



Parent Policy Handbook 2022-2023

WELCOME

We're honored that you've chosen us to care for your child during their preschool years. What we offer your family is much more than a babysitting service. We are a loving, safe, home-like environment designed for your child to play, grow and succeed. They are an individual who is an integral member of our group, whose uniqueness is acknowledged and respected. We want to work with you and will always welcome your ideas, concerns, comments, and suggestions. We will also share the same with you.

Since children are often with us for several years, we see ourselves as a meaningful part of your child's life. We want you and them to feel completely comfortable in our home. It helps us to know about changes in your child's life, such as a grandparent's visit or a new baby. Thank you for partnering with us to help your child grow and learn.

Abundant Wonder Preschool (Christy Muir) is licensed through the OKDHS Childcare Services to care for up to 7 children. ***Our compliance file can be found in the front of the AW file cabinet drawer. The file is red and labeled "Licensing Compliance"; please feel free to request to review this file at your discretion.*

Being a DHS-licensed child care/preschool & a professional business; it's important that we follow a variety of policies that are written to keep your child safe, to provide them with high-quality care, & to comply with all DHS regulations. We take this responsibility very seriously. In these handbook pages, you will find the financial terms of this contract and details of our policies. If you thoroughly read, respect, understand & follow our policies we can all have a successful relationship that will allow us to provide your family with an exceptional preschool experience.

FINANCIAL TERMS

1. **Prior to Care:** A one-time, non-refundable Registration Fee of \$100.00 (per child) is required upon enrollment. Your child's enrollment is not guaranteed until you have returned the signed Contract Agreement plus Registration Fee. Certain other policies apply if needing to hold a space for longer than one week.
 - a. Prior to the start date of care the following must be received by Abundant Wonder Preschool for each child:
 - i. Signed Parent/Caregiver Contract & both DHS-created forms (found on our website)
 - ii. Registration Fee
 - iii. Immunization Record/Exemption Certificate (on or before first day of care)

2. **Monthly Tuition:** ***Hours of Operation: Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.*
 - a. Your child's monthly tuition is due on the 1st day of each month no later than 5:00pm, in advance of care being provided. Brightwheel Automatic Invoice Payments are preferred. Checks are to be written to **Christy Muir**. We do not accept cash payments.
 - b. Drop-in fees and forms are required per occurrence at time of scheduling, prior to the first day of drop-in care.
 - c. Tuition is due regardless of your child's attendance and includes all listed days closed, vacation days, personal days and sick days - these are paid days. There are no refunds, credits or deductions for any days your child is absent, for any reason.
 - d. Tuition automatically increases up to 3% each September. Courtesy reminders will be sent out each July.
 - e. **Please indicate on the contract that you understand and agree to this Monthly Tuition policy.**

3. **Overtime Fee:**
 - a. A fee of \$15.00 per (any portion of) 15 minutes per child will apply if a child remains in care after 5:00pm. The overtime fees are due and payable upon pickup or prior to the start of the next day's care.
 - b. If your child is not picked up by the time our family needs to leave for an after-hours event, this fee is doubled (\$30/any portion of 15 min) and you will pick them up at the event. We will not be late to our after-hours personal commitments.
 - c. Overtime fees are also subject to late payment fees.
 - d. **Please indicate on the contract that you understand and agree to this Overtime Fee policy.**

4. **Late Payments:** Your tuition payment to us is our paycheck so please do not put us in a position to ask to be paid; take your responsibility seriously and pay us on time.
 - a. We recommend utilizing the "auto-pay" feature on Brightwheel to best prevent late payments.
 - b. If you pay by check and your child will be absent on your tuition due date, please remit the tuition check on your child's last day of attendance, before the due date.
 - c. Payments are considered late if not paid by the due date at 5:00pm.
 - d. A late fee of \$25 per day (including weekend days) will be charged on monthly tuition as well as any other late or overtime fees incurred.
 - i. "No Pay, No Play" - Your child may not attend after 3 business days of nonpayment. No exceptions.
 - ii. This contract is immediately terminated after 1 week of nonpayment. Collection proceedings will then begin and you will be responsible for all tuition fees, late fees, collection fees, legal fees, and related loss of income.
 - e. **Please indicate on the contract that you understand and agree to this Late Payments policy.**

5. **Returned Checks:** A returned check fee of \$50 will be charged on all returned checks/payments. Parents are also responsible for any other costs incurred as a result of the check/payment being returned. In this event, late fees will apply since your payment will be considered late as it did not clear the bank.

ATTENDANCE POLICIES

1. **Arrivals & Departures:** ***Caregiver will utilize the Brightwheel app on a phone/tablet to clock-in and clock-out each child every day.* DHS licensing, food program & tax records require us to maintain this log.
 - a. Arriving & departing generally requires that we interrupt whatever activities we are currently participating in with the children so please make them brief. If there is something that you need to discuss with us during this time, please let us know ahead of time so we can plan accordingly.
 - b. ***If someone else is dropping off or picking up your child, please notify us before they arrive. Also, make sure they have their ID ready and are familiar with our arrival & departure routines before they arrive.*
2. **Arrival Expectations:**
 - a. Parents being brief, confident & consistent will make it a much more pleasant experience for your child. A long farewell will be more traumatic for your child & is also a disruption to the other children in care. Furthermore, some children go through a short phase of separation anxiety at different stages of development. Nearly all children will “test boundaries” during this time by being unusually demanding or seemingly disrespectful to you. This is developmentally normal & will not be resolved by prolonging your departure or by trying to sneak away. When your child is having a problem separating, it gets worse the longer you are here. 99% of the time, they will be just fine the minute you leave. If separation is excessively difficult for your child, I have a phased plan that helps us work together to ease the transition.
 - b. Just as brief goodbyes are important, it’s also important that you plan enough time when dropping-off. Please make sure you have enough time to give them a proper farewell. Developing a good-bye routine is comforting and helpful.
 - c. ***If your child does not arrive by 8:30am and we have not heard from you, we will call or text you to confirm plans for arrival. This is to help minimize instances of children being left in cars or other dangers.*
 - d. **Early Arrivals:** You must make arrangements no less than 24 hours in advance if you will need to bring your child BEFORE 7:30am. If you arrive early without our prior approval, we will not open the door. We ask that you remember that this is our home; we have our own morning routines and possibly have sleeping children that you would disturb by knocking/ringing bell.
 - a. **Please indicate on the contract that you understand and agree to this Early Arrivals policy.**
 - e. **Late Arrivals:** Arriving AFTER 9:00am is highly discouraged, coming later than that disrupts our routine. Please try to schedule appointments later in the day and plan to pick up your child before or after nap or plan to keep your child home after their appointment. We will NOT wait for late arrivals if we have an outing planned.
 - a. **Please indicate on the contract that you understand and agree to this Late Arrivals policy.**
3. **Departures:**
 - a. Please do not send someone else to pick-up your child unless you have given us prior written consent.
 - i. Separated/divorced parents – you must **both** give your written consent if you have joint custody. Please do not put us in the position of having to deny pick-up to someone you have approved unless the other parent has also approved.
 - b. ***Your pick-up contacts will be asked to show picture ID.*
 - c. ***We will not release your child to anyone, even parents, who are under the apparent influence of drugs or alcohol or an individual who poses a safety risk regardless of parental permission.*
 - d. Parents who are separated or divorced: if there is a court order keeping one parent or guardian away from your child we must have a copy of the order to that effect in our files. Otherwise, we cannot prevent the non-custodial parent or guardian from picking up.
 - e. **Early Departures:**
 - i. If leaving early is needed, please consider picking up before nap (around 1:30pm) instead of during.
 - ii. **Naptime departures are highly discouraged.** They not only disrupt your child’s routine and much needed rest/sleep, it potentially disrupts other children as well.

1. Special instructions will be given if a naptime (2p-4p) pick-up is absolutely necessary.
 2. Excessive naptime pick-ups may result in termination of contract due to the lack of respect shown to the children in our care.
- f. **Late Departures:** Please call/text us if you will be more than 15 minutes later than your **usual** time to pick-up your child. Children are very in tune with routine and notice when parents don't arrive at their usual time. It's not respectful to keep your child waiting much longer past the time they are used to going home without giving them some kind of notice (think how you feel when people are late for a meeting).
- i. **Overtime Departures:**
 1. See Overtime Fees (above)
 2. Please keep in mind that our family may have plans after hours.
 3. Repeated late pick-ups are grounds for termination.
 4. In the event that a parent cannot be contacted, it is our policy to call emergency contacts listed on the Child Information Form should a child remain in care after 5:00pm.
 - a. If parents cannot be reached and/or alternate arrangements for pick-up can't be made, we will reluctantly call DHS.
 - ii. **Please indicate on the contract that you understand this Departures policy.**
4. ****Holidays/Closed Days:** We close for regularly scheduled breaks throughout the year.
- a. Please refer to our website (Parent Packet page), Band group calendar, Parent Communication wall, wall to the right of the entry door and on the fence gate for a list of holidays/vacations/closed days.
 - b. Reminders will also be posted on the door and on the gate about a week prior to closures.
5. **Personal Days:** We may need to take up to 10 personal days throughout the year.
- a. This gives us the opportunity to attend regular doctor visits or get personal, weekday only business done.
 - b. Rest assured, we do everything in our power to not have to close for these instances.
 - c. Full tuition payments are required on the regular due date and are subject to late fees.
6. **Vacations**
- a. **Your Vacation:** When requested, any parent who gives a full 30 days' notice of *temporary withdrawal for vacation* will have their child's tuition reduced by 50% for the period of time of withdrawal up to a total of two weeks (10 days) per calendar year. These days can be spread out throughout the year as long as 30 days' notice is given each instance and it is a total of no more than 10 days.
 - b. **Our Vacation:** We will occasionally take a vacation of up to 1-2 weeks during the year or a total of 10 days throughout the year. At least one week's notice will be given in each instance.
 - i. Full tuition payments are required on the regular due date and are subject to late fees.
 - c. **Please indicate on the contract that you understand and agree to this Vacations policy.**

GENERAL HOUSEKEEPING

1. **Communication from you:** Christy can be reached via text, phone or email during regular business hours (M-F 7:30am-5:00pm). All non-urgent concerns, calls, texts, or emails received after business hours will be addressed on the next business day. Thank you for respecting personal time with our family.
 - a. Texting (best method) 405-476-0713:
 - i. If you use texting as your method of contacting us, we will confirm that we received your text by replying as quickly as possible during business hours. If we do not, you should assume that we did NOT receive it & you should call us.
 - b. Phone (same number as above):
 - i. If calling during business hours, keep in mind that I will likely be engaged with the children and may not be able to take your call. In general, the best time for me to talk without interruption is during nap time.
 - ii. If you expect a return call, please be sure to leave a message as to what you're calling about.
 - c. Email is abundantwonderpreschool@gmail.com. I will respond as quickly as possible.
2. **Communication to parents/guardians:** It is our goal to keep the lines of communication as open as possible and will contact you as needed.
 - a. Our most common form of communication with individual parents is texting. Texting also allows us to have conversations that are best kept between adults.
 - b. We acknowledge that there are some things best discussed in person or over the phone. For those occasions, we will typically request a conference at a time in which children can be out of earshot.
 - c. We will aim to also follow the timeframe outlined above.
 - d. Other forms of communication will also be used to keep parents as updated as possible of general goings-on. These include:
 - i. Brightwheel - newsletters, group announcements and reminders.
 - ii. AW Band group - photo sharing & calendar events.
 - iii. Email - via abundantwonderpreschool@gmail.com
 - iv. Please make sure you have your BW App and Band notifications on and our email in your contacts so you have a better chance of getting all the communications.
3. **Daily Routine:**
 - a. Please bring your child to preschool each day fully dressed & ready to participate in preschool activities.
 - i. This means that they are well-rested.
 - ii. This also means that they should be wearing weather-appropriate clothing including socks, shoes, coat, etc. (and a fresh diaper, if applicable)
 - iii. Shoes should be appropriate & safe for outdoor play.
 1. Please NO shoes that require tying. Our goal is to help children become successful at getting dressed on their own, to encourage that we recommend Velcro or slip on shoes that do not slip off.
 2. Please NO rain/snow boots when an outing is planned. They are cumbersome when getting into/out of the van and walking to/from location.
 - a. Rainboots can be worn to school if necessary but please bring regular shoes for these days.
 - iv. We sometimes participate in art or outside activities that could be quite messy so please dress your child in "everyday" clothes that you would not mind getting messy.
 - b. Please be familiar with our daily schedule regarding activities, meal/snack times, nap times, etc. It's impossible for us to maintain a separate schedule for each child – for example, feeding or napping your child outside of scheduled times. (This does not apply to infants under 1 year old – infants are allowed to eat and/or sleep according to their own schedule.)
 - c. **Please indicate on the contract that you understand and agree to this Daily Schedule policy.**

4. **Permission to Photograph:** By signing the contract, I grant permission for my child to be photographed during normal preschool hours: while participating in activities, playing, on field trips/outings or during classes. And for these photographs to be used to share with all AW parents in our Band group, on our picture wall, and used in promoting Abundant Wonder's preschool services, either in print or on the Internet. Promotional-use pictures (except whole-group photos taken on school picture days) will omit children's full face. I understand that there will be no payment for me or my child's participation in this release. **Please indicate on the contract that you understand and agree to this Permission to Photograph policy.**
5. **Open Door Policy:** You are welcome to visit us anytime your child is present to observe or participate in our preschool activities. As a safety measure, we have our preschool entrance/garage door closed after the last child has arrived (by 9:00am) through the end of nap (around 4:00pm). We are happy to open it for you; all you need to do is text Christy. You are also free to call or text at any time to check on your child; please understand that there are times we can't answer the phone as with diapers changes or activities with the children.
6. **Toilet Mastery:** Toilet mastery is a big developmental step in each child's life & it needs to be handled properly in order to make it a pleasant and successful time for all involved. AW has a method of toilet mastery in place that has worked well for many children in our care. Prior to making any potty training decision, we require each parent to reach out to us first so we can send you our Potty Mastery document. We also require that parents and other caregivers read the toilet training book titled Oh Crap! Potty Training by Jamie Glowacki (disclaimer: there are a few points in this book we do not subscribe to but the basic plan works really well). Because of our disclaimer, we ask that you please do not initiate toilet mastery with your child unless you have talked to us about it first. We will work with you - but not for you. We will not offer treats or incentives for pottyng and discourage it at home too. **Please indicate on the contract that you understand and agree to this Toilet Mastery policy.**
7. **Meals & Snacks:** We are committed to providing our AW children the best possible meals in an effort to encourage better health, expanded palates, and a respectful relationship with food as a foundation for accomplishing everything they hope and dream.
 - a. It is our goal to serve the most nutritious and seasonal meals possible including many organic, seasonal, local, and whole grain ingredients.
 - b. Water is available to the children at all times via stainless steel water bottles.
 - i. Please do not send sippy cups/dishes to preschool. We cannot keep track of which ones belong to you so we cannot guarantee you'll get them back.
 - c. Our preschool is enrolled in the federal child care food program. As such, we provide all food & drink and are required to follow a pre-planned menu.
 - d. We make most of the components ourselves instead of relying on pre-made items so we have more control over the salt, sugar and oil levels in the food. We very rarely use white potatoes (fries and tater tots). We serve salad at lunch almost every day in addition to a wide variety of fruits and vegetables throughout the week. We use many whole grain options for our grain components. And we use a wide variety of meat alternatives making our menu plant-based. In our search for child-friendly recipes, we have also discovered some that include cocoa and are sweetened with dates which means they are a sweet treat AND healthy so if you hear your child talk about having chocolate something-or-other for breakfast or snack – don't worry.
 - e. The meal/snack schedule below will be followed with the option of additional snacks as needed. If your child will not arrive in time for our scheduled meals, please make sure they are completely fed **before walking in the door (for example, do not walk in the door while your child is still eating/chewing breakfast)**. The seasonal menu will be posted on the parent communication wall and via our Band group.
 - i. AM Snack: served 9:15 a.m. – completed by 9:45 a.m.
Lunch: served 12:30 p.m. – completed by 1:00 p.m.
PM Snack: served 4:15 p.m. – completed by 4:45 p.m.
 - f. We loosely follow the Division of Responsibility (Ellyn Satter) method of food consumption. Please

research what this is and understand. We encourage and trust your child to make their own food choices. As with anything else, please let us know of any questions.

- g. We practice Family-Style serving which helps children be more in control of their food while also helping teach/model life skills and manners.
- h. Please do not send food, drinks, or candy from home unless you are sending enough for the entire group, as in a party situation. Please ask about any allergies prior to bringing treats.
- i. **Please indicate on the contract that you understand and agree to this Meals & Snacks policy.**

8. **Birthdays:**

- a. We take some time (usually snacktime) on each child's birthday to celebrate them on their special day. Some guidelines for you to keep in mind:
 - i. If you wish to bring a special treat for your child's birthday, please let me know at least 24 hours in advance.
 - 1. This helps us know how to proceed with food prep and what to expect.
 - 2. It also gives us an opportunity to discuss any food allergies needing consideration.
 - ii. If your child will not be here on their actual birthday, we can celebrate the school day before or the school day after. Please give advance notice.
- b. While we appreciate the invitations/inclusion, Will and I do not attend birthday parties of currently enrolled AW children. We dislike missing out on that special time but we have to be realistic and consider feelings.
 - i. We have many responsibilities on weekends between our own family/home and Abundant Wonder preparations.
 - ii. We do not want anyone's feelings hurt if we can make it to one child's party and not another.
 - iii. This is part of why we like to also celebrate birthdays here at AW.

9. **Supplies:** There are certain items that each child will need to have each day. We request that you bring them to have on hand. Please NO diaper bags/backpacks. Below is a general list of items we require. If your child has specific requirements, please include those and let me know.

a. **Every Child:**

- i. ***Size and weather appropriate complete change of clothes.*** These will be stored here and remember to switch as necessary.
- ii. Year round: ***rain boots.*** We ask that parents provide rain boots that fit your child. These stay here to be used in conjunction with our AW rain suits which enables us to play outside as much as possible, even on dreary, rainy days.
- iii. Summer: ***swim suit*** (long sleeve swim shirts and detached bottoms are easiest for children to dress themselves), ***water shoes*** (there are styles that are exceptionally perfect for the children to put on and take off themselves) and ***sunscreen*** (non-aerosol). These items stay here to use as necessary.
- iv. Winter: ***coat*** (brought back and forth). We have an AW set of hats and mittens that stay here for use as needed so you don't have to worry about those.

b. **Diaper Wearers (in addition to items for every child):**

- i. Diapers (cloth diapers welcomed with specific requirements)
 - 1. Cloth Diaper Requirements:
 - a. Parents supply own soiled diaper container with lid (no wet-bags) which will be sent home daily; to be returned clean, the following day. (previously-unused 2.5 gallon paint cans work well)
 - a. Per DHS rules, we are not allowed to rinse diapers but we can and will shake solid waste into the toilet before placing in container.
- ii. Wipes
- iii. Optional: Diaper rash cream/ointment of your choice (especially if your child is prone to rashes). Must be contained in original packaging with child's name written on it.

- b. Bottle Fed (under 1 year old):
 - i. Breast Milk or Formula (if storing here, please check supply daily).
 - 1. If bringing breast milk to store, please clearly label each bag with child's name, date expressed and number of ounces contained within. We are more than happy to store them in our deep freeze and will use them in date order.
 - 2. If bringing formula, please clearly label with child's name.
 - ii. Bottles clearly marked with child's name (at least 3 bottles or several inserts & 3 nipples).

9. Transportation/Activities:

- a. Abundant Wonder Preschool will not transport to and from school. If you require care after morning pre-k, you will be responsible for arranging vehicular transportation from school to preschool before lunch.
- b. We aim to visit the public library weekly. Each child will receive their very own library card and assigned a numbered AW book bag so they can pick out books to take home.
- c. We participate in a weekly Music Class. Cost is determined each fall and paid per semester (13 classes). The schedule is set by the teacher, Ursula Purcell. Checks for music class are to be made out to her.
- d. We also meet up with other child care providers for activities, park days or field trips.
- e. ***All children are required to be secured in an appropriate child safety seat based on their age, height and weight while in a vehicle.* We take this very seriously and will assure they are in the proper car safety seat or device. Christy even attended a full-day training on car seat safety. We use our own seats/devices (purchased new) to ensure they are not expired, haven't been in an accident, and fit in our van properly. We support extended rear-facing if parents prefer their child to rear-face past the age of 2, please let us know. ***We meet or exceed all current child safety seat laws.*

10. Miscellaneous:

- a. Abundant Wonder Preschool will repair or replace broken equipment & toys due to normal wear and tear. However, should your child purposely damage or break equipment or toys, or damage our home or personal belongings they will be repaired or replaced, to the original condition at the cost of the parents.
- b. Please do not allow your child to bring toys, jewelry or bags to preschool. Your child is unlikely to want to share them, there is no way we can keep track of them, and we can't guarantee the items will make it back home with your child.
 - i. If you allow your child to have these items in the car, please have them leave them there before entering.
 - ii. ONLY naptime/sleep 'sleep friends' permitted. These will be stored in the 'cot cabinet' with their designated blanket and are kept here if at all possible. ALL other toys/bags/items need to stay home or in the car.
- c. This contract is subject to annual review and renewal each August to be active in September.
- d. Lack of enforcement of a certain policy at any time does not indicate that the particular policy is no longer in effect.
- e. We have 2 medium-sized dogs, Trixie & Candi. They are both really good with the children though we do keep them in their crates most of the day so they aren't underfoot. Trixie is very mellow and generally likes to lounge in the playroom to watch the kiddos play. Candi is more high-string so she tends to prefer to stay in the other parts of the house.

11. Withdrawal/Expulsion:

- a. Parents agree that a minimum notice of 1 full month (no pro-rating) will be given for permanent withdrawal of any child from care or agree to pay 1 full month tuition (no pro-rating) in lieu of giving notice. This notice must be in writing using the withdrawal form, available by request. No exceptions will be made.
 - i. Please be aware that in most circumstances, children bond quickly with each other and

caregivers. When permanently withdrawing, please bring your child for the full remaining days to aid your child, other children and their caregivers in the farewell and closure process. We typically do a little something special on a child's last day to further aid in farewells.

- b. We reserve the right to immediate expulsion for the following, non-exhaustive list of reasons: your child's destructive, uncontrollable, or violent behavior; habitual tardiness or no-shows in your child's attendance; late payment or nonpayment of tuition or other fees; habitual disregard for our preschool policies; providing false information on enrollment forms; disrespect to our family, our home, or our neighborhood; or if your child's care becomes unusually time-consuming as to disrupt the care of the other children in our preschool. Any tuition or fees paid will not be refunded. Parents will be responsible for any outstanding amounts due and these are subject to late fees.
- c. **Please indicate on the contract that you understand and agree to this Withdrawal/Expulsion policy.**

WELLNESS POLICIES

1. *****General Illness Policy:*** Minimizing all our children's exposure to illness is a responsibility we all share. *****We will not provide care for children who are ill.*** Please understand this policy thoroughly so that you will know the symptoms for which your child cannot attend preschool.
 - a. In any environment in which people have contact with others, there comes the risk of illness. While AW will always take precautions, as outlined in this handbook, to help prevent the spread of any illness, risk can never be entirely eliminated. By signing this contract and your child's attendance at AW, the responsibility for that risk falls to you, the parents.
 - b. Parents agree that a child who is ill (eg. fever, infection, diarrhea, vomiting, communicable disease, or any other type of illness that may be passed on to others, with the exception of the common cold) will be kept at home to protect the well-being of children in our care and our family. Process.
 - c. The parents further agree that should a child become ill while in care, immediate arrangements will be made to remove the child from the preschool within 1 hour.
 - d. We will initially text to inform parents. If we do not receive a response within 10 minutes, we will call. If we reach the parents' voicemail, and do not receive a call or text back within 10 minutes after the call, we will begin calling contacts on the emergency phone call list.
 - e. To clarify, a fever is defined as "any temperature above normal". A child needs to stay home (or parent called to pick the child up) if they have a temperature of 100.4 or above and/or if a child has 2 or more loose (diarrhea) stools/day or any vomiting. Please note that this is also the policy of Norman Public Schools, "The Good Health Handbook" (distributed by the Oklahoma State Department of Health) as well as many other well respected entities.
 - i. Children will not be allowed to return to preschool until they have been symptom free without the aid of fever reducing medications AND eating normally for at least 24 hours (48 hours during pandemic, see below). In some cases, a note from a doctor may be necessary but does not override our final decision.
 - ii. If you are contacted to pick your child up from care due to fever, diarrhea, or vomiting... they automatically **MAY NOT RETURN** any time during the following day of care regardless of how they are feeling..
 - f. Parents agree that a child who has obtained vaccinations will be kept at home for at least 24 hours after the vaccine is administered. We strongly encourage immunization appointments to be set Friday afternoons when at all possible. While most children do not have adverse reactions, many do have slight discomfort/fevers/feelings of unease within the first 24 hours requiring more one-on-one attention than is possible in group care.
 - g. *****It is my sincere hope that you appreciate these efforts to keep every child in our care as well as possible in a group setting. Please respect this illness policy and have consideration for your child, other children in care and their parents. If a child is not well enough to go outside to play or attend school, they are not well enough to attend preschool. If a child is exceptionally fussy or obviously does not feel well at any point upon return to preschool, parents will be called to pick the child up.***
 - h. Giving your child fever-reducing medication before preschool in order to mask the fever, not notifying us of your child's symptoms of illness, or any other attempt to hide an illness is grounds for immediate termination.
 - i. *****Medication, including over-the-counter and ointments, must be provided by the parent/guardian in the original container and clearly labeled with the child's name and instructions.***
 - i. If medication is to be administered once or twice daily, please make plans to administer at home before/after preschool.

- ii. Medication must be accompanied with written dated permission using required DHS Medication Permission form signed by the parent giving the exact dosage and times to be administered.
- iii. Each dosage administered is recorded by the caregiver and the record is readily available to parents.
- iv. All medications are properly stored out of children's reach and away from food.
- v. There are special regulations regarding injections per DHS requirements.
- j. Please indicate on the contract that you understand and agree to this illness policy.

2. **Our Illnesses:** In general, our family stays fairly healthy.

- a. In the event one of our children becomes sick, they are 'quarantined' away from the preschool children and toys. They are not allowed to enter the playroom or play with the children outside.
- b. The adults (Christy, Will, any assistants) will follow the same illness policy as is required of parents so as to do everything possible to keep others well.
 - i. If we can stay open (with help from assistants/substitutes) we will. However, it is your responsibility to have a back-up plan in place for the rare occasions we can't remain open.
 - ii. We do not put a limit on our 'closed for illness' days. They are not included in our vacation or personal days.
 - iii. Full tuition payments are required on the regular due date and are subject to late fees.
- c. We all take this very seriously as we know that sick kiddos or a closed preschool means a parent has to stay home from work and possibly won't get paid.

3. **Germ Prevention & Pandemics:** With the appearance of Covid-19, we felt the need to add pandemic specific policies to this section. Please note the instances in which policies will apply..

- a. Ongoing germ prevention at home (regardless of pandemic):
 - i. We encourage you to help your children make PROPER hand washing a habit. Singing the ABC song at a normal (not sped up) pace, including the ending "now i know my ABCs wont you sing along with me" helps them know they are washing for long enough to kill germs. Make sure they do NOT rinse soap off before rubbing, are rubbing soap all over their hands the whole time they are singing and rinsing thoroughly once song is complete.
 - ii. Please model and teach your child how to effectively cover their coughs and sneezes with their elbows, NOT hands (or alternatively into the inside of their shirt) while also turning away from people and food.
- b. Ongoing germ prevention at AW:
 - i. Regardless of pandemic:
 - 1. All children will wash hands immediately upon arrival. They will also wash hands throughout the day: after toileting, after playing outside, before and after eating, etc.
 - 2. If coughs are present during a typical 'illness season', masks will be worn by caregivers when physical distancing cannot be maintained.
 - 3. Also If coughs are present during a typical 'illness season', children will wear masks when inside, except when eating and sleeping.
 - 4. If a child has an excessively runny nose or cough during the day, parents will be called to pick the child up
 - 5. All surfaces will be sanitized regularly.
 - ii. During pandemic:
 - 1. No one will be allowed in AW areas except children, AW staff, masked DHS Licensing staff and necessary & masked repair personnel that will be in the areas in use by AW staff or children.

2. No outside items brought in without prior discussion and permission.
 3. Parents will text caregiver upon arrival. Caregiver will greet child and parents at the door and clock the child in for the day.
 4. Each child will be checked for fevers before being allowed in. This generally consists of caregiver giving the child a quick hug/greeting and feeling their face or neck while doing so. If child feels even slightly warm, caregiver will take their temperature with a thermometer.
 5. For departures from inside: Parent will text caregiver upon arrival. Caregiver will have child clean up any toys they are playing with. Then child and caregiver will greet parent at the door and clock the child out for the day.
For departures from outside: parents can enter backyard via the west gate to pick up their child.
- c. Pandemic specific policies: Some of these will have to be revisited and adjusted if another pandemic occurs or as new developments arise. They are all based on CDC recommendations and our comfort levels..
- i. The less exposure to humans outside our own homes, the less risk of illness. It is expected that AW families will do everything they can to limit exposure, including wearing appropriate masks when in public spaces and practicing physical distancing.
 - ii. AW will be staying home. No outings unless outside and/or all children are vaccinated.
 - iii. Family-style meal serving will cease. Children will still have control over what and how much they eat. It will simply be caregiver asking and serving instead of the children.
 - iv. During a pandemic, any child sent home for any illness may not return until after 48 hours symptom-free without medication. Per general policy, any attempt to hide an illness will result in immediate termination. Remember that “just allergies” can actually be a more serious illness so we may request that your child be tested for ‘pandemic illness’.
 - v. Parents must inform the caregiver as soon as it is confirmed that you or a household family member was exposed to a confirmed ‘pandemic illness’ case and are in the process of being tested and/or quarantined so necessary arrangements to disinfect and clean can be made and other parents notified if needed.
 - vi. If a parent (or any other person living in their home) is quarantined the child needs to be quarantined as well, for at least 10 days. Child will not be allowed at AW until the household quarantine is over and child tests negative with a PCR test or rapid home test.
 - vii. If there is a confirmed case of “pandemic illness” among an AW child or staff member, AW will immediately notify DHS Licensing and follow all CDC protocols for spread prevention.
 - viii. If an AW child is positive, we will likely be closed for at least 48 hours to sanitize appropriately. Child will be quarantined for a minimum of 10 days, be symptom-free, negative PCR test or rapid home test and follow general illness policy before returning to AW.
 - ix. If your child is unable to attend due to quarantine, tuition is still required as stated in the financial section of this handbook.
 - x. In the event of an AW household member testing positive, we will follow CDC recommended quarantine, and likely be closed for 5 days, follow the same criteria as children and mask at all times for an additional 5 days. AW will only reopen when we feel confident it is safe to do so.
 - xi. In the event we have to close due to “pandemic illness”: tuition will likely still be expected to a certain degree, to be determined depending on length of closure.
- a. Please indicate on the contract that you understand and agree to this Germ Prevention/Pandemic policy.

2. ****Management of Injuries:** We will make every effort to keep your child safe and free from injury. We daily

inspect indoor and outdoor play spaces and equipment for hazards and we supervise children at all times. We have properly maintained first aid kits in our home and vehicle. We will always have immediate access to a phone to call for emergency care if needed

- a. In the event that your child is injured in a non-life-threatening way, we will assess and provide first aid.
 - i. If the injury is more serious (needs stitches, broken arm, etc.), we will notify you so you can transport your child to urgent care or doctor's office. If we are unable to contact you, we will attempt to call the people you have listed as your emergency contacts.
- b. If immediate intervention is required, we are certified in infant, child, and adult CPR and First Aid and we will take appropriate action, including calling 911 and having your child transported to the nearest hospital.
 - i. We will then notify you of the emergency. If your child must be transported to the hospital, one of us will accompany them and remain until you have arrived, as long as one of us is able to leave while maintaining the appropriate caregiver ratio here at the preschool.
 - ii. An injury report form will be completed as soon after the incident as possible. We will give you a copy and keep the original report in your child's file.
- c. We will notify OK DHS within 24 hours of any injury to a child requiring emergency medical attention.
- d. All costs associated with injuries to your child will be your responsibility or that of your insurance.
- e. In the event your child is hurt by one of the other children, or your child hurts one of the other children, you will be notified. However, to maintain confidentiality, we will not disclose the names of the children to either parental unit.
 - i. This is to ensure that no prejudice is created toward a very common and developmentally expected occurrence. Our children are learning everyday about social situations and the appropriate way to act in a group. We will have and will adjust to the usual hiccups.

3. ****Emergency Procedures:** *Please also refer to our Disaster Policies and Procedures Manual*

- a. Fire: There is one fire extinguisher located in our home (on the kitchen counter). If there is a fire that cannot be extinguished quickly, the children will be evacuated immediately before calling 911.
 - i. Caregiver will guide the children out of the nearest and safest exit, staying below smoke. If necessary, older children will help with younger children. We will not have a backyard meeting place due to the existence of foliage surrounding the yard. If we must exit the house into the back yard we will continue through one of the gates to the front yard meeting place. Front yard meeting place is the sidewalk of the neighbor to the east of us. Caregiver or other representative will call 911 via cell phone or neighbor's phone. Caregiver or other representative will call to inform parents as soon as possible.
- b. Tornado: In the event of a tornado watch or indication of imminent severe weather, emergency contacts will be used to request parents pick up their child prior to any severe weather occurrence (only if safe to do so). Any child not picked up by parents will follow our Severe Storm/Tornado warning plan if necessary.
 - i. We do have a small storm shelter, registered with the city of Norman, to use in the event of a tornado warning. Upon news of tornado watch for our area, caregiver will quickly prepare the shelter. Supplies are kept in the tornado shelter. The staff will move all children to the shelter (located in the garage floor). All will remain in shelter until caregiver is certain of safety. Caregiver or other representative will call or text to inform parents as soon as possible.
- c. Flood: We are not in a flood zone and our home sits on a hill so we are not required to have a plan for flooding.
- d. Power outage: There are flashlights located in the emergency supplies box in the garage to use if needed. If the power remains out for some time, there are non-perishables located in the pantry that will be used to eat. OK DHS Licensing requires us to close if we are unable to maintain our home's temperature between 65 and 80 degrees F or if we do not have access to hot, running water.
- e. Incident Weather/School Closings/Blizzard: Abundant Wonder closes if Norman Public Schools close due to bad weather/snow/unsafe driving conditions (not extreme cold or school site power outages). We

will monitor their closure decisions and encourage parents to also. We will notify everyone of closures as soon as we know. Full tuition payments are required on the regular due date and are subject to late fees.

***Abundant Wonder will close in the rare/improbable occurrence of a blizzard.*

BEHAVIORAL POLICIES

1. **Play is Powerful:** Since you chose Abundant Wonder, you probably value the power of play more than others.
 - a. Fred Rogers was spot on when he said, “Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But for children, play is serious learning. Play is really the work of childhood” and we agree that play is of utmost importance for early childhood development.
 - b. Through the work of play, children experience science, literacy, fine and gross motor development, math, creativity, social skills and most of all, the joy of learning. We supplement their ample unstructured (usually outdoor) play time with play-based activities that enhance their understanding of the skills they acquire together, naturally.
 - c. Keep in mind that while we do these activities and review academic-type concepts, the retention of such are developmental and children develop at different rates. For this reason we do not guarantee your child will be able to recognize all of their letters, numbers, etc yet they will have had an excellent foundation of being introduced to and practicing them. Most children that move on to pre-k or kindergarten from Abundant Wonder have all the skills they need to be successful in their new environment.
 - d. NPS Pre-k applications are usually available in late February so we do yearly (mid-February) assessments and conferences to help parents gauge their child’s school readiness and suggest things they could practice at home.
 - e. **Please indicate on the contract that you understand and agree to this Play is Powerful policy.**

2. **Behavioral Expectations:** We don’t want our home to feel like an institution; we have certain expectations, yet we are not rigid. In a preschool home where there are always several children present and excited, it’s important that expectations are respected to keep everyone safe. Sometimes at pick-up time, the children may get rowdier than usual because someone else is here. During this time, parents should take extra care to show your child that you respect us and our expectations by supporting them while you are here (even with older siblings).
 - a. Treat everyone with respect and kindness. Use preferred pronouns. No name-calling, yelling, foul-language, or teasing. No gun/violent play or threatening.
 - b. Keep hands and feet to yourself. No roughhousing, hitting, biting, pinching, throwing, pushing, hair pulling, grabbing, kicking, pulling, spitting, or otherwise hurting ourselves or others (including parents or siblings).. No lifting, carrying, climbing, or sitting on other children. No picking up babies and toddlers even by siblings.
 - c. Stay in the house or yard. No leaving the house or yard without an adult (no one is allowed outside without adult supervision, even when parents are on the property).
 - d. Walking and moderate noise level only inside. No running, jumping, wrestling, climbing, or screaming inside the house.
 - e. Treat toys and other items with respect. No intentionally breaking anything. No standing on, hitting with, pounding with, or throwing toys or other household items. No standing on or jumping off the furniture.
 - f. **Please indicate on the contract that you understand and agree to this Behavioral Expectations policy.**

3. ****Guidance:** Children’s behavior is influenced by their overall development, their environment, and their caregivers. Each child differs in terms of their activity level, distractibility, and sensitivity. Children learn, through respectful guidance, to develop socially acceptable and appropriate behavior as they grow to maturity.
 - a. **Purpose of this Policy:** This policy is the guideline that Abundant Wonder Preschool will follow to assist children in developing self-control, self-confidence, and sensitivity in their interactions

with others. Guidance is required to ensure order, prevent injury, and ensure a child's activities are not infringing on the rights of others. **Behavior (adult and child) at Abundant Wonder Preschool is expected to be based on mutual respect. Consequently, all rules and requests relate to respecting ourselves, each other, our home and contents within.**

- b. Guidance Strategies: It is important that the caregiver 'sets the stage' for a positive atmosphere and maximum opportunities for desirable behavior. This will be done by:
 - i. Modeling respectful interactions by treating each child with the respect every person deserves;
 - ii. Explaining to the children what behavior will be acceptable and explaining the reason for the limits, doing so in a positive way;
 - iii. Focusing on what needs the child's behavior is conveying, instead of on the behavior alone (aka 'going upstream').
 - iv. Allowing the children time to respond to the expectations;
 - v. Reinforcing appropriate behavior;
 - vi. Being willing to listen and respond in a fair and supportive manner, and;
 - vii. Observing children in order to anticipate potential difficulties.
- c. Intervention Strategies: One or more of the following strategies will be used to help create a positive climate and minimize problems in a supportive, rather than punitive way:
 - i. By establishing eye contact and calling the child's name in a calm controlled voice to gain a child's attention;
 - ii. By remaining near the child in situations where they may be losing self-control;
 - iii. Children will be gently encouraged to "take a break" until they feel they are able to maintain appropriate behavior. Here, "taking a break" means moving away from the trigger to do something else. It does not mean excluding from activities or peers;
 - iv. Children will be respectfully reminded of expectations;
 - v. Engaging the children in problem solving as needed;
 - vi. For younger children or children with limited attention span and verbal abilities, we will attempt to change the behavior by modeling correct behavior or redirecting the child;
 - vii. Verbal and/or physical assistance will be shown by modeling problem solving if a child is discouraged or frustrated;
 - viii. Children will be offered choices in a non-threatening and non-punitive way to assist them in meeting expectations;
 - ix. We will clarify the possible outcomes of the behavior to the child;
 - x. If the child is unable to resolve a problem or take responsibility for their actions, they will be redirected to another activity, or in special circumstances, be limited in the use of a piece of equipment;
 - xi. The child could be removed from the situation in a positive way that ensures that the child still feels loved and respected. In such circumstances, we will be with the child practicing "time-in".
 1. this can be described as a time for caregiver and child to reconnect which often leads to a more peaceful rest of the day;
 - xii. On a rare occasion where a child loses control and could possibly injure themselves or others. We may be required to hold the child to soothe them until self-control is gained;
 - xiii. When a child is ready, they will be provided an opportunity to make amends.
- d. Practices Which are Unacceptable: Abundant Wonder Preschool considers the following practices unacceptable and will not tolerate their use (and **strongly** discourage the use in the child's home):
 - i. Corporal punishment ie. shoving, hitting, shaking, spanking.
 - ii. Harsh, belittling, or degrading treatment.
 - iii. Confinement, unsupervised separation from others, physical restraint as punishment.

- iv. Depriving children of meals, snacks, rest or necessary use of the toilet as punishment.
- e. ***Child care providers are required by law to immediately report any suspicion of child abuse or neglect to the Statewide Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline. Failure to report is a misdemeanor offense and upon conviction is punishable by law.*

***Policies/topics throughout the handbook that are in dark blue italics preceded by two asterisks are required by DHS Licensing. The actual policies may differ between child care providers but the topics must be included.*