

Sunshine Academy Parent Handbook



4024 Hwy 5 N
Bryant, AR 72022
(501) 455-3446
Director: Diann Crouse
www.sunshineacademyar.org

Sunshine Academy

A ministry of

First Pentecostal Church

(dba Grace Church)

Of

Bryant



4024 Hwy 5 N
Bryant AR 72022
(501) 847-8961

Senior Pastor: Jerry Whitley
Administrative Pastor: Tim Barnett
Church Office Administrator: Regina Fields
Director of Daycare: Diann Crouse

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Welcome Letter

Welcome! We are excited that you have chosen to enroll your child in our program! Our commitment is to provide a safe, loving, Christian environment and a quality program for you and your child.

This handbook is given to all parents at the time of enrollment, and is designed to familiarize you with our policies and procedures. Sunshine Academy is licensed by the state of Arkansas and abides by the Division of Child Development rules and regulations, in addition to our own policies and procedures.

Involving families in our program is a top priority. This helps build a partnership and help children make the connection between home and the Center. Sunshine Academy serves as an extension of your family and sharing ideas and genuine love for children is of the utmost importance. We encourage parents to visit and participate in school activities, and our open door policy allows parents to come and visit unannounced and as often as they choose to, as long as your child is enrolled in the program.

Please make sure you read this handbook thoroughly as it contains important information that will ensure a successful relationship between your family and the Center.

We look forward to partnering with you and, again, we thank you for choosing Sunshine Academy!

Sincerely,
Pastor Whitley

Section I

Mission Statement of Sunshine Academy:

The mission statement of Sunshine Academy to nurture the “whole child” in areas of physical, intellectual, emotional, & social development. This will be achieved through providing a variety of activities that are developmentally appropriate and recognizes the individual needs and differences of children. Through Christian principles and teacher-assisted and directed activities, children are encouraged to be independent thinkers and life-long learners.

Nondiscrimination Policy

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, religion, political party, national origin, sex, age, or disability.

Purpose and Goals

Sunshine Academy has a tri-fold purpose. The first purpose is to provide a ministry to the families of First Pentecostal Church (dba Grace Church) of Bryant and to the families in the community. The Center seeks to provide a spiritual environment with Christian leadership to help children grow and develop into mature Christian individuals. Secondly, the Center seeks to provide an environment where parents can feel comfortable and secure leaving their children, knowing they will receive excellent care in their home away from home. Thirdly, the Center seeks to provide opportunities for children to grow and develop through exploration and experimentation with various teaching materials and activities; activities that are stimulating, age appropriate, and enhance spiritual, social-emotional, physical, and intellectual development

Times of Operation

Operating hours are Monday through Friday from 6:00 a.m. through 6:00 p.m.

Enrollment Procedures

- A. Parents may secure child care applications from the Center during regular office hours. Regular office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. or they may download and print them from the Center’s website.
- B. In addition to the application for admission parents are required to have a pre-enrollment tour with the Director or the Director’s designee. Parents should bring their child with them to the pre-enrollment tour. This will give the child an opportunity to meet the teachers and other children and spend some time in their

- class before the first full day of attendance. During the pre-enrollment tour, parents are encouraged to share information about their child, voice their expectations of the program, and ask questions.
- C. Upon confirmation of enrollment into the program, the registration fee and the first week's tuition will be due at this time. Parents must also submit a current immunization report on their child no later than the first day of enrollment.
 - D. It is the responsibility of the parent to report to the office any change of address, telephone numbers (home or work), employment, emergency contact person and medical information.

Age Groups We Provide care for:

- Infants-6 weeks to 17 months
- Toddlers-18 months to 23 months
- Twos-24 months to 35 months
- Threes-3 years to 4 years old
- Fours-4 years to 5 years old
- After School-Ages 5 to 12

Safe Arrival and Departure Policy

All parents must sign children in upon arrival and out upon departure. Sunshine Academy staff will not receive students before 6:00 a.m. nor will we receive children after 10:00a.m. unless prior arrangements have been made, such as a doctor's appointment or a family emergency. Pick up time no later than 6:00 p. m. unless stated otherwise.

IF AN INDIVIDUAL OTHER THAN THE PARENT/GUARDIAN IS PICKING UP THE CHILD, THE PARENT MUST NOTIFY ADMINISTRATION AND THE CHILD'S TEACHER. THE INDIVIDUAL MUST SHOW IDENTIFICATION, SUCH AS DRIVER'S LICENSE, PRIOR TO DEPARTING WITH THE CHILD IF THE STAFF ARE NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE INDIVIDUAL.

To prevent unnecessary accidents, parents are asked to take their child/children directly to their class upon entering the building or to the designated class for students arriving. Students leaving the building must be accompanied by parents or adults from the class to the vehicle. **DO NOT ALLOW** your child the freedom to run or roam the building, classrooms, parking lot, or hallway. Sunshine Academy will not be held liable for accidents, incidents, or injuries that may occur to children who are not under the care of Sunshine Academy staff. When children are released from the class to parents/guardians, they are no longer under the care of Sunshine Academy staff.

Safety Tips During Arrival and Departure

1. Please turn your car off and take the keys out of the ignition before entering the Center in the morning and afternoon.
2. Please turn off or turn down loud music.
3. Please drive very slowly when approaching the building or driving under the shelter.
4. Please do not leave small children unattended. We know it's convenient not to have to bring in your small ones or infants while you take their older siblings to class or pick them up at the end of the day, but the following can happen:
 - a. The child or another child can jump into the driver's seat and change gears.
 - b. The child or baby can choke.
 - c. Someone can abduct your child.
 - d. Children can climb out of the car and get hit by a moving car or wander off.
 - e. Children can go into your purse and open medicine bottles.
 - f. Heat exhaustion or hypothermia may occur since your car should not be left running and the air conditioner or heat would not be on.
 - g. Heads, necks, and arms can get caught in power windows.
 - h. Children can sometimes lock parents out of the car or parents may accidentally lock themselves out of the car.

Sick Policy: Regulations Concerning Sick Children

According to the AR Dept. of Health & Human Services Division of Child Development, we are unable to accept a child with a diagnosed communicable disease (measles, mumps, chickenpox, etc.) or obvious acute illness. Therefore, please do not send your child to the Center when he/she is sick or has signs of a possible contagious disease. If your child has a communicable disease, please keep him/her home until the symptoms have subsided and the child feels well enough participate in Center activities.

In order for the staff to administer medication it must be prescribed by a doctor unless it is an over-the-counter medication, which can be given only as recommended by the label. Please help us by:

- A. Signing and dating a medical consent form, this can be picked up from the class.
- B. Making sure all medication is in the original container and the date, child's name, doctor's name, and the dosage plainly stated is present on prescribed medications.

If a child has a temperature of 101 degrees or greater, diarrhea or contagious illness, the parent or next of kin will be contacted immediately for pickup. If there is a serious injury and/or medical problem, the parent and/or the local rescue squad may be contacted for assistance. If the nature of the illness is not life threatening, the director or director's designee will transport the child to the hospital or local physician. If this action is taken parents/guardians will be contacted immediately.

Nutrition Policy: Meals and Snacks

The Center will provide nourishments three times each day. A morning snack, lunch, and an afternoon snack will be distributed. All meals and snacks are prepared based on the USDA Child Care Food Program Guidelines. Menus are posted monthly. This Center participates in the Child and Adult Care Food Program of AR Dept. of Health & Human Services, which meet all federal recommended daily nutritional standards. All parents/guardians are requested to fill out an annual Child Food Program Eligibility Application in order for the Center to maintain state compliance.

Parents must provide formula and baby food for their infants if they are not using the type that the center provides. The Center does provide baby foods, rice cereal, Enfamil Premium formula and meals to infants who are at least 1 year and eat from the table. Parents must bring the child's bottles and Sippy cups from home labeled with the child's name.

Parents are required to fill out an infant feeding schedule before the first day of care whether or not the Center provides the food.

Parents must provide food for children who are on special diets that are prescribed by the child's physician. Parents must have a Physician or Dietitian to substantiate the need for a special diet in writing. Notes from Physicians are needed to substantiate food allergies.

Extra snacks, other foods and /or beverages are not permitted in the Center except for breakfast which should be a health balance breakfast if you choose for your child to eat breakfast here. The Center provides a balanced snack, which meets nutritional guidelines. Soft drinks are not allowed.

If students are not here before 10:00 a.m., they will not be included in the lunch count. Please call to inform us of their late arrival before 10:00 a.m.

Lunch is served between 11:00 and 12:00; snacks are served from 9:00 to 10:00am and 3:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Daily Rest Periods:

Provisions will be made each day for each child to rest. A minimum of 1 hour per day and maximum of 2 hours rest time will be available for each child. Please provide a crib sheets and a small blanket to cover cots at nap-time. The center will launder the bedding once per week unless it is soiled for children 18 months and old. The bedding for children under 18 months will be laundered daily. Please label your child's linen and all personal items with his/her name or initials.

Personal Belongings

- Toys and money should not be brought to the Center unless it is requested for a special occasion.
- Bottles are only allowed in the infant class.
- Pacifiers are only allowed in the infant and toddler classes.
- All parents are asked to bring 1 extra set of seasonal clothing to be left in their child's cubby. The extra clothes should include socks and underclothes. (Note: When a child is being potty trained, several pairs of training pants should be brought to the Center on a daily basis. Please be considerate of the type of bottoms your child wears during training. Clothes should be easy to remove by the child & the teacher. Dirty cloths must be removed that day.
- Please put your child's name or initials on all items left at the Center.

Items Needed From Parents to Ensure Quality Care

We want to assure your child is properly cared for while in our Center. Parents are responsible for providing the following items:

Infants: 6 weeks to 18 months

- Diapers – weekly
 - Wipes – monthly
 - 1 set of seasonal changing clothes – at all times
 - *Breast milk or formula (up to 12 months if you are not using Enfamil Premium)
- Note: The Center provides meals for infants.

Toddlers: 18 months to 24 months

- Diapers or Pull-Ups and Wipes – weekly
- 1 set of seasonal changing clothes – at all times

Twos: 24 months to 36 months

- Diapers/ Pull-Ups/Training Underwear (if child isn't potty trained)
- 1 set of seasonal changing of clothes – at all times
- (Pacifiers are not allowed unless it is nap time)

Note: When potty training begins, please dress children in clothes that will help increase independence of this new skill. Clothes to avoid: overalls, Onesies, jumpers, & body shirts.

Threes & Fours

- 1 set of seasonal changing clothes, socks and underwear included – at all times
- Note: Please dress children in clothes to have fun in. Children should not have to worry about getting clothes dirty while they are playing, learning, and having fun.

*All students are required to have a current updated shot record on file.

Discipline & Behavior Management Policy

The guidelines for discipline at Sunshine Academy are to foster and teach children to be independent self-monitors of their behavior that walk in Christian Love. This will be achieved through behavior guidelines provided by teachers and staff.

Children attending Sunshine Academy will not be subjected to any form of corporal punishment, by the Director or any other staff of the facility. The definition of “staff,” includes: any regular or substitute caregivers, volunteers, cooks, secretaries, janitors, vehicle drivers or any other individual who might come into contact with the children while providing services for Sunshine Academy.

Sunshine Academy Instructors and other staff will provide Verbal Guidance by:

- Speaking kindly to children.
- Providing positive verbal praise when interacting with children.
- Giving clear instructions.
- Avoid making comparisons between children
- Giving positive directions and suggestions.
- Modeling Christian values.
- Promoting positive self-esteem.

Sunshine Academy instructors and staff will provide Behavioral Guidance by:

- Supervising children for all activities (indoor, outdoor, and field trips)
- Planning developmentally appropriate classroom activities.
- Ensuring that children know the consequences for inappropriate behavior.
- Providing consistency in discipline practices.
- Ensuring that teachers and staff will be positive role models.
- Giving children choices.
- Knowing and understanding the mental and emotional needs of the children.
- Using “Time Out” immediately following physical aggression, hitting with objects, kicking, or biting. “Time out” will not exceed 1 minute per year of the child’s age and only used after 2 years of age.

Sunshine Academy complies with General Statutes of the State of Arkansas; which are:

- No child will be handled roughly in any way including shaking, pushing, shoving, pinching, slapping, biting, kicking, or spanking.
- No child shall ever be disciplined for not sleeping during rest period.
- No child shall ever be placed in a locked room, closet or box.
- No child shall be disciplined for toileting accidents or any other accidents.
- No child shall be delegated to providing discipline of another child.
- Foods shall not be withheld as a means of discipline.

Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect

We understand the importance of family unity, however if a time arrives where upon any symptoms of suspected child abuse or neglect by a staff member or parent/guardian are brought to our attention, we are required by law to report it to the Child Abuse hotline. This Center will abide by this law.

Inclement Weather

Sunshine Academy typically follows the Bryant School inclement weather closings and delays. If Bryant School District is closed or opening late due to inclement weather, the Center will close with the same schedule.

Field Trips

Field trips and nature walks will be taken periodically to nearby places and are considered an important part of the educational program. The same responsible adult supervision will be provided for those excursions as are available to the children while in attendance at the Center.

Parents will be notified in advance of all field trips away from the Center and a separate permission slip must be signed prior to the trip. In the event your child will not be attending a class field trip, the child must be picked up prior to the scheduled time of the field trip. The entire class staff is needed on the trip to ensure proper supervision and safety of the class during the trip.

Students are strongly encouraged to wear sneakers on all field trips. Toys, electronic devices, games, and other such items should not be taken on trips; unless, special permission is given by staff. Sunshine Academy will not be held liable for any lost, damaged, or stolen items on field trips.

Closings

The Center will be closed on the following days:

New Years Day 1-day

Memorial Day 1-day

Independence Day 1-day

Labor Day 1-day

Thanksgiving 1-days

Christmas 1 ½ -days

Photos/Videos

We take pictures and videos of children on a regular basis as a way of documenting your child's learning process. These pictures are used in your child's portfolio and as materials for marketing and advertising Sunshine Academy. Pictures are always used and shared with respect. By signing the last page of this handbook, you will be giving Sunshine Academy permission to use your child's image whenever necessary. If you do not wish to have your child's pictures and/or videos used for these purposes please note your exception on the same page.

Section II—Sunshine Academy Tuition Agreement

REVISED August 14, 2014

Enrollment Process & Registration Fee

THE REGISTRATION FEE AND 1ST WEEK OF TUITION IS NONREFUNDABLE. The registration fee/tuition will also serve as a security deposit to secure a child's space in a classroom for minimum of one (1) week. At the end of the week, the child will need to have started the program, or another week of tuition will be due or the space will be lost.

Registration Fee \$50

Tuition

Each child's tuition is an ongoing fee, which may be separated into weekly, biweekly, or monthly payments. ALL TUITION IS DUE ON MONDAY THE WEEK OF SERVICE. IF PAYMENT IS NOT PAID BY 6:00 PM WEDNESDAY IT IS CONSIDERED LATE AND YOU WILL BE CHARGED A \$20.00 LATE FEE.

NOTE: Tuition is required if your child attends the Center or does not attend, as long as the child is enrolled in the program.

Class Weekly Rate

6 weeks to 17 months \$135

18 months to 3 years \$125

Threes \$120

Fours \$110

Before/After school \$55

Before or After School \$45

Summer Camp \$105

Drop In (When available) \$20

DISCOUNTS:

A \$5.00/week discount is given for one additional child in the same family.

Forms of Payment:

Clients are encouraged to make payments in the form of a check or money order. Checks and money orders may be dropped in the box on the wall near the Director's office.

Vacation Time:

Parents are entitled to one off of one week's tuition after 6 months of being enrolled in the Center, and another one off of one week's tuition after an additional 6 months. The child

MUST be absent to use this option. After the child has been enrolled in the center for 1 year parents will have the opportunity to NOT pay their weekly tuition 2 times per year. These weeks may be taken together or separate. Parents will need to inform the office at least one week in advance when they decide to use these weeks. These weeks cannot be credited retroactively.

Penalty Charges

Re-enrollment fee of \$25.00 is charged when a child is dropped from the program by the parent or Center and re-enrolled at any given time within the same year. If a client wishes to continue services, and if the slot is still available, the \$25.00 re-enrollment will be requested upon entering the program. Re-enrollment fee not charged for school age children enrolled in before/after care only during the school year.

Late Payment Penalty of \$20.00 will be charged to all accounts on WEDNESDAY AT 6 PM. The Center may discontinue services if tuition is one weeks or more delinquent.

LATE PICKUP FEES will be charged if a student is picked up after Center operating hours. The operating hours for Sunshine Academy are from 6:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. If you pick your child up after 6:00 p.m. the following fees will be imposed:

TIME SURCHARGE

6:01-6:30 \$1.00 per minute

6:30-until \$30.00 plus \$3.00 per minute

**Phone calls to notify of late arrival will not exempt a late fee charge. Accounts will be billed.

Returned Check Fees

There will be a \$35.00 service charge for all returned checks, in addition to a \$20.00 late payment fee. When the Center receives three or more returned checks from a client, we will no longer accept checks as a method of payment from that client. Returned checks must be paid with a money order. After 3 returned checks we will no longer be able to accept checks from you and you will be required to pay with money orders.

Delinquent Accounts

If accounts are one week or more delinquent, the Center Director has the right to discontinue services. All unpaid accounts will be turned over to a collection agency. Parents will be notified prior to this procedure. Any balances left unsettled will be sent to Collections after 30 days.

Withdrawal Policy

If a parent decides to withdraw from the program, a two weeks' notice is required. Any parent failing to do so, will be charged their normal tuition rate for two weeks. All balances will be sent to Collections after 30 days of the last day the child attends the program.

Therapy Services

We have a local therapy team that comes in once per year and does a free screening of each child that is enrolled in Sunshine Academy. By enrolling your child you are giving permission for your child to be screen. The therapy team will meet with you after the initial screening for you to decide if you wish to have your child in therapy or not. If you do not want your child screened you must give a written note to the office about it.

Questions, Concerns or Complaints

From time to time you may have a question, concern or even a complaint. The director's door is always open to parents. In the event your director is not available you can speak with the assistant director. There is always a member of the management team on site.

If the director is not on site and you are not fully satisfied with your experience you may reach her on her cell phone @ 501-317-7151. Please keep in mind that her hours are 7:30am to 4:30 pm. She will be available by phone or text 7:00am to 6:30 pm. If it is an emergency you can reach her until 8 pm. Please keep in mind that she does have a family and if it can wait please contact her during business hours.

Our director can also be contacted via email:

Director Diann Crouse: directorbryant@sunshineacademy.org

Section III—Agreement Page

I have read and understand the Parent Handbook and agree to abide by the policies and procedures as stated.

Signature of Parent/Guardian Date

I have given the above parent an opportunity to ask questions and discuss the policies of Sunshine Academy and the A.R. Division of Child Care licensing and any other items of concern during enrollment.

Directors Signature Date

A PHOTO COPY OF THIS PAGE MUST BE PLACED IN THE STUDENT’S FILE.

STUDENT’S NAME _____ DATE OF ENTRY _____