



School for Little Children

Student Handbook

We are pleased to have your child as a member of our School for Little Children family. The purpose of our School is to provide, within a nurturing Christian environment, the highest quality of education and care. To that end, programs and activities are offered to enhance the positive spiritual, intellectual, physical and emotional development of each individual child. School for Little Children was established as a children's ministry of Longview First United Methodist Church in September of 1958 and continues its tradition of excellence in providing early childhood education and care for Longview area children.

This handbook provides a ready reference concerning SFLC operational and discipline policies, school procedures and general information.

Please feel free to contact us at any time if further questions arise.

Thank you for choosing School for Little Children for your child's education and care.

Dallas Lemmon, Director
Sherel Conklin, Nursery Director

“And now, little children, abide in Him...”
1 John 2:28

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ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE, HOURS OF OPERATION

School For Little Children is open from 7:15 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Program hours are as follows:

FALL/SPRING

Early Birds 7:15 a.m.- 8:30 a.m.
Morning Academic Classes. 8:45 a.m.-12:00 noon
Afternoon Enrichment (A.E.) Classes . . . 12:00 noon-6:00 p.m.
Morning Carpool. 8:30 a.m.-8:45 a.m.
(NO CARPOOL DROP-OFF/PICK-UP DURING SUMMER, AFTERNOON ENRICHMENT HOURS OR INTERSESSION)

SUMMER

“Sensational Summer” Program . . . 7:15 a.m.- 6:00 p.m.

“Awesome August” Program . . . 7:15 a.m.- 6:00 p.m. (Fulltime students only)

INFANTS/TODDLERS (ALL YEAR) 7:15 a.m.- 6:00 p.m.

SIGN-IN FOR ALL CHILDREN. 7:15 a.m.- 8:30 a.m. Early Bird Class
8:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m. sign in at the classroom

All Children accompanied into the building by a parent (or adult in charge) must be signed in at the classroom.

For Departures, a parent must sign out the child at the classroom with time and initials.

Infants & Toddlers – The parent takes the child to a designated room in the Nursery (no carpool available).

Late Charges - The following charges apply when children are picked up late:

Academic - \$3.00 after 12:15 p.m.
(Afternoon Enrichment drop-in rate applies if the child is picked up after 1:00 p.m.)

Afternoon Enrichment: \$2.00 per minute after 6:00 p.m. closing

Release of Children - Please notify the school when an emergency arises. The school will release a student to only those persons listed on the authorization form completed by the parent. Persons picking up your child may be required to show identification.

If a child goes home with another student or parent the office must be notified. No student will be released without permission from the parent.

ATTENDANCE

PLEASE SEE THAT YOUR CHILD ARRIVES ON TIME EACH DAY SO THAT HE/SHE MAY FULLY PARTICIPATE IN ALL ACTIVITIES. If your child will be absent, please call the school office and his/her teacher will be notified.

AFTERNOON ENRICHMENT CLASSES

Afternoon Enrichment classes are offered from 12:00 - 6:00 p.m. and are available for students in 2's - Kindergarten morning classes. During afternoon enrichment, children play on the playground, eat lunch, rest, and participate in classroom activities. Every Wednesday afternoon, kindergarten students will participate in easel art. After rest time, children participate in science, art activities and afternoon music classes.

Lunches - Lunch is considered an important learning time in which good manners and positive social skills are emphasized. All children must bring a lunch in a labeled lunch kit. Nutritious foods (no candy, marshmallows or soft drinks) are encouraged. The school provides milk and water for each child.

Rest Time - Per Minimum Standards, all classes are required to have a designated afternoon rest time. Children in Toddlers, 2's, 3's, and Pre K classes must have a durable rest mat, no larger than 24" x 48", four-fold, and two colored. Mats are stored at the school. The school does not sell mats, but they may be purchased at local stores. If the mat becomes ripped or torn, you will be asked to replace the mat per minimum standards.

Drop-Ins - Afternoon Enrichment class drop-ins are accepted on a space-available basis, only for Academic days that your child is enrolled. Reservations are to be made through the SFLC office. See the Tuition Information sheet for rates.

Extracurricular Classes – Afternoon Enrichment students may enroll in on-site extracurricular classes during days registered for afternoon care.

In accordance with Texas State Licensing, students will be signed out of School for Little Children by a representative from the organization the parent has approved. Upon completing class, the child will be signed back into School for Little Children. While the child is signed out of School for Little Children and in care of the extracurricular program, the school is not responsible for the child. All extracurricular activities will be conducted on FUMC/SFLC premises.

Students in 3's, Pre-K, and Kindergarten classes, depending on availability, may enroll in Dance, Gymnastics and TOT (Teams of Tomorrow).

Students in pre-kindergarten and Kindergarten classes, depending on availability, may also enroll in art and piano classes.

Days and times will be announced prior to the beginning of the school year. All Extracurricular classes require an additional registration fee and monthly fee. SFLC tuition payments must be up-to-date in order for students to participate in extracurricular classes.

BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT POLICY

A major goal of the School for Little Children program is to ensure the physical, emotional and spiritual well-being of each student. We strive to minimize the occurrence of problematic behaviors by maintaining a low child-teacher ratio and by providing activities that are appropriate to the developmental levels and interests of each age group. We believe that a teamwork approach involving parents, teachers and children is the most effective way to encourage positive student behavior. In dealing with any behavior issues that might arise, we adhere to the following policies:

1. Positive approaches to behavior management will be the first strategies, including the use of positive suggestions, redirecting the child to appropriate activities and praise for appropriate behaviors.
2. Time-out procedures may be used if the above procedures are ineffective. This may involve a designated time-out place within the classroom. The time spent in time-out will be limited to one minute for each year of the child's age. Any child put in time-out will be monitored during the period.
3. If classroom time-out procedures are ineffective, the child may be given a short time-out in the school office. Their child will be under adult supervision at all times.
4. If the above procedures continue to be ineffective, the parents will be asked to meet with the teacher and/or school director to discuss the behavior and determine a plan for improvement.
5. If the School for Little Children Director and classroom teacher determine they are unable to manage the behavior of a child and/or the behavior presents a serious risk of injury to the child, other children enrolled in the program and/or the staff, then the child may be dismissed from the School for Little Children program.
6. The Director retains the right to disenroll a child when it is in the best interest of the child or other children in the school.
7. No physical discipline by a staff member or parent involving striking, hitting, slapping, biting a child or placing anything in the child's mouth will be used. No child will be humiliated, ridiculed, rejected or yelled at while being disciplined. No child will be subjected to harsh, abusive or profane language. Parents may not use physical discipline (spanking, etc.) while on the school/church premises.

Parents and School for Little Children staff members agree to adhere to the above policy.

CAMERAS

SFLC has video cameras in all hallways and outdoor areas of the church. No video cameras are in SFLC or FUMC classrooms.

CARPOOL

School for Little Children carpool is a drop-off/pick-up service provided for children, two's – Kindergarten, who arrive at school between the hours of 8:30 a.m. - 8:45 a.m. and depart between 11:55 a.m.-12:10 p.m. Carpool is available during the Academic School Year ONLY.

HOW DOES IT WORK

Beginning at 8:30 a.m. each morning, SFLC staff members will be stationed at the circle driveway to open car doors and escort children inside the building. Additional staff members will sign the children in and escort them to their classrooms. Promptly at 8:45 a.m. when class begins, carpool staff will return to their morning assignments, ending the carpool drop-off time. To pick up your child using the carpool service, you must have the school provided name card attached to your rearview mirror. At 11:55 a.m., children will line up in the school hallway and names will be called as parents (or other persons designated by a parent) arrive. Exit your vehicle and come to the designated pickup area. On rainy days, children will be unloaded and picked up under

the church office covered driveway. CHILDREN ARE FULLY SUPERVISED DURING CARPOOL DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP TIMES.

WHY DO WE OFFER CARPOOL?

SFLC offers the carpool service to help YOU! You may remain in the car to drop off your child for academic classes. This will help your child make a positive transition from home to school. Of course, you are always invited to park your car in our north parking lot and escort your child to his/her classroom – but please be on time, so that your child doesn't miss a minute of his/her day at school. **Academic classes begin promptly at 8:45 a.m.**

CARPOOL INSTRUCTIONS:

For your child's safety:

1. Staff will only unload from the curbside. Parents must unload any children behind the driver's seat.
2. Enter and exit the Church North parking lot from Green Street only! Place your name card on your rearview mirror.
3. Drive your car around the circle drive and pull up to the staff member standing farthest north, so that three or four cars can be unloaded at one time.
4. On rainy days, carpool will be under the covered driveway. Only two cars can be unloaded at a time, so carpool lines are longer on bad weather days.
5. Please honor the posted carpool times. Staff must be at their assigned classrooms at 8:45 am.

**** DO NOT LEAVE YOUR CAR UNATTENDED IN CIRCLE DRIVE. IT IS A NO PARKING FIRE LANE.**

CHAPEL

Weekly Chapel is an integral part of the School for Little Children program. Chapel services, consisting of songs, Bible stories, birthday recognition and worship, are held weekly in the Church sanctuary. A special Chapel is held in May to honor kindergarten students. Opportunities for spiritual growth are provided through a daily emphasis on Christian values and God's love.

CLOTHING

Your child's clothing should not be an obstacle to his/her enjoyment of school activities; therefore, please send him/her to school in comfortable, easy-to-manage clothes. For safety purposes, closed-toe tennis shoes are to be worn on the playground. Children participate in daily outdoor play and should be dressed appropriately for the weather. Warm clothing (coats, hats, mittens, etc.) should be worn on cold days. Jewelry, purses, umbrellas, toys, treasures, belts, and sunglasses can be major distractions for young children and can easily get lost. Please leave them at home. All children must have a change of clothes, labeled with their name, in a plastic bag at school at all times. Please send a summer set and a winter set of extra clothing.

CLEARLY LABEL ALL ITEMS BELONGING TO YOUR CHILD.

COMMUNICATION

Parents are always welcome to visit School for Little Children at any time (7:15 a.m.-6:00 p.m.) Monday-Friday without having to secure prior approval. We welcome constructive comments and suggestions and

hope that you will feel free to contact the school whenever concerns arise. We believe that communication between the home and school is essential to the well-being of the child.

The school calendar provides information to parents concerning upcoming events and classroom information. Parent notes and children's work are sent home on a regular basis and we ask that you check your child's backpack, school bag or communication folder daily. Communication sheets are provided for written comments from parents and teachers. Information bulletin boards are located in classrooms and Parent Information Boards are located in the main hallway.

From time to time, during school hours, photographs may be taken of students by teachers and staff while the children are engaged in school activities. We may display these photographs on our website or in other print or video media. If SFLC chooses to display the names of the children in any picture, the child's full name will not be used. By signing the Handbook Signature Page, you are giving SFLC consent to display your child's image on any SFLC related media. If at any time you do not want SFLC to display an image of your child in a photograph or in any SFLC related media, SFLC requires that you let the office know in writing. Parents will be notified in writing about any and all policy changes. Your signature must be on file stating that you have been advised of the change.

SFLC has a Facebook page. Please check it for announcements and information. Please do not post photos of children's SFLC classmates on social media sites.

CONFERENCES

Parent/Teacher Conferences are scheduled with the Academic teacher by appointment twice a year. Teachers are advised to conduct conferences only at appointed times so that classes may be adequately supervised. If you wish to schedule a conference with your child's teacher at any time during the school year, you are welcome to call the school office to make an appointment

EARLY BIRDS

The school provides "Early Bird" care for an additional fee from 7:15 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. Parents must escort the child to the appropriate Early Bird classroom and sign in using the child's first and last name, with time and the parent's initials. Children three and older will be escorted to the appropriate playground, weather permitting, at approximately 8:00 a.m. Breakfast is not allowed on the playground. No reservations are necessary for Early Birds. Early Bird charges will be included in the following month's tuition bill. Early Bird fees are included in the five-day full care tuition rate.

WATER PLAY

Sprinkler water play may take place during the spring and summer. You will be notified in advance of these activities. SFLC does not allow swimming pools filled with water at any time.

FIELD TRIPS

In order for a student to participate in field trips, a written release **must be signed by the parent.** Parents are notified in advance of field trips and any related fees. Field trip announcements are posted outside of the classroom and/or on the parent bulletin board.

GANG-FREE ZONE

House Bill 2086 which passed during the 81st Legislature, Regular Session, Chapter 42 of the Human Resource Code includes section 42.064, effective September 1, 2009. This statute requires that information about gang-free zones be available to parents and guardians of children in care at licensed childcare centers. School For Little Children is a Gang-Free Zone. For more information about our Gang-Free Zone policy, please see our SFLC Office Information board.

HEALTH/ IMMUNIZATIONS/ ILLNESS/ MEDICATIONS & MEDICAL EMERGENCIES **GUIDELINES**

Health Statement - On or before the first day of attendance, all children enrolled in SFLC must have on file a current health form, completed and signed by a licensed physician within the past year indicating the child is able to take part in the childcare program. A health statement must be on file upon admission to the school.

Immunizations - All immunizations required for the child's age must be completed by the date of admission, as published by the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services Minimum Standard Rules for Licensed Child Care Centers, which must be met for each child. Students may not attend school unless immunizations are up-to-date.

If you wish to exempt your child from immunizations due to reasons of conscience, an Exemption Affidavit must be on file before being allowed to attend school.

The Vision and Hearing Screening Program, Chapter 36 of the Health and Safety Code, requires that all children 4 yrs. of age or older enrolled in school or child care centers in Texas must have a Vision and Hearing screen completed.

Teachers are not required to have vaccinations for preventable diseases.

CPR & First Aid- All SFLC staff members receive CPR and First Aid training and certification.

Illness - If your child displays symptoms of illness such as elevated temperature, rash, vomiting, diarrhea, sore throat, pain, or lethargy, please keep him/her at home. If such symptoms are observed at the school, the child will be isolated and parents immediately notified to pick him/her up as soon as possible.

The following types of illnesses would prohibit a child from attending school:

- If the illness prevents the child from participating comfortably in school activities including outdoor play.
- If the illness results in a greater need for care than caregivers can provide without compromising the health, safety and supervision of the other children.
- If the child has an elevated temperature, symptoms and signs of possible severe illness, such as lethargy, abnormal breathing, two or more episodes of uncontrolled diarrhea, vomiting, a rash with fever, mouth sores with drooling, behavior changes, or other signs that the child may be severely ill;

or a healthcare professional has diagnosed the child with a communicable disease, and the child does not have medical documentation to indicate that the child is no longer contagious.

- If a child's temperature is elevated to 100 degrees or higher when taken under the arm the parent will be called to pick up the child.
- If the child is sent home with an elevated temperature, he/she must be free of fever for **no less than 24 hours without fever reducing medication.**
- If the child is sent home with two or more episodes of diarrhea or any vomiting, he/she must be free of diarrhea or vomiting for **no less than 24 hours.**
- If your child has a contagious childhood disease, please let us know so that we can communicate the information to other parents. Please refer to the Illness and Medication Guidelines. This policy is in place to promote the safety and well-being of all School for Little Children students and staff.
- SFLC must follow the guidelines, recommendations, protocols and procedures given by the Gregg County Health Department and the Texas Department of Health and Human Services, Child Care Licensing.

Prescriptions/ Dispensing of Medications – Medication means (A) a prescription medication or (B) a non - prescription medication.

Authorization to administer medication to a child must be obtained from the child's parent by the following:

- A completed form in writing, signed and dated
- an electronic format that is capable of being viewed and saved (fax or email)
- by telephone to administer a single dose of a medication.

Medication forms are available in the School Office.

Authorization to administer medication expires at the end of each semester. The child's parent may not authorize the school to administer medication in excess of the medication's label instructions or the directions of the child's healthcare professional. Parent authorization is not required if the school needs to administer medication to a child in a medical emergency to prevent the death or serious bodily injury of the child, provided that the school administers the medication as prescribed, directed or intended.

Medication must be given as stated on the label directions or as amended in writing by the child's healthcare professional. Medication must be in the original container labeled with the child's full name and the date brought to the operation. Medication must be administered only to the child for whom it is intended and not be administered after its expiration date. Directions and time(s) for administration must be clearly written on the medication form. Over-the-counter medication may only be administered in amounts according to the label directions or as amended by a physician.

SFLC personnel will administer medication. All prescription and over-the-counter medications must be brought to the School for Little Children Office by the parent. SFLC personnel will only administer medication

during lunch hours. Parents are to give the 1st medication of the day in the morning and/or if needed after school at home. The only exceptions will be approved by the Director.

Prescription and over-the-counter medications may not be stored in the classrooms, including children's cubbies, backpacks, etc. Exceptions to this rule are diaper creams, insect repellent and sunscreen; these will be stored in the child's classroom. Staff may not administer diaper creams, insect repellent, and sunscreen unless the parent completes a written authorization form.

PLEASE DO NOT SEND ANY TYPE OF MEDICINE INCLUDING TOPICAL CREAMS IN YOUR CHILD'S BAG OR BACKPACK.

Medical Emergencies - If critical illness or injury requires the immediate attention of a physician, we will:

- Contact emergency medical services or take the child to the nearest emergency room.
- Give the child first-aid treatment and CPR when needed.
- Contact the physician identified.
- Contact the child's parent.
- Ensure supervision of other children in the group.

DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS

Children with disabilities and special needs will learn alongside their peers in an inclusive learning environment. The teacher will adapt planned activities for all children to meet their cognitive, communicative and social-emotional development needs while in their care. School for Little Children will make reasonable accommodations for special needs students. The accommodations must be recommended by health-care professionals, local school districts or early childhood intervention programs. Medical situations and circumstances will require a meeting with the director to evaluate the center's ability to adequately care for your child. The director retains the right to unenroll a student if the director and classroom teacher determine that the student's care and/or needs exceed the staff's ability and/or training to properly care for the student.

ALLERGY ACTION PLANS

Allergies - All children with a known allergy must indicate such an allergy on the SFLC student application. All allergies will require an action plan (the only exception may be seasonal allergies). The Allergy Action plan for severe allergies that require an epi-pen must be signed by the prescribing doctor and the parent. The Allergy Action plan and medication must be on file with SFLC before admittance to school.

INFANT AND TODDLER CLASSES

Classes are provided for Infants ages six weeks to one year of age and Toddlers ages 12-23 months. Infant and Toddler class hours are 7:15 a.m.- 6:00 p.m. daily. You will be asked to complete an information sheet to inform teachers of your child's specific needs. Parents furnish diapers, wipes, food/formula/breastmilk, pacifiers, diaper ointment and changes of clothing.

A place for mothers to nurse their babies is provided by the school. An adult-sized chair is also available for the mother's comfort.

School for Little Children allows breast milk to be sent to the classroom in a bottle labeled with the child's name ready to be warmed for feeding.

Music class is offered for Infants; Toddler classes attend Music and Motor Development classes and Chapel.

OPERATIONAL POLICY ON INFANT SAFE SLEEP

Purpose: This form provides the required information per minimum standards 746.501(9) and 7474.501(6) for the safe sleep policy.

Parents must review this policy upon enrolling their infant at School for Little Children. Parents can review information on safe sleep and reducing the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome/Sudden Unexpected Death Syndrome (SIDS/SUIDS) at:

<http://www.healthychildren.org/English/ages-stages/baby/sleep/Pages/A-Parents-Guide-to-Safe-Sleep.aspx>

SAFE SLEEP POLICY

All staff, substitute staff and volunteers at School for Little Children will follow these safe sleep recommendations of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) for infants to reduce the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome/Sudden Unexpected Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS/SUIDS):

- Always put infants to sleep on their backs unless you provide an Infant Sleep Exemption form 2710 signed by the infant's health care professional.
- Place infants on a firm mattress, with a tightly fitted sheet, in a crib that meets the CPSC federal requirements for full-size cribs and for non-full-size cribs.
- For infants who are younger than 12 months of age, cribs should be bare except for a tight-fitting sheet and a mattress cover or protector. Items that should not be placed in a crib include soft or loose bedding, such as blankets, quilts, or comforters; pillows; stuffed toys/animals; soft objects; bumper pads; liners or sleep positioning devices. Also, infants must not have their heads, faces or cribs covered at any time by items such as blankets, linens or clothing.
- Do not use sleep positioning devices, such as wedges or infant positioners. The AAP has found no evidence that these devices are safe. Their use may increase the risk of suffocation.
- Ensure that sleeping areas are ventilated and at a temperature that is comfortable for a lightly clothed adult.
- If an infant needs extra warmth, use sleep clothing as an alternative to blankets.
- Place only one infant in a crib to sleep.
- Infants may use a pacifier during sleep. But the pacifier must not be attached to a stuffed animal or the infant's clothing by a string, cord, or other attaching mechanism that might be a suffocation or strangulation risk.
- If the infant falls asleep in a restrictive device other than a crib such as a bouncy chair or swing, or arrives to care asleep in a car seat, move the infant to a crib immediately, unless you provide an Infant Sleep Exception form 2710 signed by the infant's health care professional.
- Our childcare program is smoke-free. Smoking is not allowed in Texas childcare operations. This includes e-cigarettes and any type of vaporizers.

- Actively observe sleeping infants by sight and sound.
- If an infant is able to roll back and forth from front to back, place the infant on the infant's back for sleep and allow the infant to assume a preferred sleep position.
- Awake infants will have supervised "tummy time" several times daily. This will help them strengthen their muscles and develop normally.
- Do not swaddle an infant for sleep or rest unless you provide an Infant Sleep Exception form 2710 by the infant's health care professional.

INTERSESSION CARE

Intersession Care is a service provided to parents needing childcare during periods when Academic/Summer programs are not in session. Reservations are to be made through the school office. Forms will be sent each semester for parents to reserve Intersession Care spaces.

Intersession Care fees apply and are posted on the Tuition Information Sheet. Full-time students (enrolled 7:15 a.m. - 6:00 p.m., Monday-Friday) are not charged extra for Intersession Care.

Intersession Care fees are in effect during the following periods (specific dates listed on the school Calendar):

1. Spring Break
2. Christmas / New Year Holidays

MORNING ACADEMIC CLASSES

Morning Academic classes are offered from 8:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. for students in 2's - Kindergarten classes. The academic class curriculum includes age-appropriate language arts, math, reading, social studies, and science classes. Two-year-old students attend Music and Motor Development classes. Three-year-olds through kindergarten classes attend Music, Creative Expression, Computer Lab, Spanish, and Motor/Montessori classes during the school week.

SNACKS/LUNCH

The school provides a healthy snack each morning and afternoon. Lunch is served to Toddler classes between 11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. For older classes, 2's – Kindergartens, only children participating in Afternoon Enrichment classes receive lunch, served between 12:00 p.m. - 12:30 p.m. Parents must send a lunch each day. Milk is provided by the school with all lunches. Water is also provided with lunch and all snacks. Lunches sent from home must include healthy choices; please limit dessert foods. Fruit, whole grains and vegetables are encouraged. Do not send sodas or caffeinated beverages. If you choose to provide meals/snacks from home, please understand that SFLC is not responsible for the nutritional value of the meal/snack or for meeting the child's daily food needs.

PARENTS' GROUP

An active Parents' Group provides vital support for School for Little Children. The Parents' Group sponsors parent programs and fund-raising activities and provides volunteer opportunities. All SFLC parents are automatically members of the Parents' Group and are encouraged to become involved with the school through

participating in Parent Group activities. Parents' Group meetings are held on a regular basis and are open to all SFLC parents. Meeting dates are listed on monthly calendars sent home with students.

PARTIES / BIRTHDAYS/SPECIAL EVENTS

Birthdays are special at SFLC and each child will be recognized at the Chapel service closest to his/her birthday. If parents wish to send a special birthday snack to school, please notify the teacher in **advance**. Please send enough snacks for each child in the class (muffins, sandwiches, fruit, cheese, etc.). If you wish for the teacher to distribute birthday party invitations, please send one for each child in the class.

Classroom parties are held in celebration of fall ("Pumpkin Parties" corresponding with Halloween date), *Christmas, Easter, and May/End-of-School, and are coordinated by volunteer room parents. Annual events include a school-wide Thanksgiving Feast, an evening Christmas Program for ages 3 through Kindergarten and Spring Parent Programs.

- *"Scary" ghosts, witches, and Halloween characters (with the exception of pumpkins) are not used as art activities, school decorations, party favors, etc., at School for Little Children.*

PESTICIDES

As part of our commitment to provide your child with a safe, pest - free learning environment, the American Exterminating company may periodically apply pesticides to help manage insects, weeds or pathogens. Pesticide applications on the SFLC property are made only by trained and licensed technicians. Should you have questions about this school's pest management program or wish to be notified in advance of pesticide applications, you may contact the school office.

PETS AND ANIMALS

Parents will be notified when animals visit the classroom. Per state licensing guidelines, children are not to have contact with chickens, ducks, or reptiles while at school.

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Physical activity and outdoor play promote:

- Healthy growth and development
- Better self-esteem
- Stronger bones, muscles, and joints
- Better posture and balance
- A stronger heart
- A healthier weight range
- Social interaction with friends
- Learning new skills while having fun
- Better focus and concentration during school

Playing outdoors is a form of exercise that promotes well-being and physical development. Active play outdoors allows children to explore their environment, develop muscle strength and coordination, gain self-confidence and social-emotional development.

Children aged infant through kindergarten in care from 7:15 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. will be given multiple daily opportunities for outdoor play, weather permitting.

- **Infants, newborns to 12 months** will be given the opportunity to go outside two times a day, As tolerated, to explore. Physical activity to help build shoulder and neck strength by use of “tummy time” and encouraging infants to reach, grasp, roll and crawl will be implemented each day.
- **13 months to 24 months** will have a minimum of two (30 minutes) outside playground times, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Activities will consist of both structured, teacher-initiated and unstructured play. The activities will range from practicing walking, climbing, balancing on one foot, rolling a ball, jumping, pushing and pulling toys as well as riding tricycles and other ride-on toys.
- **Children aged three through kindergarten** will have a minimum of three (30 minutes) outside playground times Two opportunities in the morning and one late afternoon. The playground activities will consist of both structured, teacher-initiated and unstructured play. Activities will include, but are not limited to running, jumping, climbing, hopping, kicking a ball, throwing and catching balls, riding on tricycles and other riding equipment and swinging.

In case of extreme weather conditions that prohibit or limit outdoor play, the gym, classrooms, playroom and nursery play area will be used for physical activity.

Extreme weather temperatures that prohibit or limit outdoor play:

HEAT INDEX of 96 - 99 degrees will limit outside playtime to 10 minutes.

HEAT INDEX of 100 and up will be considered hazardous and no outside play will be allowed.

WIND CHILL of 35 - 37 degrees will limit outside playtime to 10 minutes.

WIND CHILL of 34 degrees and lower will be considered hazardous and no outside play will be allowed.

The Child Care Weather Watch program by the Department of Health and Human Services was used as a guide for the above policy.

Children receive additional structured physical activity time during:

- Music (Body Rhythmic) including but not limited to marching, skipping, galloping and gross motor movements.
- Motor/Movement class, including but not limited to body awareness, balance, singing, dancing and finger play.

REGISTRATION

Registration packets are provided to parents in February for the upcoming fall/spring school year. Following the currently enrolled student registration period, registration opens on designated days and times, first to SFLC siblings, followed by Longview First United Methodist Church members, and finally, to the public. Registration continues until all classes are filled, after which time class waiting lists will be established.

Students will be admitted from the waiting list, with priority given to SFLC current students, siblings and church members. The waiting list is valid until the next registration period.

School for Little Children adheres to the State of Texas standard in regard to enrollment by date of birth. September 1st is the cutoff date for each age leveled classroom.

School for Little Children requires all students entering the Pre-K 4's program to be fully independent regarding toilet training.

SAFETY

The school conducts monthly fire drills, quarterly severe weather drills, and periodic practice lockdown drills. Children are instructed in and expected to follow safety rules for the playground and in classrooms.

Copies of the SFLC Emergency Preparedness Plan are available in the school office.

Firearms and other weapons are prohibited on the premises of the child-care center.

EMERGENCY EVACUATION

In the event of an emergency, all parents and guardians identified on your child's emergency card will be notified by phone or text message of the school's status, the approximate duration of the emergency, and when and where children will be available for safe pickup. **Please make all changes and updated contact information for your child through the School for Little Children office to ensure receipt of important communication.**

Emergency evacuation relocation site:
Mobberly Baptist Church
625 E Loop 281
Longview, TX. 75605
(903) 663-3100

North Fredonia Building
409/411 North Fredonia
Longview, TX. 75601

SCHOOL CLOSINGS

SFLC is closed and child care is not available on the following:

- Friday in early November (Teacher Training)
- Thanksgiving Holiday coinciding with Longview Independent School District schedule
- Christmas Day
- New Year's Day
- Additional days during Christmas/New Year's holidays
- Martin Luther King Day (January)
- Additional days during Spring break
- Good Friday and the Monday following Easter
- Memorial Day
- Days prior to the first day of the Summer semester
- Juneteenth

- July 4th (1 or 2 days)
 - Days in August prior to the opening date of the Fall Semester
 - Labor Day
- These days may be subject to change.

Parents will be given a school calendar at the beginning of the school year (August). Please refer to the calendar for specific dates of closings and activities.

SENSATIONAL SUMMER CLASSES

“Sensational Summer” classes are offered during the summer months. Programs are available for Infants through Elementary students, entering first through fourth grades. Enrollment begins in March and continues until all classes are filled. Information concerning the Sensational Summer program is available in the School Office.

Awesome August is full-time care, 7:15 a.m.-6:00 p.m., Monday-Friday, by registration only.

SEVERE WEATHER POLICY

SFLC will close when the Longview Independent School District closes due to bad weather. Information concerning the school closing will be broadcast on local television channels. SFLC will also notify parents by Facebook. There will be no make-up days for school closings.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

SFLC staff members are required to take an annual training course to recognize the signs and symptoms of child abuse and neglect. This training is offered through several sources.

1. Texas Department of Family Protective Services
2. Child Care Support Network
3. Texas A&M Online Extension Course
4. Tym the Trainer

The Texas Dept. of Family and Protective Services provides parents with training and assistance. School teachers and administrators will provide parents with resources to receive assistance and intervention. Increasing awareness and prevention of child abuse and neglect is of the utmost importance. Being an advocate for children by knowing and reporting the signs of abuse may help save a child's life.

If you suspect a child is a victim of abuse/neglect please contact:

1. The local Department of Family Protective Services office is located at 2130 Alpine Rd.
Longview, TX 75605
2. The DFPS child abuse hotline is 1-800-252-5400
3. The DFPS website is www.dfps.tx.gov
4. The Abuse website is www.txabusehotline.org

For further information please see the attached information regarding Child Abuse and Neglect.

STAFF

School for Little Children employs highly qualified teachers and caregivers. All staff is trained in CPR/First Aid and receive a minimum of twenty-four (24) hours of professional training on an annual basis. The school maintains low student-staff ratios in all classes.

SFLC is licensed by the Texas Department of Health and Human Services. Parents may review a copy of the most recent Licensing inspection report posted on the office bulletin board or on the Texas Department of Health and Human Service website; www.hhs.texas.gov

Parents may also access the Minimum Standards for Child Care Centers online at the TDHHS website; www.hhs.texas.gov

TUITION AND FEE POLICIES

School for Little Children Board tuition policy:

Tuition is due on the first day of the month and is considered late after the 10th. A \$25.00 per month fee will be added to your statement if tuition is received in the office after the 10th.

It is the responsibility of the parent to pay the tuition and any late fees. If tuition is more than one month late, you will be asked to withdraw your child unless prior arrangements have been made with the Director and approved by the School for Little Children Board.

Drops/Refunds:

No refunds or credits are given for days missed due to illness, holidays, vacations, etc.

If a child withdraws from SFLC, there is no refund of fees. If a drop notice is not received before the first of the month, it is the responsibility of the parent to pay the tuition for the month. Tuition fees are non-refundable.

If a child withdraws from SFLC after the fall/spring registration and registers as a current student, this will cancel registration for the fall/spring school year; there is no refund of fees.

Early Bird and Afternoon Enrichment drop-in charges are billed at the end of each month.

The school must be notified of a student's intention to drop Infant, Toddler, Academic, or Afternoon Enrichment classes prior to the beginning of the month. The parent is responsible for the month's tuition if the child drops after the first day of the month.

Registration/supply fees are non - refundable with only two exceptions.

Exception: (1) If a fall registrant moves from the Longview area before August 1st of the year registered, the registration/supply fee will be mailed to the new address.

(2) If a summer registrant moves from the Longview area before May 1st

of the year registered, the registration/supply fee will be mailed to the new address.

How tuition is charged:

School for Little Children tuition is paid in advance in nine equal monthly installments. This covers the entire academic school year. The monthly fees remain the same regardless of the number of school days in the month.

Monthly tuition is billed on the first of the month. Early Birds, late pick-up, drop-in, and Intersession charges are billed at the end of the month and will appear on the next monthly statement.

If a student is billed at the full-time rate, there will be no additional Early Birds, drop-in, or Intersession charges. If the student is not paying at the full-time rate, Early Birds, and drop-in Intersession charges will be billed in addition to the regular monthly charge.

In the event of the unexpected, short-term closure of SFLC, such as a global health emergency, severe weather conditions, structural damage, etc. the tuition paid for the time of closure may not be refunded. Additionally, full or partial tuition for future months may be required in order to ensure continued enrollment. The SFLC Board will decide the issue of tuition retention, refund and/or future payments with consideration given to the length of the closure, the reason for closure, the potential for government subsidization, the need to ensure consistent and high-quality staff, parent input and any other factors that may be present. The Board will also consider past refund/retention decisions, but because of the nature of the unknown, is not bound by past decisions.

Checks returned from the bank for insufficient funds:

There is a \$35.00 charge for checks returned from the bank as insufficient for payment. If a check is returned from the bank as insufficient for payment, subsequent tuition/fee payments will be due in cash, certified check, or money order.

**No tuition payments will be received by staff members in carpool lines, classroom folders, and teachers.

*SFLC is licensed under
The Texas Health and Human Services
Contact Information for DFPS:
Local Licensing: (903) 232-3322
Child Abuse Hotline: 1-800-252-5400
www.hhs.texas.gov*

SCHOOL FOR LITTLE CHILDREN

Handbook Acknowledgement Form

Revised October 2023

I _____ have read the SFLC Handbook and understand the
(parent)
policies and procedures that govern my child _____'s ability to
(child's name)
attend the School for Little Children.

I understand that I may contact and discuss these policies with school administrators by contacting the
directors at 903-753-3121.

By signing below, I acknowledge that I understand the policies and procedures of the SFLC Handbook.

Date _____

Parent's Name (Print) _____

Parent's Signature _____

(Must be signed and brought into the SFLC Office)

AWARENESS OF ABUSE AND NEGLECT OF CHILDREN



Reporting Abuse, Neglect or Exploitation

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

We are a state licensed facility and as such, the following information is available to all parents
Reporting Abuse and Neglect

The law requires any person who believes that a child or person 65 years or older or an adult with disabilities is being abused, neglected, or exploited to report the circumstances to the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) Abuse Hotline. A person making a report is immune from civil or criminal liability, and the name of the person making the report is kept confidential. Any person who suspects abuse and does not report it can be held liable for a Class-A misdemeanor.

Additional reporting requirements apply to teachers and other professionals. A professional must report suspected abuse or neglect of a child within 48 hours of suspecting the child has been or may be abused or neglected. (TFC 261.101 (b))* A professional cannot delegate this duty to another person to make the report. Reporting suspected child abuse makes it possible to protect the child and for a family to get help.

*For life threatening or emergency situations,
call your local law enforcement agency or 911 immediately, and then make a report to DFPS.*

There are two options for reporting abuse, neglect and exploitation to the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services.

By Phone: Call the Abuse Hotline, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, toll-free 1-800-252-5400 from anywhere in the US to report abuse or neglect that occurred in Texas.

By Secure Internet Website: From your internet browser, go to <https://www.txabusehotline.org>. When you get to the web site, there will be directions to the links to report abuse or neglect against children or to report abuse against elderly or disabled adults. Recent improvements to the site include a registration page, ability for the user to print the report, left side navigation, and spell check. If you have trouble or questions about making a report on the website, call (512) 929-6784 or 1-800-252-5400 for help. You **MUST** include the "s" in "https://" to access the site.)

Types of Abuse/Neglect/Exploitation

What is Abuse?

- Abuse is mental, emotional, physical, or sexual injury to a child or person 65 years or older or an adult with disabilities, or failure to prevent such injury.

What is Neglect?

- Neglect of a child includes (1) failure to provide a child with food, clothing, shelter and/or medical care; and/or (2) leaving a child in a situation where the child is at risk of harm.
- Neglect of a person 65 years or older or an adult with disabilities results in starvation, dehydration, over- or under-medication, unsanitary living conditions, and lack of heat, running water, electricity, medical care, and personal hygiene.

What is Exploitation?

- Exploitation is misusing the resources of a person 65 years or older or an adult with disabilities for personal or monetary benefit. This includes taking Social Security or SSI (Supplemental Security Income) checks, abusing a joint checking account, and taking property and other resources.

Information that is helpful to have on hand when filing an abuse report includes (if known):

- The name, age, and address of the child or person 65 years or older or an adult with disabilities.
- Your name and contact information.
- A brief description of the situation and the child or vulnerable adult.
- Current injuries, medical problems, or behavioral problems.
- Parents' names and names of siblings in the home (for a child).
- Names of relatives in or outside the home and name of perpetrator (for an adult).
- Explain how you know about the situation.

* Texas Family Code Chapter 261.101 (b)



Signs of Child Abuse or Maltreatment Indicators

The lists below contain common indicators of abuse or maltreatment. The lists are not all-inclusive, and some abused or maltreated children may not show any of these symptoms.

Indicators of physical abuse can include the following:

- Injuries to the eyes or both sides of the head or body (accidental injuries typically affect only one side of the body)
- Frequently appearing injuries such as bruises, cuts, and burns, especially if the child is unable to provide an adequate explanation of the cause. These may appear in distinctive patterns such as grab marks, human bite marks, cigarette burns or impressions of other instruments.
- Destructive, aggressive or disruptive behavior
- Passive, withdrawn or emotionless behavior
- Fear of going home or fear of parent(s)

Indicators of sexual abuse can include the following:

- Symptoms of sexually transmitted diseases
- Injury to genital area
- Difficulty and/or pain when sitting or walking
- Sexually suggestive, inappropriate or promiscuous behavior or verbalization
- Expressing age-inappropriate knowledge of sexual relations
- Sexual victimization of other children

Indicators of maltreatment can include the following:

- Obvious malnourishment, listlessness or fatigue
- Stealing or begging for food
- Lack of personal care – poor personal hygiene, torn and/or dirty clothes
- Untreated need for glasses, dental care or other medical attention
- Frequent absence from or tardiness to school
- Child inappropriately left unattended or without supervision

RISK FACTORS FOR CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Research has revealed many risk factors or attributes associated with child maltreatment. These risk factors may potentially contribute to child abuse and neglect.

PARENT OR CAREGIVER RISK FACTORS:

1. **Individual Characteristics:** An individual's risk factors may include mental health issues, adverse response to stress, and trauma history.
2. **Substance Abuse:** Studies have shown that between one and two-thirds of child maltreatment cases involve substance use to some degree.
3. **Teen Parents:** Studies of physical abuse, in particular, tell us that higher rates of child abuse occur when parents are in their teenage years.
4. Additional factors contributing to the risk factors listed above include lower socioeconomic status, lack of social support, and high stress levels.

CHILD RISK FACTORS:

1. **The child's age, health—physical, mental, and emotional—and social development** may increase susceptibility to abuse and neglect. Given their size, early development status, and need for constant care, infants and young children are more vulnerable to certain types of maltreatment, including abusive head trauma and physical or medical neglect.

PARENTING METHODS AND HOUSEHOLD RISK FACTORS:

1. The attitudes of the parents, family structure, and approach to raising the child(ren) are all potential risks for abuse and neglect.
2. Domestic violence is a frequent contributor to child maltreatment. In 30% to 60% of families where spousal abuse is involved, mistreatment of the child also occurs.

COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISK FACTORS:

1. The child's neighborhood conditions, such as low socioeconomic status, presence of violence in his/her vicinity, and social attitudes, can place the child at greater risk for maltreatment.
2. Poverty can add to the probability of abuse and neglect. If this condition is added to other risk factors, including depression, substance abuse, and social isolation, the chances of maltreatment increase.

Other factors occurring simultaneously—parent and child characteristics, family situations, community violence and conditions—increase the risk as well.

Child abuse isn't limited to one race/ethnic group, gender or age group, or social or economic status. Additional risk factors include a history of abuse or neglect as a child, physical or mental illness, family crisis or stress, unemployment, family isolation, and inadequate parenting skills.

An abused child may exhibit signs of guilt, shame or confusion. If the abuse involves a parent, relative, or family friend, it is likely he/she will be afraid to tell anyone about the maltreatment and develop a noticeable fear or discomfort when around parents, adult caregivers or family friends. It is vital to be on the alert for such red flags.

HOW CAN WE MITIGATE THESE RISKS?

"Protective factors are conditions or attributes of individuals, families, communities, or the larger society that mitigate risk and promote healthy development and well-being." – Child Welfare.gov.

If you suspect a child is the victim of abuse or neglect, call the Texas Abuse Hotline toll-free 24 hours a day, days a week, nationwide: **1-800-252-5400**. Or report through the Texas Department of Family and Protective Service's secure website and get a response within 24 hours: <https://www.txabusehotline.org/Login/Default.aspx>. (Please note, Texas DFPS cannot accept email reports of suspected abuse or neglect.)

If the child is in immediate danger, do not hesitate. Call 911.

The earlier assistance is provided, the better the outcome for the child.