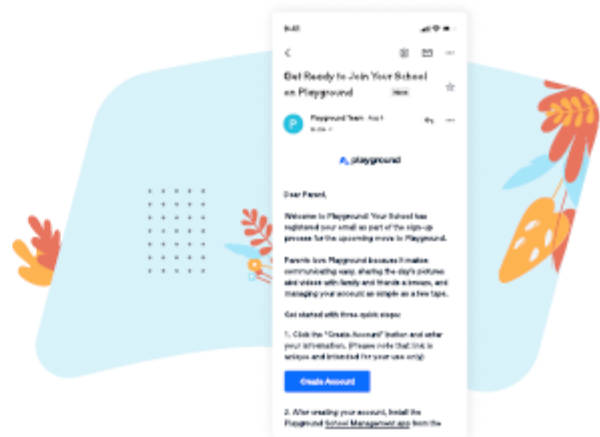
Sign in and Pick up Procedures



Hey, new Playground families! Get started at your program in just a few quick steps.

Open the "Get ready to join..." email and create your Playground account

Set your login credentials and download the app to your device



Open the Playground app and log in

Add any additional guardians by tapping the menu icon in the top left corner and tapping "Guardians"

Scan the QR code to the right for our new family guide

You can also find helpful guides and tutorials at help.tryplayground.com.



Drop Off

All parents must sign children in and out using our digital sign in method, Playground. Once the sign up for Playground is completed, the parent will scan the QR code at the center to sign in. Once you have checked your child in, you will then leave them with the teacher who answers the door.

To ensure a smooth daily routine and minimal classroom disruptions, the following drop-off guidelines must be observed:

1. Drop-Off Times:

- 4K Program: Drop-off must be no later than 8:00 AM.
- All Other Programs: Drop-off must be no later than 9:00 AM.

2. Exceptions for Late Drop-Offs:

- The only exception for late drop-offs is for doctor's or therapist appointments.
- A doctor's excuse must be presented at drop-off.
- If your child has therapy appointments outside the center, you are required to notify our office of these appointments in advance.

3. Procedure for Late Drop-Offs After 9:00 AM:

- **With a doctor's excuse:** You may take your child directly to their classroom door, leaving the excuse with your child's teacher.
- **Without a doctor's excuse:** You must visit the front office. At that time, the administration will determine if your child can be admitted for the day.

We appreciate your cooperation in adhering to these policies to maintain a consistent and effective learning environment for all children.

All drop-off designees must be 18 years of age or older. **Anyone picking up your child must present a photo identification and also be 18 years or older.** At any time, someone other than a pickup designee picks up your child, the Academy must be notified in writing using Playground or by phone of the name of the person picking up your child, prior to pick up. This person must have a family code if one exists and present identification in order to sign your child out.

Pick Up

Children must be picked up no later than 5:30 pm daily. All Children must be signed out using Playground by a parent. Parents must contact the Academy if they anticipate being late (late charge still applies). Parents may receive one written warning regarding late pick up. If a parent is late after receiving a written warning a charge of \$2.00 per minute will be assessed to your child's bill and must be paid with the next weekly tuition payment. If a parent should be more than 15 minutes late without notification, the pickup designee and/or emergency contacts will be contacted. If the staff is unable to reach the parent or the emergency contact, DSS will be contacted.

Supplies

Supplies

Each child will need to bring the following items:

- Pull ups/Underwear
- 2 Changes of clothing- to include plenty of underwear if toilet training / 1 pair of shoes
- Sippy cups (labeled with child's name) (under 3 years)
- Blanket for daily naps (labeled with child's name)
- At times, specific items may be requested by teachers in order to do special projects with your child.

All clothes in the cubby should be appropriate for the weather.

Outside Toys

Outside toys are not permitted in the center. It is very important that we have multiples and take consideration of the toy and its impact on the children when planning the equipment and materials for each classroom. Outside toys can most times be a distraction, dangerous (small parts), and be the cause of children spats. Exceptions to this policy will be that a child may bring a favorite sleeping toy for naptime. The sleep toy should be placed in the child's cubby upon entrance to the center. No other toys are permitted. We are not responsible for any loss or breakage of personal items. All personal items must be clearly marked with the child's name.

Other Materials/Food

C.A.R.E. Academy supplies diapers, wipes, and a rest mat with sheet. We also provide all meals, breakfast, lunch, and a PM Snack. Parents are not permitted to send in outside food unless the child is unable to consume certain items for religious or health reasons. If this should be your situation, please be sure to have a doctor's note stating the health risk or reason for not being able to consume the food item prior to your child attending the Academy. A Parent note is accepted for religious purposes. Please see our Nutrition Policy for further details.

What Your Child Will Need While at C.A.R.E. Academy



Extra set of clothes, just in case of an accident or if lunch was so awesome. (Please label, CARE Academy is not responsible for missing items.)



3-4 Bottles or 2 Sippy Cups if age 2.5 and under, labeled with child's name.



Blanket, labeled with child's name. A crib sheet may also be used.

The Academy does take all children outside should the weather permit. **Please ensure your child has weather appropriate attire and sneakers or shoes with rubber bottom soles (no open toe shoes allowed) to be outside.**

Curriculum and Daily Schedules

Curriculum

Infants, One's, Two's, and Three's

Currently all classrooms utilize the Creative Curriculum which provides responsive daily routines and meaningful learning experiences.

Pre-School Three's and Four's

C.A.R.E. Academy is now a part of the First Steps family and has partnered with First Steps for the use of Creative Curriculum. In our continued efforts to prepare our children for Kindergarten the Creative Curriculum affords us a unique design to provide a rich academic foundation while promoting independence, decision making, cooperation, creativity, and problem solving in young children. Pre-school level Spanish may also offered in the Pre-school classroom.

C.A.R.E. Academy Infants Daily Routine- Caterpillars 1
Routine care as needed throughout the day

6:30 – 8:00	Arrival <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Greet families and children• Exchange information on children’s night, morning, and current state• Table toys/centers, transition to classrooms and prepare for breakfast.• Routine Care based on need
7:30 - 6:00	Routine Care based on need/ Tummy Time/ Feeding/ Nap time
10:30-11:00	Outside Time: Children and teacher spend time outside, enjoying vigorous and often noisy play in the fresh air.
11:00 – 11:10	Story Time (will vary from day to day)
3:00 – 3:10	Story Time (will vary from day to day)
3:30-4:00	Outside Time: Children and teacher spend time outside, enjoying vigorous and often noisy play in the fresh air.
4:30-6:00	Closing Classroom, Extended Day, Planning, Work, Clean Up, Recall with Parents

*Inclement Weather: Children receive the proper amount of physical activity during time of inclement weather. A rotating variety of safe indoor equipment will be available.

C.A.R.E. Academy Infants Daily Routine- Caterpillars 2
Routine care as needed throughout the day

6:30 – 8:00	Arrival <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Greet families and children• Exchange information on children’s night, morning, and current state• Table toys/centers, transition to classrooms and prepare for breakfast.• Routine Care based on need
7:30 - 6:00	Routine Care based on need/ Tummy Time/ Feeding/ Nap time
10:30-11:00	Outside Time: Children and teacher spend time outside, enjoying vigorous and often noisy play in the fresh air.
11:00 – 11:10	Story Time (will vary from day to day)
3:00 – 3:10	Story Time (will vary from day to day)
3:30-4:00	Outside Time: Children and teacher spend time outside, enjoying vigorous and often noisy play in the fresh air.
4:30-6:00	Closing Classroom, Extended Day, Planning, Work, Clean Up, Recall with Parents

*Inclement Weather: Children receive the proper amount of physical activity during time of inclement weather. A rotating variety of safe indoor equipment will be available.

Caterpillars 3 Daily Routine

Routine care as needed throughout the day

6:30 – 9:00 (130 min) (20 min)	Greeting Time/Breakfast: Greet families and children individually. Help children store belongings, select a quiet activity, eat <u>breakfast</u> and plan our day.
9:05 – 9:15 (10 min)	Circle Time: Shapes, Colors, Numbers Gross/Fine motor, etc.
9:15-9:25 (10 min)	Read A Loud
9:25-10:35 (65 min)	Center Time
10:10 – 10:35 (25 min)	Small Group time: Small groups of children meet with the teacher to experiment with materials, try out new skills, and solve problems. Activities are developed based on children’s interest and skills, materials or content area that suit children’s development learning needs.
10:40 – 11:10 (30 min)	Outside Time: Children and <u>teacher</u> spend time outside, enjoying vigorous and often noisy play in the fresh air. Help children to put away or carry in toys and materials, hang up jackets, toilet, and wash up. (Planned Activity at least 5 min)
11:15 – 11:30 (15 min)	Individualized Care: Diaper Changes, Pottyng
11:30 -12:00 (30 min)	Lunch: Help children to prepare the tables for lunch. Encourage conversations about the day’s events, the meal itself, and topics of interest to children. Guide children in cleaning up after lunch, brushing teeth, setting out cots/mats, and preparing for rest.
12:00-2:30 (2.5 hours)	Rest Time: Help children relax so they can fall asleep. Supervise rest area, moving about so each teacher gets a break. Provide quiet activities for children who don’t sleep. Adjust length of rest time to suit age of group and needs of individual children.
2:30 – 2:50 (20 min)	Snack: Set up <u>snack</u> so children can serve themselves and prepare some quiet activity choices.
3:00 – 3:30 (30 min)	Outside Time: Supervise the playground toys and materials (swings, climbers, slides). Observe and interact with children as they jump rope, play ball games, blow bubbles, make nature discoveries, and so on. Extend study work outdoors, if appropriate. Help children to put away or carry in toys and materials, hang up jackets, toilet, and wash up. (Planned Activity at least 5 min)
3:30-3:40 (10 min)	Read A Loud
3:40 – 3:55 (15 min)	Small groups: Set out a limited number of choices for children such as computers, library, <u>toys</u> and games.
3:55 – 4:30 (25 min)	Large Group
4:30 – 6:00 (60 min)	Closing Classroom, Extended Day, Planning, Work, Clean Up, Recall with Parents

Adopted: 12/27/2022

*Inclement Weather: Children receive the proper amount of physical activity during time of inclement weather. A rotating variety of safe indoor equipment will be available.

Caterpillars 4 Daily Routine

Routine care as needed throughout the day

6:30 – 9:00 (130 min) (20 min)	Greeting Time/Breakfast: Greet families and children individually. Help children store belongings, select a quiet activity, eat <u>breakfast</u> and plan our day.
9:05 – 9:15 (10 min)	Circle Time: Shapes, Colors, Numbers Gross/Fine motor, etc.
9:15-9:25 (10 min)	Read A Loud
9:25-10:35 (65 min)	Center Time
10:10 – 10:35 (25 min)	Small Group time: Small groups of children meet with the teacher to experiment with materials, try out new skills, and solve problems. Activities are developed based on children’s interest and skills, materials or content area that suit children’s development learning needs.
10:40 – 11:10 (30 min)	Outside Time: Children and <u>teacher</u> spend time outside, enjoying vigorous and often noisy play in the fresh air. Help children to put away or carry in toys and materials, hang up jackets, toilet, and wash up. (Planned Activity at least 5 min)
11:15 – 11:30 (15 min)	Individualized Care: Diaper Changes, Potty
11:30 -12:00 (30 min)	Lunch: Help children to prepare the tables for lunch. Encourage conversations about the day’s events, the meal itself, and topics of interest to children. Guide children in cleaning up after lunch, brushing teeth, setting out cots/mats, and preparing for rest.
12:00-2:30 (2.5 hours)	Rest Time: Help children relax so they can fall asleep. Supervise rest area, moving about so each teacher gets a break. Provide quiet activities for children who don’t sleep. Adjust length of rest time to suit age of group and needs of individual children.
2:30 – 2:50 (20 min)	Snack: Set up <u>snack</u> so children can serve themselves and prepare some quiet activity choices.
3:00 – 4:00 (60 min)	Outside Time: Supervise the playground toys and materials (swings, climbers, slides). Observe and interact with children as they jump rope, play ball games, blow bubbles, make nature discoveries, and so on. Extend study work outdoors, if appropriate. Help children to put away or carry in toys and materials, hang up jackets, toilet, and wash up. (Planned Activity at least 5 min)
4:00-4:10 (10 min)	Read A Loud
4:10 – 4:30 (20 min)	Center Time
4:30 – 6:00 (55 min)	Clean Up, Recall with Parents: Children can plan what they want to do during work time, time to carry out their plans, and a period for reviewing and recalling what they have done and learned.

Adopted: 12/27/2022

*Inclement Weather: Children receive the proper amount of physical activity during time of inclement weather. A rotating variety of safe indoor equipment will be available.

Butterflies 1 Daily Routine

Routine care as needed throughout the day.

6:30 – 8:50 (120 min) (20 min)	Greeting Time/Breakfast/Message Board: Greet families and children individually. Help children store belongings, select a quiet activity, eat breakfast and plan our day.
9:00 – 9:20 (20 min)	Circle Time
9:25 – 9:45 (20 min)	Large Group Time: Building a sense of community. Movement and Music, interactive storytelling, and reviews.
9:50 – 10:30 (40 min)	Outside Time: Children and teacher spend time outside, enjoying vigorous and often noisy play in the fresh air. Help children to put away or carry in toys and materials, hang up jackets, toilet, and wash up. (Planned Activity at least 5 min)
10:35 – 11:25 (50 min)	Center Time
11:00-11:25 (25 min)	Small Group time: Small groups of children meet with the teacher to experiment with materials, try out new skills, and solve problems. Activities are developed based on children’s interest and skills, materials or content area that suit children’s development learning needs.
11:30 – 12:00 (30 min)	Lunch: Help children to prepare the tables for lunch. Encourage conversations about the day’s events, the meal itself, and topics of interest to children. Guide children in cleaning up after lunch, brushing teeth, setting out cots/mats, and preparing for rest.
12:00-2:30 (2.5 hours)	Rest Time: Help children relax so they can fall asleep. Supervise rest area, moving about so each teacher gets a break. Provide quiet activities for children who don’t sleep. Adjust length of rest time to suit age of group and needs of individual children.
2:30 – 3:00 (30 min)	Snack: Set up snack so children can serve themselves and prepare some quiet activity choices.
3:00 – 3:50 (50 min)	Outside Time: Supervise the playground toys and materials (swings, climbers, slides). Observe and interact with children as they jump rope, play ball games, blow bubbles, make nature discoveries, and so on. Extend study work outdoors, if appropriate. Help children to put away or carry in toys and materials, hang up jackets, toilet, and wash up. (Planned Activity at least 5 min)
4:00 – 4:55 (50 min)	Center Time
4:15-4:40 (25 Min)	Small groups: Set out a limited number of choices for children such as computers, library, toys and games.
5:00 – 6:00 (60 min)	Closing Classroom, Extended Day, Planning, Work, Clean Up, Recall with Parents

Adopted: 03/15/2021

*Inclement Weather: Children receive the proper amount of physical activity during time of inclement weather. A rotating variety of safe indoor equipment will be available.

Butterflies 2 Daily Routine

Routine care as needed throughout the day.

6:30 – 8:00	Opening Classroom: Morning Care
8:00 – 8:50 (50 min)	Greeting Time/Breakfast/Clean Up: Greet families and children individually. Help children store belongings, select a quiet activity, eat breakfast and plan our day.
9:00 - 9:20 (20 min)	Circle Time: Children and Teacher spend time on the Alphabet, Numbers, Shapes, etc.
9:25 - 9:45 (20 min)	Large Group Time/Read Aloud: Building a sense of community. Movement and Music, interactive storytelling, and reviews.
9:50 – 10:30 (40 min)	Outside Time: Children and teacher spend time outside, enjoying vigorous and often noisy play in the fresh air. Extend study work outdoors, if appropriate. (Planned Activity at least 5-10 min)
10:30-10:40 (10 min)	Personal Care
10:40 – 11:25 (45 min)	Center Time: Children can plan what they want to do during work time, time to carry out their plans, and a period for reviewing and recalling what they have done and learned.
11:10 -11:25 (15 min)	Small Group time: Small groups of children meet with the teacher to experiment with materials, try out new skills, and solve problems. Activities are developed based on children’s interest and skills, materials or content area that suit children’s development learning needs.
11:20-11:30 (10 min)	Personal Care
11:30 – 12:00 (30 min)	Lunch: Help children to prepare the tables for lunch. Encourage conversations about the day’s events, the meal itself, and topics of interest to children.
12:00-2:30 (2.5 hours)	Rest Time: Help children relax so they can fall asleep. Supervise rest area, moving about so each teacher gets a break. Provide quiet activities for children who don't sleep. Adjust length of rest time to suit age of group and needs of individual children. Planning Period/Lunch
2:30 – 3:00 (30 min)	Snack: Set up snack so children can serve themselves and prepare some quiet activity choices.
3:00-3:15 (15 min)	Read aloud: Interactive storytelling
3:15 – 4:00 (45 min)	Center Time: Children can plan what they want to do during work time, time to carry out their plans, and a period for reviewing and recalling what they have done and learned.
3:35-3:55 (20 min)	Small groups: Set out a limited number of choices for children such as computers, library, toys and games.
4:00 – 4:50 (50 min)	Outside Time: Supervise the playground toys and materials (swings, climbers, slides). Observe and interact with children as they jump rope, play ball games, blow bubbles, make nature discoveries, and so on. (Planned Activity at least 5 min)
5:00 – 6:00	Closing Classroom, Extended Day, Planning, Work, Clean Up, Recall with Parents

Adopted: 8/15/2019

*Inclement Weather: Children receive the proper amount of physical activity during time of inclement weather. A rotating variety of safe indoor equipment will be available.

Meals/Nutrition

Meals and Snacks

C.A.R.E. Academy serves breakfast, lunch and afternoon snacks based on CACFP and USDA My Plate Standards every day. All meals will be posted on the Monthly Calendar, which can be found at the Academy on the parent bulletin board and on our website. **After 8:30 am breakfast will no longer be served, after 11:30 am Lunch will no longer be served.** Please be sure to feed your child ahead of time if your child will be arriving after this time. Our Playground app is a great source to see what your child is eating on a daily basis and all menus may be found on our website.

Infants Breast Milk and Alternative Formulas

An infant statement is provided for all parents to inform us of whether your child will be breast fed, receive school provided formula, Enfamil, or if the parent will provide their own formula. Please note that we do not serve formula to children who are over twelve months of age without a doctor's note. If your child still requires formula after the age of one or is on a formula other than the one provided, you will need to provide the Center with a doctor's note regarding the exception, and you will need to provide the appropriate formula or substitute for the Center to use once approved.

Building for the Future with CACFP

Good nutrition today means a stronger tomorrow!

This daycare receives support from the Child and Adult Care Food Program to serve healthy meals to your children.



Meals served here must meet USDA's nutrition standards.

Questions? Concerns?

Learn more about CACFP at USDA's website: <https://v-n.tvv.fns.usda.gov/>

Other Policies

Parking

Parking during drop off and pick up times can be busy. Please drive with care when entering the parking lot. **Please do not block the entrance to the back parking lot or park on the side of the planter in front of the Caterpillars Building. Please also do not park in front of the Butterflies Building as you will block the entrance and exiting of vehicles. DOT can and will ticket you.**

Birthdays

You may plan a special celebration for your child's birthday at the center. All aspects of the celebration must be approved in advance.

Consider these suggestions:

- Bring in a book to be read in your child's honor
- Bring in mini cup cakes
- Donate something to the classroom in your child's honor such as a puzzle, toy, or materials for a special project
- Share a tradition by reading a story or playing an instrument.

Communication with parents

Communication is key. C.A.R.E Academy will do everything in its power to communicate with you through the Playground app, letters, phone, text, or email. Playground is your way of keeping track of your child daily. Playground is also a means of communicating with our Parents, informing them with school closing, events, exciting news about their child or reaching a parent when a teacher has a concern in the classroom. **It is imperative that all parents download the Playground app** so that they may receive all means of communication. You may access the Playground app in Google or Apple play store.

At any time you have a concern or question regarding the care of your child, you may speak with the Director or email the Director at cushan@careacademyschools.com

Sick Days and Interruptions

Sick Days

Parent should notify C.A.R.E. Academy through Playground when your child is ill or will be out of school for any other reason. Communication is key to making sure the child's best interest is placed first. If your child is ill, notifying the school allows us to take precautions if need be. Notifying the school tells us that your child and family are ok. Please see our Mildly Ill and Sick Child Policy in the Policies and Procedures Section.

Other Absences

If your child will be absent from school due to other reasons, please do inform the schools Director or your child's Teacher by way of Playground, so that we do not contact you to see if your child will be in attendance at school or plan activities that include your child.

Family Vacations

Each full-time child enrolled in C.A.R.E. Academy receives a free vacation week during Charleston County's Spring Break. Vacation weeks may not be used during any other time or passed over to siblings. The **students account must also be at a zero balance** to receive this benefit and vacation weeks may not be used once termination is received, 30 days prior or less or as a termination week.

Interruptions

Emergency Closings– Inclement Weather/COVID/A/C or other equipment deemed operable and necessary by DSS to remain open.

There may be times when school will be interrupted due to inclement weather. C.A.R.E will follow the weather closing procedures of the Charleston County School District. **If Charleston County School District schools close due to inclement weather, C.A.R.E Academy will close also.** School closings are broadcast over local radio and television stations. In the event of an emergency and the center must evacuate, we will move to the nearest emergency shelter. Each parent will be notified and will have one hour to obtain their child. If we are unable to contact the parents your emergency contact will be notified. Parents please be sure to keep all of your emergency numbers current and correct. This information is vital to the safety of your child.

Should the school close for inclement weather/COVID or any reasons beyond our control, tuition is still payable and will not be refunded or reduced. C.A.R.E. Academy will make every effort to remain open, but please do consider that liability is a great concern for us, and we must adhere to regulations of DSS when closing. Please be reminded that our tuition rates are based on year-round tuition, which is broken down into weekly rates, and guarantees your child a year-round spot.

Emergency Closings– Building Related

If at any time C.A.R.E. Academy has to close due to building related issues. Parents will be notified immediately. Tuition is not reduced for these times.

C.A.R.E. Academy
Policies
and
Procedures

Free and Full Access

Parents of a child in our care are entitled to immediate access, without prior notice, to their child whenever they are in care at C.A.R.E. Academy, as provided by law.

In cases where the child is the subject of a court order (e.g., Custody Order, Restraining Order, or Protection from Abuse Order) C.A.R.E. Academy must be provided with a Certified Copy of the most recent order and all amendments thereto. The orders of the court will be strictly followed unless the custodial parent (s) requests a more liberal variation of the order in writing. In the case where both parents are afforded shared/joint custody by order of the court, both parents must sign up the request for more liberal interpretation of the order.

In the absence of a court order on file with C.A.R.E. Academy, both parents shall be afforded equal access to their child as stipulated by law. C.A.R.E. Academy cannot, without a court order, limit the access of one parent by request of the other parent, regardless of the reason. If a situation presents itself where one parent does not want the other parent to have access to their child, C.A.R.E. Academy suggests that the parent keep the child with them until a court order is issued, since our rights to retain your child are secondary to the other parent's right to immediate access. C.A.R.E. Academy staff will contact the local police should a conflict arise.

Visitors are asked to schedule appointments with the Center Director and are allowed in the childcare facility only at the discretion of the Center Director. All visitors are required to sign in upon entering the building. An employee of C.A.R.E. Academy will always accompany visitors throughout the center. C.A.R.E. Academy will dismiss any child whose parent is prohibited from entering upon agency property. Due to the parents' right to immediate access policy, as well as state and federal regulations, C.A.R.E. Academy cannot have a child at the agency when the child's parent is prohibited access. C.A.R.E. Academy will not agree to any request to maintain a child's enrollment even if the parent agrees to stay out of the center. Such an agreement is a violation of the law and will not be entertained.

Confidentiality Policy

CARE Academy is very sensitive to the fact that information concerning you, your child, and your family is private and personal. Trust and confidentiality are essential to building trusting relationships. We are committed to maintaining your privacy and protecting your personal information. CARE Academy will not disclose information except as required by law or when there is a threat to the health and safety of the individuals and families we serve.

All family records are kept on site in the front office area within a locked filing cabinet.

Personal Belongings

We prefer that children do not bring toys from home unless it is something that can be shared with the entire group (i.e., books, videos, etc.). Little ones have a difficult time sharing with others, and it is

even harder with their own special toys. If toys are brought, please note that they may be put away, if they are the cause of disagreements among the children or if they become dangerous.

Release of Children Policy

Each child may be released only to the child's parent (s) or person (s) authorized by the parent (s) to take the child from the center and to assume responsibility for the child in an emergency if the parent(s) cannot be reached. Each parent or authorized person picking up the child must always show ID. No child will be released if ID cannot be shown.

If a non-custodial parent has been denied access or granted limited access to a child by a court order, the center shall secure documentation to that effect, maintain a copy on file, and comply with the terms of the court order.

If the parent (s) or person (s) authorized by the parent (s) fails to pick up a child at the time of the center's daily closing, the center shall ensure that:

- The child is supervised at all times.
- Staff members attempt to contact the parent (s) or person (s) authorized by the parent (s); and
An hour or more after closing time, and provided that other arrangements for releasing the child to his/her parent (s) or person (s) authorized by the parent (s) have failed and the staff member (s) cannot continue to supervise the child at the center, the staff member shall **call South Carolina Department of Social Services, Child Protective/Preventive Ser-vices at 803-898-7318** to seek assistance in caring for the child until the parent (s) or per-son (s) authorized by the child's parent (s) is able to pick up the child.

If the parent (s) or person (s) authorized by the parent (s) appears to be physically and/or emotionally impaired to the extent that, in the judgment of the director and/or staff member, the child would be placed at risk of harm if released to such an individual, the center shall ensure that:

- The child may not be released to such an impaired individual.
- Staff members attempt to contact the child's other parent, or an alternative person (s) authorized by the parent (s); and
- If the center is unable to make alternative arrangements, a staff member shall call the **South Carolina Department of Social Services, Child Protective/Preventive Services at 803-898-7318** to seek assistance in caring for the child.

Custody and Related Court Orders

The day care staff cannot become involved in the marital or custody issues of the families that we serve. If a custody or court order exists, a copy of the order needs to be placed in the child's file.

The guardian is responsible for providing up to date and accurate information concerning the legal guardianship of the child. Without a custody or court order on file, the caregiver cannot deny access to the non-enrolling parent. If the non-enrolling parent is not listed on the pickup list, the policy on unauthorized persons will be implemented. The guardian will provide all consents.

Reporting Absences and Late Drop Offs

Since teachers plan their daily activities based on the number of children expected for the days and hours children are scheduled and meals are planned by the number of children in the building at 9 am. Children are expected to be present in the building by 9am each day. The only exception to the rule is if a child has a scheduled doctor's appointment. In such case, parents are required to provide a doctor's note verifying the appointment. We appreciate your cooperation in ensuring that your child arrives on time, as it contributes to the overall well-being and smooth operation of our program. Fees are also based on enrollment and not absences. To maintain a reserved space, fees must be paid during the absence of a child for any reason, payment is still due on Fridays, regardless of the child's absence.

Request for Therapy Services

Should your child need therapy services while enrolled, you must follow the steps below to request a therapist to visit your child while at school.

- Send notification in Playground that your child needs therapy services.
- Complete the therapy request form in Playground.
- The therapist, parent and director will fill out the Extracurricular Activities/Therapy request form to sign.
- Once signed by all parties, the therapist will be sent approval to see the child in his/her classroom during the arranged time.

At no time should a therapist attempt to visit a child and not have been approved. The Therapist will not be granted access to the child.

Release of Children/Drop Off and Pick Up

C.A.R.E. Academy is committed to ensuring the safe release of children at all times. The following are our safe release procedures:

1. Upon arrival, children are to be signed into Playground. The same procedure will be followed when children are picked up, they should be check out of Playground.
2. Children will be allowed to leave with persons whose names appear on their pickup list. Picture ID will be requested. Approved pick ups may be added to the pickup list in Playground.
3. Children must be picked up no later than 5:30 pm daily. Parents must contact the Academy if they anticipate on being late (late charge still applies). Parents will receive one verbal warning regarding late pick up. If a parent is late after receiving verbal warning a charge of \$2.00 per minuet will be assessed to your child's invoice and must be paid with the next weekly tuition payment.
4. If a non-custodial parent has been denied access or granted limited access to a child by a court order, the center shall secure documentation to that effect, maintain a copy in file, and comply with the terms of the court order (please see Free and Full Access policy).

If the parent(s) or person (s) authorized by the parent (s) fail to pick up a child at the time of the center's daily closing, the center shall ensure that:

- a. The child is supervised at all times.
- b. Staff members attempt to contact the parent (s) authorized by the parent (s); and
- c. An hour or more after closing time, and provided that other arrangements for releasing the child to his/her parent (s) or person (s) authorized by the parent (s) have failed and the staff member (s) cannot continue to supervise the child at the center, the staff member shall call South Carolina Department of Social Services, Child Protective/Preventive Services at 803- 898-7318 to seek an assistance in caring for the child until the parent (s) or person (s) authorized by the child's parents (s) is able to pick up the child.

If the parent (s) or person (s) authorized by the parent (s) appears to be physically and /or emotionally impaired to the extent that, in the judgement of the Director and/or staff member, the child would be placed at risk or harm if released to such an individual, the center shall ensure that:

- a. The child may not be released to such an impaired individual.
- b. Staff members attempt to contact the child's other parent, or an alternative person (s) authorized by the parent (s); and
- c. If the center is unable to make alternative arrangements, a staff member shall call the South Carolina Department of Social Services, Child Protective/Preventive Services at 803- 898-7318 to seek assistance in caring for the child.

Child Room Transition Tracking

Children in the infant through 30-month classrooms are not permitted to leave the classroom unless accompanied by a teacher to the outside playground or in case of an emergency.

Children 31 months and older are allowed to move about the center with a teacher, floater or director to go to the restroom and or center area. As the teacher, floater or director accompanies the child to another area within the center, teacher, floater or director will mark the below tracking sheet with the room/ area she is taking the child to. Once the teacher, floater or director and Child have returned to the classroom, the teacher, floater or director will update the tracking sheet to show the child back in the classroom.

C.A.R.E. Academy									
Daily Tracking Chart									
Date:		Room:			Teacher(s):				
Child's Name	Arrival	Departure	Children are tracked as they leave and enter a room. To track, indicate the symbol representing the child's location (ie. BA for bathroom) and then write the time the child left and reentered the room.						
Location →									
1.									
2.									
3.									
4.									
5.									
6.									
7.									
8.									
9.									
10.									
11.									
12.									
13.									
14.									
15.									
16.									
17.									
18.									
19.									

Tracking Codes: CR#= classroom number BA=bathroom PG=playground O=office D = deck MPR= Multipurpose Room
****if no code, write out location**

SC State Child Care Scholarship

formally known as ABC Vouchers

C.A.R.E. Academy is an ABC Quality School and currently accepts SC State Vouchers. Although SC Vouchers is a subsidy, the client is responsible for any remaining weekly balance and must be paid on time, thus an automatic draft from must be signed. A connection card is required by all clients to be faxed to ABC before services are rendered. Once C.A.R.E. Academy has received approval for your child's start date, you will be notified. The following are your rights as a client and our rights as a provider:

Client Fees:

The client fee is based on family size and income and is determined by the ABC Program. The provider, C.A.R.E. Academy is responsible for the collection of client fees in advance of service delivery and documenting that those fees are paid in a timely manner.

- A. The client fee is to be collected weekly in advance of service delivery. Providers should not let clients get behind on their weekly fees.
- B. The provider may discontinue services to the client when client fees are not paid, and the provider must inform the ABC Control Center before discounting services to a client for failure to pay the client fee.

Client Transfer:

Clients may transfer from one provider to another.

- A. Clients must notify the ABC Control Center either by phone or in writing and receive approval prior to the transfer.
- B. Clients are required to adhere to the provider's established policy for notification of transfer. Please see C.A.R.E. Academy's Termination policy.
- C. The effective date of the transfer will be the 1st Monday following the 7th working day after the ABC Control Center receives the telephone call or written notice from the client requesting the transfer. The client may not request transfer prior to C.A.R.E. Academy's two-week termination.
- D. The ABC Control Center will notify providers in writing of approved transfers.

Discounting Services for ABC Clients:

- A. Providers have the right to stop serving a client or child if either is disruptive to the program or does not comply with the provider's established policies.
- B. Clients should be notified by the provider a minimum of three working days in advance of the effective termination date.
- C. Clients should be allowed to finish any week in which the provider has billed for the client.

Termination by ABC Program

- A. The ABC Control Center may terminate a client's childcare services. Once a decision has been reached to terminate services, the provider will receive written verification.
- B. If termination is initiated by the ABC Control Center, the provider and client will be notified in writing and all the all payments for services rendered after the termination date become the client's responsibility.

Administration of Medicine

Purpose

To ensure safe and accurate administration of routine medications to all children in childcare. Because the administration of medicine requires extra staff time and safety considerations, parents should check with their health care provider to see if a dosage schedule can be arranged that does not involve the hours the child is in a childcare setting.

Medication Administration Policy

The following requirements must be met before administering medications.

- Written Authorization from the child's Health Care Provider
- Parent Written Authorization
- Medication in the original labeled container
- Proper care and storage of medication
- Documentation of medication administration

Nebulized medications and emergency injections (Epi-Pen) require a written health care plan or instructions completed by the RN consultant and/or the child's health care provider. Parents are responsible for providing all medications and supplies to the center. Special arrangements must be considered regarding the safe transport of medications for children attending camp programs. Staff may not deviate from the written authorization from the Health Care Provider with prescriptive authority. Staff must count and record the quantity of controlled substances (e.g., Ritalin) received from the parent, in the presence of the parent. Medications that have expired or are no longer being used at the center should be returned to the parent or guardian. If the medicine has not been picked up within one week of the date of the request, then medication must be disposed of by the Director.

Medication Administration Procedure

Care and Storage:

Medications administered in childcare settings should be stored in a secure, locked, clean container and under conditions as directed by the health care provider or pharmacist. Medications that require refrigeration should be stored in a leak-proof container in a designated area of the refrigerator separated from food OR in a separate and locked refrigerator used only for medication. Once all requirements are met, the care provider will administer the medications utilizing the

5 Rights of Medication Administration

1. Right Child
2. Right Medication
3. Right Dose
4. Right Time
5. Right Route

Documentation

Any medications routinely administered must be documented on the Medication Log and entered in Playground by the person administering the medication.

Medication Incidents

A medication incident is any situation that involves any of the following:

- Forgetting to give a dose of medication
- Giving more than one dose of the medication
- Giving the medication at the wrong time
- Giving the wrong dose
- Giving the wrong medication
- Giving the wrong medication to the wrong child
- Giving the medication by the wrong route
- Forgetting to document the medication\

Medication Incidents are documented on a Medication Incident Report and reported to the child's parents, program administrator and health care provider (as appropriate). Medication Incidents that involve medication given to the wrong child or an overdose of medication require consult with Poison Control.

DO NOT INDUCE VOMITING UNLESS INSTRUCTED BY POISON CONTROL. POISON CONTROL NUMBER IS: 1-800-222-1722

Disposal of Medications

- Medications that have not been picked up by the parent, once notified by staff, must be disposed of by:
 - Take unused, unneeded, or expired prescription drugs out of their original containers.
 - Mix the prescription drugs with an undesirable substance, like used coffee grounds or kitty litter, and put them in impermeable, non-descript containers, such as empty cans or Sealable bags, further ensuring that the drugs are not diverted or accidentally ingested by children or pets
Wrap these containers so that the content cannot be easily seen.
 - Throw these containers in the trash.
 - It is the responsibility of the designated staff person to dispose of medications with one witness present.
 - Document on the Medication Log or Disposal Log the date, time, child's name, name of the medicine(s), and signature of staff person.

Medication forms can be found on our website, completed and turned into the front office.

South Carolina Vaccine Requirement Information for Parents

All children enrolled in C.A.R.E. Academy must have a SC Certificate of Immunization provided at enrollment. You may obtain this from your child's pediatrician and may be brought in or faxed to our office at 843-789-4683.

The image shows a South Carolina Certificate of Immunization form. It is a detailed document with multiple sections. At the top, it says 'SOUTH CAROLINA CERTIFICATE OF IMMUNIZATION' and 'Department of Health and Environmental Control, Division of Immunization and Biologics'. Below this, there are sections for 'CERTIFICATION STATUS', 'Vaccination Date', and 'MEDICAL EXEMPTION'. The form includes fields for the child's name, date of birth, and the certifier's name and signature. There are also checkboxes for 'Certified', 'Not Certified', and 'Medical Exemption'. The form is designed to be filled out by a healthcare provider or a parent/guardian.

Exemptions

Religious

Exceptions are due to Medical and Religious reasons. To obtain a Religious Exemption, parents must fill out a Statement of Religious Objection, this form can only be obtained at your local county public health department. Forms cannot be e-mailed or mailed.

Medical

Only an individual licensed to practice medicine, surgery, or osteopathy or his/her representative may issue a certificate of medical exemption to immunization. There is one DHEC form, The South Carolina Certificate of Immunization, that meets both the certification and the medical exemption regulations (SC Regulation 61-8).

If your child should attend school and has not been vaccinated against disease, your child may be excluded from school for their protection until it is determined that it is safe for your child to return. Tuition is not waived in this instance.

Childcare and school immunization requirements are minimum requirements. Several other vaccines are recommended for all children but are not required. DHEC encourages you to consider all age-appropriate vaccines for children. **A new Hepatitis A vaccine requirement for childcare will begin July 1, 2020, and will begin for 5K with the 2020-2021 school year:**

Childcare: 2 doses of Hepatitis A vaccine with both doses received on or after the first birthday and separated by at least 6 months for any child born on or after January 1, 2019.

Please Visit: <https://www.scdhec.gov/health/vaccinations/childcare-school-vaccine-requirements> for requirements in Spanish



CHILDCARE IMMUNIZATION INFO FOR PARENTS

South Carolina Childcare Immunization Requirements 2019–2020

Childcare includes nursery or preschool programs (4K and younger) or any licensed childcare center. Children enrolled in childcare must be up to date ON the following shots based on their age.

Hepatitis B

Hemophilus influenzae Type b (Hib)

DTaP (whooping cough, tetanus)

MMR (measles, mumps, rubella)

Polio

Varicella (chickenpox)

Pneumococcal (pneumonia)

Infectious diseases such as measles, chicken pox and whooping cough can spread quickly among babies and children who have not had their shots. That is why it is so important to vaccinate all children. Vaccines are proven to be safe and effective.

Children who are fully vaccinated by age 2 are protected against 14 harmful diseases.

Follow these steps to make sure your child is up to date

1. Schedule regular checkups as recommended by your child's healthcare provider.
2. Ask your child's healthcare provider about the vaccines your child needs.
3. Obtain a new South Carolina Certificate of Immunization every time your child has a shot
4. Give a copy of the new South Carolina Certificate of Immunization to your childcare provider.

New Requirements for 2020

All children born on or after January 1, 2019, will need two hepatitis A shots for childcare attendance. Hepatitis A vaccine is given starting at age 12 months, followed by a second shot six months later. Talk to your child's healthcare provider at your child's next visit.

You can also get your child's vaccines at South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control health departments. For an appointment, call 855-472-3432.

HI,025708 5/19



Mildly Ill and Sick Policy

At C.A.R.E. Academy, the health and well-being of every child is our top priority. To maintain a safe environment, we kindly request your cooperation in adhering to our illness policy.

If your child is not feeling well, we ask that you find alternate care. This includes situations where your child exhibits any of the following symptoms:

- Fever of 100.4°F at the forehead
- Severe coughing/sneezing
- Vomiting or diarrhea beyond typical infant spit-ups or upset stomach
- Conjunctivitis (pink eye) in the contagious stages
- Unusual loss of appetite, fatigue, irritability, or headache
- Consistent complaints of ear or stomach pain
- Bleeding other than minor cuts and scrapes
- Communicable diseases (measles, mumps, chickenpox, etc.)
- Excessive colored discharge from eyes or nose
- Head lice
- Unexplainable rash
- Flu symptoms
- COVID-19 symptoms

In general, if your child is too sick to go outside and play, they are too sick to attend childcare. If your child becomes ill during care, we will contact you at work and request immediate pick-up.

Children must be fever-free for at least 24 hours without medication before returning to the Academy.

For vomiting/diarrhea, exclusion from the program is required if one or more episodes occur within the previous 24 hours. If vomiting occurs during the school day, parents will be called for immediate pick-up.

If your child has a common cold (slight cough, sneezing, clear runny nose, and a temperature below 100 degrees), they may attend school. However, if your child requires constant attention, won't play, cries continuously, or whines, please keep them at home.

Please administer medication at home whenever possible. For on-site dispensing, fill out the Administration of Medication Form. All medications must be in original containers with the pharmacist's label.

Certain conditions do not require exclusion from childcare if the child feels well enough to participate in regular activities. These conditions include canker sores, colds or coughs without fever, ear infections, and others listed in our policy.

Regarding Flu/COVID-19, we follow CDC Guidelines:

Children over 2 wear masks and have temperatures taken.

- Parents drop off and pick up outside the center.
- Handwashing and mask-wearing are mandatory for parents and visitors.
- Teachers wash hands, take temperatures, and wear masks in close contact with children.
- Limited toys are used and sanitized after each use.
- Classrooms are regularly disinfected.

In the event of a center closure due to flu or Covid-10 outbreak, parents are obligated to promptly collect their children within the specified timeframe. Furthermore, parents must ensure that their children undergo testing for flu/Covid-19 if they have been exposed. It is mandatory to email the test results to info@careacademyschools.com with subject line: "Test Results to Return_Child's First and Last Name."

Your understanding and cooperation in following these policies contribute to a healthy and safe environment for all children at C.A.R.E. Academy and is highly appreciated.

Discipline Policy

Policy Statement

Praise and positive reinforcement are effective methods of behavior management of children. When children receive positive, nonviolent, and understanding interactions from adults and others, they develop good self-concepts, problem solving abilities, and self-discipline. Based on this belief, C.A.R.E. Academy uses a positive approach to discipline and practices the following discipline and behavior management techniques.

WE DO

- Communicate to children using positive statements.
- Communicate with children on their level.
- Talk with children in a calm quiet manner.
- Explain unacceptable behavior to children.
- Give attention to children for positive behavior.
- Praise and encourage the children.
- Reason with and set limits for the children.
- Apply rules consistently.
- Model appropriate behavior.
- Set up the classroom environment to prevent problems.
- Provide alternatives and redirect children to acceptable activity.
- Give children opportunities to make choices and solve problems.
- Help children talk out problems and think of solutions.
- Listen to children and respect the children's needs, desires and feelings.
- Provide appropriate words to help solve conflicts.
- Use storybooks and discussion to work through common conflicts.

Corporal Punishment

Corporal punishment is the use of physical force to the body as a discipline measure. Corporal punishment is physical force to the body that includes but is not limited to:

Spanking	Slapping	Biting
Shaking	Jerking children by the arms	Dragging children by their legs
Pinching	Hitting	Kicking
Shoving	Hair pulling	Ear pulling

WE DO NOT

- Inflict corporal punishment in any manner upon a child. (Corporal punishment is defined as the use of physical force to the body as a discipline measure. Physical force to the body includes, but is not limited to, spanking, hitting, shaking, biting, pinching, pushing, pulling, or slapping.)
- Use any strategy that hurts, shames, or belittles a child.
- Use any strategy that threatens, intimidates, or forces a child.

- Use food as a form of reward or punishment.
- Use or withhold physical activity as a punishment. 8/28/2014
- Shame or punish a child if a bathroom accident occurs.
- Embarrass any child in front of others.
- Compare children.
- Place children in a locked and/or dark room.
- Leave any child alone, unattended or without supervision.
- Allow discipline of a child by other children.
- Criticize, make fun of, or otherwise belittle a child's parents, families, or ethnic groups.

**SC Child Care Licensing Law prohibits the use of corporal punishment on any child in a childcare setting. This includes the owner and employees whose child(ren) is enrolled in the program, and any parent of an enrolled child who might discipline their child before leaving the premises of the program.

Child Maltreatment

Child maltreatment includes all types of abuse and neglect of a child under the age of 18 by a parent, caregiver, or another person in a custodial role (e.g., clergy, coach, teacher). There are four common types of abuse. They are sexual, physical, emotional and neglect. The following are examples (but not limited to) of abuse and neglect that may occur in a childcare setting:

Physical harm	Withholding food
Withholding water	Withholding restroom use
Verbally threatening a child	Yelling at a child
Shaming	Inappropriate discipline such as washing a child's mouth out with soap

Conferences will be scheduled with parents if particular disciplinary problems occur. If a child's behavior consistently endangers the safety of the children around him/her, then the Director has the right, after meeting with the parents and documenting behavior problems and interventions, to terminate child care services for that particular child.

Note: If, at any point, there is an indication/suspicion that a child may have special needs, C.A.R.E Academy will inform the child's family and make contact with Baby Net and Child Find for assessment and assistance.

Staff Training

C.A.R.E. Academy prohibits the use or corporal punishment and maltreatment of children by staff regardless of the type of relationship the employee has to the child. The program provides employees with behavioral strategies and support through training and technical assistance that promotes positive guidance practices. Staff, read, agree and implement the policy, which is signed annually.

Staff are trained throughout the year on positive guidance practices using conscious discipline and AI's Pals.

Strategies used start with redirection, breathing techniques, classroom jobs and quiet time in the calming corner.

Outside agencies such as CCRR, SC Inclusion Collaborative and the Peer network are utilized to provide technical assistance to C.A.R.E. Academy's staff related to positive guidance.

As a parent of C.A.R.E. Academy, I have been informed, read, understand, and agree to implement/abide by the Discipline and Child Maltreatment policy as written. Our program understands that non-compliance with this policy can result in adverse actions.

Nutrition Policy

Policy Statement

Good nutrition is vital to children's overall development and well-being. In an effort to provide the best possible nutrition environment for the children in our facility, C.A.R.E Academy has developed the following childcare nutrition policies to encourage the development of good eating habits that will last a lifetime.

Child Care Nutrition

C.A.R.E Academy follows the childcare nutrition guidelines recommended by USDA CACFP (Child and Adult Care Food Program) for all the foods we serve. To provide a healthy and balanced diet that includes fruits, vegetables, and whole grains and limits foods and beverages that are high in sugar, and/or fat, our nutrition policy includes the following:

Fruits and Vegetables

We serve fruit at least 2 times a day. We offer a vegetable other than white potatoes at least once a day.

Grains

- We serve whole grains foods at least once a day,

Beverages

- We limit juice intake to once per day in a serving size specified for the child's age group. When served, the juice is 100% fruit juice.
- We do not serve sugar sweetened beverages; we serve only 1% milk to children aged 2 years and older.

Fats and Sugars

- High fats meats, such as bologna, bacon, and sausage, are served no more than two times per week.
- Fried or pre-fried vegetables, including potatoes, are served no more than once per week.
- We limit sweet food items to no more than two per week.

Role of staff In Nutrition Education

- Staff provide opportunities for children to learn about nutrition 1 time per week or more.
- Staff act as role models for healthy eating in front of the children.
- Meal and snack times are planned so that no child will go more than four hours without being offered food. We provide a variety of nutritionally balanced, high-quality foods each day so **please do not send your child with outside food and drinks.**

Weekly Menus

Our weekly menus are carefully planned to follow childcare nutrition guidelines at every meal. Each menu is designed to provide a wide variety of nutritious foods that are different in color, shape, size, and texture. All of our childcare menus include food that are culturally diverse and seasonally appropriate. We also like to introduce new and different foods and include children's favorite recipes in our menu planning. Menus are rotated on a 4-week basis to provide the children with a balance of variety and familiarity. Menus are adapted to incorporate local and fresh in-season produce when available.

Nutrition and Punishment

Staff will never use food as a reward or as a punishment.

Celebrations

From birthday parties to holidays there are many opportunities for celebrations in our childcare center. **If you would like to recognize your child's actual birthday, we request that you not send in treats or goody bags but instead send a birthday book.** For holiday celebrations, a sign-up sheet with specific foods and beverages will be placed on the classroom door.

Special Dietary Accommodations

Accommodation of special dietary requirements based on physical, religious, or cultural beliefs should begin before a child is enrolled in our program. Parents may be asked to provide food that aligns with the dietary requirements. C.A.R.E. Academy will be sure to comply with all preferences.

If your child should have a special dietary accommodation, we ask that you review our online menu's at the beginning of each month and send us an email at info@careacademyschools.com, Subject: Meal Alternative, to discuss any items you may have a concern with in advance of that meal, so that we may work together in providing an alternative.

Professional Development

Annual nutrition training is required to ensure that all staff understand the important role nutrition plays in the overall well-being of children.

Child Care Physical Activity

Policy Statement

C.A.R.E. Academy recognizes the importance of physical activity for young children. Implementation of appropriate physical activity practices supports the health and development of children in care and at home, as well as assisting in establishing positive lifestyle habits for the future.

Physical Activity in Child Care

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that children in care and at home are supported and encouraged to engage in active play, develop fundamental movement skills and to have limited screen time. Our center encourages all children to participate in a variety of daily physical activity opportunities that are appropriate for their age, that are fun and that offer variety. To promote physical activity and provide all children with numerous opportunities for physical activity throughout the day C.A.R.E Academy will:

Daily Outdoor Play

- Encourage a least restrictive, safe environment for infants and toddlers at all times.
- Provide a designated safe outdoor area for infants (ages 0-12 months) for daily outdoor play.
- Provide toddlers (ages 1 through 2 years old) with at least 60-90 minutes of daily outdoor active play opportunities across 2 or 3 separate occasions.
- Provide preschoolers and school age children (ages 3 through 12 years old) with at least 90-120 minutes of daily outdoor active play opportunities across 2 or 3 separate occasions.
- Increase indoor active play time so that total amount of active play time remains the same if weather limits outdoor time.
- Provide a variety of play materials (both indoors and outdoors) that promote physical activity.

Role of Staff in Physical Activity

- Will encourage children to be physically active indoors and outdoors at appropriate times.
- Will provide 5-10 minutes of planned physical activities at least 2 times daily for children aged 1 or older.

Screen Time Limitations

- Not permit screen time (e.g., television, movies, video games and computers) for infant and children under two years and younger. Limit screen time for children two years and older.

Physical Activity and Punishment

Staff members do not withhold opportunities for physical activity (e.g., not being permitted to play with the rest of the class or being kept from play time), except when a child's behavior is dangerous to himself or others. Staff members never use physical activity or exercise as punishment, e.g., doing pushups or running laps. Play time or other opportunities for physical activity are never withheld to enforce the completion of learning activities or academic work: Our center uses appropriate alternate strategies as consequences for negative or undesirable behaviors.

Appropriate Dress for Physical Activity

C.A.R.E. Academy has a Ready to Play Policy! Please bring your child ready to play and have fun each day. Your child will participate in both indoor play and outdoor play. Therefore, play clothes and shoes which can get dirty and allow for free and safe movement are most appropriate. We expect parents to provide children with appropriate clothing for safe and active outdoor play during all seasons.

For safety, children cannot wear open-toe shoes, sandals, or flip-flops. In winter, provide a warm jacket, snowsuit, hat, mittens, and boots. In spring and fall, provide a jacket or sweater, and boots and rain jacket on rainy days. In summer, provide light clothing, swimsuit, towel, hat, and sunscreen. Please label all outer garments with your child's name!

It is our expectation that children will go outside EVERYDAY! If you feel your child is too sick to go outside, then he/she is too sick to be at the childcare center. We request that you keep him/her at home until they are well enough to go outside.

Physical Activity and Families

C.A.R.E. Academy will provide for its parents yearly Education on Physical Activity and screen time, to help assist with Physical Activity in the center and at home.

Professional Development

Annual training on promotion of children's movement and physical activity is required for all staff.

Policy & Procedure – Transportation

Policy

The safety of children, passengers and the driver are of utmost importance in transportation provided by the program. All transportation will comply with state motor vehicle licensing requirements and traffic regulations. Staff drivers will meet job and staff qualifications, have evidence of a safe driving record for a minimum of the previous 5 years, have a DOT medical certificate and pass a background check and drug test. Only insured, registered, well-maintained vehicles will be used to transport children and the number of passengers will not exceed the vehicle manufacturer's recommendation. All children transported by the program will have completed signed Transportation Permission forms; children without permission forms will be refused transportation. Smoking, alcohol, drugs and any substances or materials that could be considered harmful to or inappropriate for children are prohibited in transportation vehicles at all times.

Responsibility & Accountability

- The Director is responsible for enforcing this policy.
- The driver is responsible for maintaining the safety and cleanliness of the vehicle.
- Teachers are responsible for enforcing this policy during drop-off and pick-up and on field trips.

Procedure

Transportation Permission forms for regular transportation to and from the program will be completed, signed, and returned to the office with enrollment forms. Teachers will obtain completed, signed Transportation Permission forms for all field trips.

Children will never be left unattended in a vehicle, even for brief periods. An adult will accompany all children to and from vehicles to ensure safe passage. On trips departing from the program, children will be counted when entering the vehicle and again when entering the facility in both directions. Proper restraint systems, seat belts, car seats and booster seats will be used as required by state law. Parents may be required to provide a car or booster seat for field trips. Staff will ensure that car and booster seats are installed properly and that restraint systems are fastened securely. Children with special needs will have their needs attended to during transportation as outlined in their Care Plan. All travel routes will be planned in advance. A first aid kit, cell phone and list of emergency contacts will be in the vehicle while transporting children. Other than in cases of emergency, the driver is not permitted to talk on, text or otherwise use a cell phone, tablet, laptop, or other electronic device while operating the vehicle. The Director will conduct an annual background and driving record check on staff drivers.

Regulations & Training

Transportation (1) If the center provides or arranges for transportation through contract, the following transportation requirements apply:(a) The staffing ratios specified in 114-504.B.(1) through (3) apply. The driver of the vehicle shall not be counted in the ratios for infants or toddlers.(b) Each child shall be secured in an individual, age-appropriate safety restraint at all times the vehicle is in motion.(c) Safety restraints shall be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.(d) A child shall not be left unattended in a vehicle.(e) Transportation placement of children in the vehicle shall be in accordance with all applicable state and federal laws.(f) The driver shall have a valid regular or commercial driver's license and shall be in compliance with Section 63-13-40 of the South Carolina Code of Laws.(g) There shall be a first aid kit and emergency information on each child in the vehicle.(h) Use of tobacco products is prohibited in the vehicle.(i) Written consent from the parent is required prior to transportation.(j) When the facility provides transportation to and from the child's home, the facility staff shall be responsible for picking the child up and returning the child to a designated location.(k) The director and/or staff of the center shall provide the driver of the vehicle with a record that lists the name, address, and telephone number of the center, as well as names of children being transported.(2) The following requirements apply for safe pick-up and drop-off:

The center shall have safe crossways and pick-up and drop-off locations and communicate these locations to the parents. Children shall be directly supervised during boarding and exiting vehicles. (c) The director and/or staff shall have on file, in the facility, written permission from parent(s)/guardian(s) for transporting children to and from the home, school, or other designated places, including center-planned field trips and activities. (d) Written transportation plans for routine travel shall be on file. Plans shall include a checklist to account for the loading and unloading of children at every location.

No Smoking Policy

C.A.R.E. Academy is a smoke free facility. Smoking is not allowed on or near the premises. Infants and children, whose bodies are still developing, are especially likely to suffer adverse health effects when exposed to secondhand smoke. Eliminating smoking at all times on childcare premises is the only effective way to protect children in childcare from the hazards of secondhand smoke. We ask that if you are one who smokes, that you refrain from smoking before entering our facility as thirdhand smoke can affect the health of children in our center. Thirdhand smoke is residual contamination from cigarette smoke toxicants that can linger on surfaces long after cigarettes have been extinguished and can be found lingering on one's clothing. Infants and children are especially susceptible to thirdhand smoke exposure because of their immature respiratory and immune systems, lower metabolic capacity, and tendencies to crawl, play on, breathe near, touch, their mouths.

C.A.R.E. Academy teachers are prohibited from smoking on the premises and/or before entering the building. We ask that Parents do the same as smoking thus inadvertently jeopardizes the health of infants and children who come in contact with them. If you must smoke, we ask that you do it off the premises and be sure to change your clothing before entering the center.

Emergency Plan

On-site Evacuation: On Site Evacuation In the event that an emergency occurs at C.A.R.E. Academy and “on site evacuation” is necessary, the children will be relocated to Parking/Assembly Area. The children will remain here under the care and supervision of our childcare staff until dangerous conditions subside.

If children are exposed to toxic fumes or injured during the emergency, they will be transported to Roper St. Francis Hospital/MUSC by Emergency Vehicle where they will be examined by a health care professional and the parents/guardians will be contacted before transport.

Off-site Evacuation: In the event that an emergency occurs at C.A.R.E. Academy and “off-site evacuation” is necessary due to events such as a brush fire, flash flood, etc., the children will be relocated to Riverpoint Christian Academy. The children will remain at this alternate site under the care and supervision of our childcare staff while parents/guardians are contacted. When parents/guardians are contacted, they will be made aware of the situation and make arrangements to pick up their child.

If children are exposed to toxic fumes or injured during the emergency, they will be transported to Roper St. Francis Hospital/MUSC by Emergency Vehicle where they will be examined by a health care professional and the parents/guardians will be contacted before transport.

Lockdown Policy

- Lock outside doors and windows.
- Close and secure interior doors.
- Close any curtains or blinds.
- Turn off lights.
- Keep everyone away from doors and windows. Stay out of sight, preferably sitting on floor.
- Bring attendance sheets, first aid kits, pacifiers and other comforting items, and books to lockdown area, if possible.
- Maintain calm atmosphere in room by reading or talking quietly to children.
- If phone is available in classroom, call 911 to ensure emergency personnel have been notified.
- Remain in lockdown until the situation is resolved and either the Director or Emergency Personnel/Police Department official comes to the door.
- Notify parents/guardians about any lockdown, whether practice or real.

Firearms

Firearms and other weapons are not permitted in the building or any place on the premises.

WIC Feed Your Future South Carolina

WIC has the answers to all of these questions:

- What kind of food should your children be eating?
- Where can your children get immunizations (shots)?
- How can you learn more about breastfeeding?

WIC Helps:

- **Women:** Pregnant, recently pregnant, breastfeeding, or who have a new baby
- **Infants:** Newborn to age 1
- **Children:** Ages 1 to 5

WIC INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

Effective July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024

FAMILY SIZE	INCOME (185% POVERTY)		
	YEARLY	MONTHLY	WEEKLY
1	\$26,973	\$2,248	\$519
2	\$36,482	\$3,041	\$702
3	\$45,991	\$3,833	\$885
4	\$55,500	\$4,625	\$1,068
5	\$65,009	\$5,418	\$1,251
6	\$74,518	\$6,210	\$1,434
7	\$84,027	\$7,003	\$1,616
8	\$93,536	\$7,795	\$1,799
For each additional family member add:	\$9,509	\$793	\$183

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-2027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (800) 622-8862. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-6410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



Even if you are working, you might be eligible for healthy foods and personalized nutrition information.

To apply for WIC or make an appointment, call 1-855-4-SCDHEC (1-855-472-3432).

Visit scdhec.gov/wic.



Scan here for Pre-application



ML-025626 2023

Frequently Asked Questions

How May I contact CARE Academy?

Parents may contact CARE Academy through the Playground App, by email at info@careacadmyschools.com or by phone at 843-277-2177 or 843-793-2458.

What time does CARE Academy open and close?

CARE Academy opens at 6:30 am and closes at 5:30 pm. Children must be dropped off no later than 9 am, unless otherwise discussed.

Does CARE Academy provide breakfast and lunch?

CARE Academy provides Breakfast (8:30 am), Lunch (11:30 am-12:00 pm) and a PM Snack (2:45PM). Children must be present at 8:30 am to receive breakfast.

What day is payment required?

Payment is required on Friday by 6pm. Please keep up with your invoice on Playground.

Will I receive a late fee if my child is picked up after 5:30pm?

Yes, if your child is picked up after 6pm, you will receive a late fee of \$2 per minute you are late. This policy stands even if the center is contacted regarding late pick up.

What is the Tuition Payment Late Fee?

The late payment fee is \$50 per instance and must be paid with the current's week tuition.

Does CARE Academy take Debit/Credit Cards?

Yes, CARE Academy does take Debit/Credit Cards using Playground online with a debit/credit card. Processing Fees apply.

Does CARE Academy provide diapers and wipes?

CARE Academy provides diapers and wipes (sizes 1 to 6) to all children who are not yet potty trained. Pullups are not included and must be provided by the parent. If pull ups/ underwear is not provided, and diapers are used, there will be a \$5 charge assessed to your weekly tuition.

Is my child allowed to bring in outside food?

Outside food is only allowed for families who have physical, religious, or cultural beliefs. Please do not drop children off with breakfast, send in lunch or snack, as there is not enough to share.

Should I take my child's cup/bottle home every day?

No, each child should have a cup/bottle that stays at school. This prevents the absence of a cup, should a parent forget and leave it home.

Can my child have any type of Mat to sleep on?

All mats must have a wipeable vinyl surface and will be provided by CARE Academy.

May I purchase a sheet for my child's mat?

Yes, you may purchase a sheet for your child's mat. Parents will be responsible for taking sheets and blankets home on Fridays to wash.

Does CARE Academy have a multi-child discount?

Yes, CARE Academy does have a multi-child discount. The 5% discount only applies to full time families and is applied to the eldest or first child. Families who receive ABC Vouchers or are in a part-time status are not afforded multi-child discounts.

Does CARE Academy have a military discount?

Yes, CARE Academy does have a military discount of 5%. Must present Military ID. This discount only applies to full time families, active duty, or reservist.

What if I have multiple children and I am in the military?

Only one discount applies to full time families at a time.

When will my child transition to the Butterfly Building?

All children who enter the pre-school room must be at least 2.5 years of age, **fully** potty trained and be developmentally ready when space is available.

Does CARE Academy offer a tuition free vacation week?

Yes, CARE Academy does offer one free vacation week per year to full time families and is given during Charleston County Schools Districts Spring Break.

Where might I find the Authorization of Medicine Form?

The Authorization of Medicine form may be found on Playground.

Is CARE Academy allowed to administer Tylenol or Motrin to my child?

Please refer to the Administration of Medicine Policy in the Parent Handbook.

Does CARE Academy offer transportation?

CARE Academy only offers transportation for before and after schoolers and Montessori Community school at this time.

C.A.R.E Academy Butterflies

Why the Butterfly you ask?

Metamorphosis is the magic that butterflies can teach us. Change ensures growth in children. Children give birth to ideas, activities, or qualities. Ideas and creativity need to be shaped, formed, developed and honed in children. Once the foundations are laid, our children will emerge and shine when conditions are right, just as the butterfly does. Our children's ideas and activities will only flourish on a higher level when conditions are right. C.A.R.E will provide the right atmosphere for our children to learn and flourish.

Symbolism and Power

The Butterfly represents the mind and our ability to change it when necessary. Butterflies represent the never-ending cycle of life; therefore, its medicine bestows not only the ability, but the clarity of mind needed before self-transformation. Each child as they learn will transform into someone great and will be a life- long learner, which is our mission.



Butterflies appear to dance as they flutter among the flowers. They remind us not to take things so seriously within our lives. They awaken a sense of lightness and joy. They remind us to get up and move, for if you do not move, you cannot dance.

Butterflies bring color and joy with them as do our children. The butterfly will teach you that growth and change do not have to be traumatic. Change can occur as gently and as joyfully as one wishes. Our children will have fun as they learn and will spread that joy of life to everyone they come in contact with. Through song and dance, children will learn and have fun, so the joy is shown on each and every one of their faces.



C.A.R.E. Academy LLC
2507 Ashley River Road
Charleston, SC 29414
843-277-2177 phone
843-789-4683 fax
Careacademyschools.com (website) info@careacademyschools.com
(email)