



Lakeshore Little People's Place

Parent Handbook

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Introductory Information

History. Lakeshore Little People's Place (LLPP) is a Christian non-profit (501(c)(3) ministry. In 1993, a group of community members contacted the Holland Deacons' Conference (HDC) about the need for Christian childcare. The HDC is a coalition of area Christian Reformed churches working together to meet the needs in the community. After exploring many options, it was decided that the community's childcare needs could be met by partnering with churches to provide Christian childcare within the community.

In 1997, LLPP began with twenty preschool children at Maplewood Reformed Church. Within the first year, our program grew steadily and by August of 1997, we were able to open two additional centers. LLPP now has three locations in the Holland/Hamilton area.

- Providence LLPP is on the south side of Holland and cares for infants through fifth grade children and offers a tuition paid, free state-funded preschool program (GSRP).
- Hamilton South LLPP cares for infants through fourth grade children and offers a tuition paid, free state-funded preschool program (GSRP).
- Hamilton LLPP is a preschool-only site for children between the ages of three and five.

Philosophy. We believe that children need support in order to develop spiritually, emotionally, intellectually, socially and physically. We want children to be able to:

- Develop ways to express themselves through language, music and art
- Develop independence, self-control, social skills and motor skills through a variety of activities
- Develop positive self esteem
- Develop relationships with other children and caring adults

We believe that parents and families also need support. Lakeshore Little People's Place seeks to create an environment where parents can feel comfortable and secure leaving their children. We work in partnership with parents and invite parent communication and participation. We value strong home-school connections, including displaying photographs of children's home/family/culture displayed in the classroom and their home language spoken in the classroom when able.

We believe that our faith should shape the way that we care for children. Since our God is a God of all creation, our children are involved in many things, from painting and singing to counting and speaking – all of which show evidence of our Creator. In addition, there are activities that specifically show that our faith is evident: prayer at meals, Bible stories, memory verses, religious songs and the celebration of religious holidays. Whether specifically referenced or not, our faith in a loving God informs all of the activities that we engage in.

Mission Statement. Lakeshore Little People's Place is a ministry of the Holland Deacons' Conference that provides Christian childcare to meet the needs of working parents in the greater Holland/Hamilton area. The program offers:

- Quality, licensed, educational full time childcare for ages 6 weeks to 6 years
- Before and after school recreation activity and study time - licensed for kindergarten through grade five
- A caring community of professional care givers
- Intentional inclusion of children from low income families who are working toward self-sufficiency
- A church community for families who do not have a church home or who need more support than LLPP can provide

Non-Profit Organization. As a non-profit 501(c)(3), LLPP uses all of its income for the purpose of operating and improving and expanding its programs. The Internal Revenue Service has given exempt status to LLPP. Despite the obvious benefit of being exempt from most tax fees, it also allows donors to receive a charitable contribution deduction on their income tax return.

Statement of Faith. LLPP employees and board members are asked to sign a statement that they accept and agree with this Statement of Faith:

- I believe God is the creator and sovereign ruler of all things in the universe.
- I believe in Jesus Christ as the only true Son of God who became man.
- I believe He died and carried away all our sins, He arose and now He reigns in heaven with His Father.
- I believe God sends His Holy Spirit to comfort us and aid us in a life of Christian discipleship.
- I acknowledge my sinful nature, my salvation through Jesus Christ alone, and I am committed to a Christian lifestyle as an expression of my repentance and gratitude.

LLPP Board of Directors. Lakeshore Little People's Place is governed by a Board of Directors that includes one representative for each LLPP site, one representative from the HDC, and 5 other members. Board members are approved by the Holland Deacons' Conference and meet on a regular basis. It is the job of the board to set and review policy/procedures, financial information, and receive updates on the monthly functions of LLPP. The board is also comprised of several subcommittees that meet as needed. The Executive Director, Site Directors, and Education Director submit monthly reports and the Executive Director attends board meetings.

Licensing Regulations. Lakeshore Little People's Place is licensed by the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs. Each facility is assigned a Licensing Consultant who ensures the center follows "Licensing Rules for Childcare Centers" set forth by the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of Community and Health Systems. A copy of these rules is available, during business hours, on the parent table along with a licensing notebook where parents can review documentation of the renewal/interim inspection reports, as well as any documentation on special investigations and related corrective action plans for last 5 calendar years. Licensing inspection reports, special investigation reports and corrective action plans from at least the past three years are also available on the childcare licensing website at www.michigan.gov/michildcare. A license is granted for a two-year period and requires a full licensing inspection to renew. Every year the Licensing Consultant will also conduct an unannounced visit to further ensure all licensing rules are being followed by checking paperwork files and observing classrooms. In addition, the Licensing Consultant must approve any changes such as new classrooms or transportation and investigate any incidents reported by staff, parents, children or local authorities. LLPP is also inspected by and must meet regulations set in place by the Department of Environmental Health and Fire Safety.

The Holland Deacons' Conference and LLPP. The Holland Deacons' Conference (HDC) is the diaconal ministry of the Christian Reformed Church for Classis Holland. HDC carries out the calling from Jesus Christ - to show love and mercy, actively working in the community using God-given talents and gifts. The HDC combines the resources and visions of the Holland Classis churches to do what one church alone would not be able to do. LLPP intentionally collaborates with the HDC and local churches in order to foster Christian community and relationships that can provide services LLPP would not be able to offer on its own. LLPP is a non-profit corporation organized on a membership basis with the Holland Deacons' Conference being the sole member. The Holland Deacons' Conference has representation on the LLPP board and approves all LLPP board members. Joint meetings are held yearly with LLPP and the HDC.

Partnerships and Collaborations. LLPP partners with several organizations in our community to aid in providing appropriate comprehensive services and ensuring high quality care. LLPP has membership on the Great Start Collaborative, Great Start Collaborative Early Care and Education Committee, Great Start Readiness Program Administrative Committee, Ready for School and the Lakeshore Association for the Education of Young Children. LLPP also works closely with the Ottawa Area Intermediate School District and local school districts. Participation in these organizations allows LLPP to work for the development of a common community philosophy for early childhood. The sharing of information on available community services allows a comprehensive, seamless system of services for all children and families.

Admission and Withdrawal

Admission. Lakeshore Little People's Place admits children without regard to race, color, nationality, or religious background. Openings are filled on a first-come, first-served basis, although children who are siblings of a child in our care are given priority. All required forms must be completed and signed before a child may attend the program. Parents must agree to keep all information updated as necessary.

Enrollment. LLPP requires a minimum enrollment of two days per week. Parents will complete an enrollment application form and pay the non-refundable registration fee (when a space is available for your child). The Parent Handbook, Health Care Service Plan, and Crisis/Disaster Response Plan can be accessed at llpp.org or a paper copy can be requested. Parents will also receive an enrollment packet containing the following required forms:

- [Health Form / Immunization Record](#) signed by a physician or [School-Age Physical Waiver Form](#)
- [Child Information Record](#) – updated yearly or with any change
- [Personal Information Form](#)
- [Parent/Agency Agreement](#)
- [Child and Adult Care Food Program Enrollment Form](#)
- [CACFP Participation Form or Infant Food Program Waiver](#) and [Parent Providing Food Agreement](#)

Schedule (Hours). Lakeshore Little People's Place is open for full time childcare, 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday at the Providence location and 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Hamilton South location. Before-and-after school care is available at the Providence location when school is in session. When school is not in session, special schedules will apply for School-Age children. Parents will be asked to sign-up for days off of school for scheduling purposes; regular tuition is due. Summer care is offered at Providence and Hamilton South for School-Age children.

Arrival and Pick-Up. Each child must be signed in upon arrival. Sign-in sheets are located by the door of the classroom. Parents should walk a child into the classroom and alert the teacher to an arrival or departure. Parents should assist their child with putting away or gathering personal belongings. This is also a good time to talk to the staff about how your child is feeling, however more in-depth conversations require a scheduled time, as teachers must devote their attention to the supervising the children in the room. Siblings are not permitted to run or roam throughout the classroom, as this can be a disruption to the learning environment. Children who arrive by school bus or LLPP transportation will be signed in by the classroom teacher.

All children must be signed out when they are picked up. Children will be released only to parents or persons listed on the [Child Information Record](#), as authorized by the parent who signed the enrollment form. If you intend for someone not listed on the [Child Information Record](#) to pick up your child, notify the staff in writing (email is acceptable, phone permission is not). ID will be required at pick-up.

If a parent, by court order, is not allowed to pick up his or her child, a copy of the Court Order must be provided to LLPP and the child may be released only according to the court order on file. If the court order is not on file, either parent may pick up the child regardless of what the other parent has communicated.

Late Pick-Up Policy. It is very important that parents pick up their children by 6 p.m. There will be a \$20 fee assessed for late pick-up and dis-enrollment may occur after excessive late pick-ups.

Withdrawal. Two week written notice to the Site Director is required to withdraw a child from the program. If a two-week notice of withdrawal is not given, your account will be billed for the two weeks. The Site Director or Executive Director of Lakeshore Little People's Place may request withdrawal of a child from the program for the following reasons:

- For non-payment of fees
- For excessive late pick-ups (more than two in a three-month period)
- If a child endangers the health or safety of staff or other children
- If the Site Director, in consultation with the staff, determines Lakeshore Little People's Place is unable to meet the needs of a child and/or a parent
- If conferences between the Site Director and parents do not satisfactorily resolve inappropriate behavior
- If a parent does not provide the center with required paperwork concerning their child or refuses to abide by other licensing requirements
- If a parent behaves inappropriately in front of other parents, staff, or children

Financial Information

Payment Information. A non-refundable registration fee of \$75 is due to secure your child's spot (\$50 for each additional child). A discount of 10% off the lowest tuition is given to families having two or more children.

Tuition will be billed weekly according to your child's schedule, whether or not your child is in attendance. Child must have a set schedule that does not vary from week to week. Parents will not receive a weekly bill but will receive monthly statements reflecting charges and payments. Statements may be requested weekly or bi-weekly, if desired. Tuition payments are due by 6:00 pm on Monday for that week or the first day of the week that your child attends. A late fee of \$15.00 per week will be charged if payment is not received by Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. Non-payment or partial payment for two consecutive weeks may result in dismissal. A \$25 fee is charged for a returned check or insufficient funds.

Additional Payment Information for School-Age children.

- School Closings (Additional Care Days, applicable to LLPP Providence). There may be an additional fee for full day care during school closings (scheduled days off and district snow days). Please see the current rate sheet for charges that will apply. There is no additional charge if there is a delay, early release or a half day off school IF it is on a day the child normally attends. Weekly tuition charge will remain the same if a child does not attend LLPP on days off of school with the exception of school breaks listed below.
- School Breaks. Full or part time care needed during Spring, Summer and Christmas breaks is available at LLPP Providence. Full or part time care needed during Summer break is available at LLPP Hamilton South. Full or part time care needed during Spring and Christmas breaks may be available at LLPP Hamilton South. You will not be charged tuition during full week breaks (M-F) unless you sign up for care. Partial weeks off before Spring, Summer and Christmas breaks are considered a scheduled day off and the SA Additional Care Day rates will apply.

Methods of Payment. LLPP accepts checks, cash or money orders. LLPP also offers parents the option to enroll for direct payment (ACH payment). ACH payments are electronic payments that are created when the parent gives LLPP the authorization to debit directly from their checking or saving account for tuition payment. Families may request these payments to be withdrawn weekly, bi-weekly or monthly. Monthly payments are billed according to the number of Mondays in a given month. Those interested in direct payment must fill out the [Authorization Agreement for Direct Payment](#) included in the enrollment packet. Direct payments are deducted from bank accounts on Tuesdays.

Billing Concerns. Questions regarding billing should be directed to the Site Director or the corporate office at llpp.office@gmail.com.

Tuition Assistance. LLPP believes that children should have access to quality childcare and strives to make childcare affordable for families. The following forms of child care assistance are available for those families that qualify:

- **State Assistance.** LLPP is an eligible provider of childcare assistance through the Michigan Department of Education (MDE). The Child Development and Care subsidy program offers help for parents who meet eligibility requirements to receive assistance with the cost of accessing high quality childcare. Depending on income, MDE will pay a percentage of an hourly rate that is set for childcare. Families are expected to pay the difference between the MDE payment and the actual LLPP charge for tuition. Families may qualify for the Child Development and Care Program if they meet income requirements and need child care for: family preservation, high school completion, participation in an approved activity, or employment.
To determine eligibility and complete an application, visit https://newmibridges.michigan.gov/s/isd-landing-page?language=en_US. If a parent qualifies, a weekly parent co-pay will be determined based on the anticipated reimbursement from the State of Michigan. Full tuition payments are due weekly for childcare until an authorization notice from the state is received by LLPP.
- **LLPP Tuition Assistance.** Any family needing financial assistance for tuition payments is encouraged to apply for the LLPP Tuition Assistance program. All applications are reviewed by a committee that awards a weekly assistance amount based on income and expenses in relationship to childcare expenses. The amount of assistance given typically ranges from ten to twenty percent of weekly tuition costs, making quality childcare more affordable. Families may also apply if they typically have enough income to cover childcare expenses but have a special circumstance such as unemployment or medical circumstances. Funding for the LLPP tuition assistance fund comes largely from donations from area churches and the Holland Deacons' Conference. Ask your Site Director for a LLPP Tuition Assistance Application.
- **Ready for School.** Scholarships for preschool age children may be available. Please see your Site Director for more information and an application.

Holiday Closings. For current-year holidays and LLPP closings, refer to the LLPP Tuition Rates sheet.

Closings Due to Inclement Weather. LLPP will make every effort to remain open during periods of inclement weather, however, in extreme weather situations LLPP reserves the right to close, delay opening or close early. Decisions regarding closures are based on careful analysis of several factors including but not limited to: timing of Winter Storm Warnings (typically not a Winter Weather Advisory), driving recommendations from State Police and/or Governing Officials, and whether many government offices and local business are closed. LLPP will strive to give parents as much notice as possible regarding a closing or delay. Parents should always have a back-up care plan for these situations. In the event of a closing, delay or early release, tune into WZZM channel 13 or WOOD-TV8. Site Directors will also send an email to parents if possible. If LLPP chooses to close for a full day due to extreme weather tuition will not be due. If LLPP has a delay or early release, full tuition is due.

Other Closings. There are several other circumstances that may require LLPP to close if safe conditions cannot be maintained in the building. These include but are not limited to: fire, power outage, flooding, hazardous materials accident, sewer back-up, gas leak and bomb threat. Closing information will also be found on WZZM 13 and WOOD TV 8. Site Directors will send an email to parents if possible. If LLPP is closed due to any of the above circumstances, tuition will not be due. If LLPP has a delay or early release due to the above or other circumstances, full tuition is due. For more information, see the Crisis/Disaster Response Plan.

Vacation Days. Families with children in Infant – Pre-K classrooms are eligible for vacation days, during which tuition is not due. The number of vacation days allotted each year is equivalent to the number of days your child attends in a week. Families beginning care after January 1st will receive pro-rated days off from their start date to the following January. This vacation time can be used one day at a time or all at once. School-Age children are not allotted vacation time.

Inclusion

Special Needs. LLPP promotes inclusive practice when enrolling children with special needs and strives to provide appropriate learning opportunities for all children regardless of disability. In accordance with the MDE Early Childhood Standards of Quality, the curriculum is designed to provide an appropriate environment and adult guidance to enable the participation of children with special needs. Staff members working with special needs children will concentrate on the following five areas: early identification and early intervention, inclusive education, physical environment, partnerships with parents and multi-agency collaboration.

Early Identification and Early Intervention. Ages and Stages assessments are completed in conjunction with daily observations of children's play and progress for early identification of any special needs. Parents are able to complete the Ages and Stages Developmental Questionnaire (ASQ) online through the Ottawa Area Intermediate School District at www.helpmegrowottawa.org/your-childs-development. Children with an identified special need will be linked to area services that can aid families in understanding the resources available to them (see Multi-agency Collaboration for details).

Inclusion. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) entitles children with special needs to have access to the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE). LRE means that young children with disabilities should receive services in typical community-based early childhood settings and programs whenever possible, and only go to more restrictive or specialized settings when their individual needs require it. Children with special needs and disabilities are fully integrated with other children in each aspect of the daily routine whenever possible. Activities are planned to raise children's awareness of special needs and disabilities in a positive way.

Physical Environment. Reasonable adaptations and arrangements are made so that children with special needs and disabilities can be included in all the indoor and outdoor play areas. Physical classroom space is arranged for supported and/or independent movement including easy access to toilet and eating areas. Respectful privacy is arranged for children with special needs at times of specific medical care at parent or child's request.

Partnership with Parents. Parents are encouraged to work closely with all staff to support their child's individual needs including discussions of child's progress and continued need. Parents are included and engaged in all communications regarding graduated procedures of intervention with local agencies and care providers. Parents are also consulted regarding information that should be shared with other agencies or individuals. Parent's perspectives on the care of their child with special needs are respected.

Multi-Agency Collaboration. The Site Director will serve as a liaison between the parents and other agencies. In each local school district, as well as the Ottawa Area Intermediate School District (OAISD), there is a person who is designated as the Project Find Coordinator. In most cases, this person is the director of special education services. This individual can assist with identifying special needs and guiding families to the appropriate educational services within the school district.

For children/students ages 3-26 years. Contact the special education office in your local school district to find out who the Project Find Coordinator is for your district. This information can also be found on the OAISD website at <https://www.oaisd.org/programs-services/special-education/special-education/parent-resources/>

For children/ages 0 up to 3 years. Contact the OAISD, which has a program called Early On that assists children 0 up to 3 years of age that may be experiencing any type of developmental delay. Early On in Ottawa County may be reached by calling (877) 702-8600 ext 4663. Or for more information you may view the OAISD Early On website at <https://www.oaisd.org/programs-services/early-childhood-education/early-on/>

Special Needs and Allergy Emergency Plan. Parents who report their child has a recognized/diagnosed special need and/or environmental or food allergy will be asked to complete a Special Needs and Allergy Emergency Plan. This plan will give detailed instructions on how to specifically care for the child's unique needs as well as how these needs will be addressed in emergency situations.

Cultural Competence Policy. Lakeshore Little People's Place strives to create an environment in which all cultures and ethnic backgrounds are embraced and valued. Employees are trained in topics related to cultural competence and inclusive practices on an annual basis. Cultural competence comprises four components: (a) Awareness of one's own cultural worldview, (b) Attitude towards cultural differences, (c) Knowledge of different cultural practices and world-views, and (d) Cross-cultural skills. Developing cultural competence results in an ability to understand, communicate with, and effectively interact with people across cultures (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cultural_competence). LLPP aspires to meet the above components through embracing cultural differences, expanding cultural knowledge, and striving to meet the culturally unique needs of all families.

Child Health and Safety

Child Health Policy. A green Health Appraisal form containing an immunization record and documentation of a physical exam signed by a physician must be on file with LLPP. The green Health Appraisal form must be on file at the time of enrollment and updated annually for all children until they enter kindergarten. Parents of School-Age children can sign a Physical Exam Waiver form stating that their child is in good health and that their immunizations are up to date.

It is the policy of LLPP to notify the parents as soon as possible when changes in the child's health are observed. This will allow parents to give additional input on a child's condition and be involved in decision making regarding the child's care. Indicators of changes in a child's health are:

- Fever of 100 degrees or higher
- Diarrhea - loose/watery stools without known cause
- Vomiting - any vomiting
Exception: Babies that "burp up" following a feeding (consult parents for history)
- Unknown skin rash as these are often symptoms of a communicable disease
Exception: Parent does not need to be notified of a mild diaper rash already known to the parent. Rashes due to allergies or known medical conditions should be treated as instructed by parent and a notification call must be made with each episode.
- Irritability, lethargy, persistent crying that is not typical for the child
- Difficulty breathing

If a child becomes too ill to participate comfortably in activities or they need more care than the staff can provide, the child will be temporarily separated from other children and sent home as soon as possible. Other criteria for exclusion include a fever above 101° (100.4° for under 2 months) or severe episodes of diarrhea or vomiting. However, for instances of multiple bouts of diarrhea or vomiting, Site Director discretion will be used to determine whether or not the child will be sent home from care. Regardless, the parent will be notified of the child's health condition. LLPP also reserves the right to send children home with lesser criteria if there are a significant amount of children with similar symptoms. Parents are expected to pick up ill children within an hour of notification. Parents should notify the Site Director if a child in care has been diagnosed with a communicable/infectious disease. The Site Director will then post a Health Alert visible to all parents and report to the County Health Department if necessary. Please see the Health Care Service Plan for a list of communicable/infectious diseases.

Return of Children to Childcare after Illness. If a child is too ill to participate in the regular activities of the classroom they should not return to care. Children must be fever free without fever reducing medication for 24 hours prior to the child returning to the center. An exception to this is if a doctor's note is provided stating they can return to care. If a child has a communicable illness, the child may return once the exclusion criteria for that illness are resolved and/or the child receives clearance from a medical care provider. Exclusionary criteria will be determined by following medical care provider instructions and following guidelines set in place by the Ottawa or Allegan County Health Department regarding communicable diseases. LLPP reserves the right to request a doctor's note before allowing a child to return.

Administration of Medication for Children. Parents must complete a Medication Permission and Instruction form for each medication before staff are able to administer any medication. All medication must be in its original container, stored according to instructions, and clearly labeled for a named child. Prescription medication must have the pharmacy label indicating the physician's name, instructions, and name and strength of the medication. Non-prescription medication that does not indicate dosage must be accompanied by a doctor's note, stating dosage instructions for that particular child (must include child's weight and physician recommended dosage). Staff must only administer medication according to these instructions. The staff member who administers the medication logs the dosage, date, and time at which the medication was given and initials the entry. All medication must be placed out of a child's reach and stored according to the directions.

Child Incident/Accident. In case of injuries, the incident is documented and a Child Incident/Accident Report is completed. In case of serious injuries, staff will follow the guidelines for Accident or Injury (emergent) as listed in the Health Care Service Plan. All staff are trained in Pediatric, Child and Adult CPR and First Aid and Infectious Disease Control. Until the arrival of the parent, a physician, an ambulance or paramedics, the child's teacher or Site Director will make decisions regarding care of the child. LLPP is not responsible for medical bills incurred because of accident or injury while a child is in attendance. All serious injuries requiring medical attention are required to be reported to the Office of Children and Adult Licensing. **Please report any phone number changes on your Child Information Record so that you can be reached in an emergency.**

Non-Smoking/Vaping Policy. According to law, smoking of any kind, including marijuana, or vaping are prohibited in the buildings or on the adjoining grounds at Lakeshore Little People's Place.

Emergency Procedures. LLPP has written procedures for emergency situations including fire, tornado, serious accident/injury and man-made disasters, as well as a crisis management plan. Emergency procedures and evacuation plans are posted in each classroom. For detailed instructions on specific emergency procedures, please see the Crisis/Disaster Response Plan.

Child Abuse/Neglect. LLPP staff members are required by law to report suspected incidents of child abuse/ neglect. Detailed information regarding this is available in the Crisis/Disaster Response Plan. Community services are available to families seeking help or intervention. Please see the Site Director or consult the Health Care Service Plan for a list of resources.

Child Discipline Policy. Staff will use age-appropriate, positive methods of discipline that encourage self-control, self-direction, self-esteem and cooperation. Discipline is most effective when it is consistent, reinforces desired behavior and offers natural and logical consequences. Discipline helps children gain control over their behavior. Children act best when they know the rules and know they are expected to follow them. Positive methods of discipline create a constructive and supportive social group and reduce incidents of aggression. Positive discipline methods will help guide a child toward self-discipline and independence.

This is encouraged by the following methods:

- Planning ahead to prevent problems
- Setting consistent/clear rules
- Encouraging appropriate behavior
- Relating the discipline method to the behavior
- Talking to the child about the feelings he/she is having
- Redirecting or distracting a child
- Removing the child from the source of conflict
- Tailoring the method of discipline to the individual child
- Suggesting appropriate solutions
- Involving the child in problem solving

All of the following means of punishment shall be prohibited:

- Hitting, spanking, shaking, biting, pinching, or inflicting other forms of corporal punishment.
- Placing substances in a child's mouth, including but not limited to: soap, hot sauce, or vinegar.
- Restricting a child's movement by binding or tying him or her including harness, leash or other restraint device. Strapping devices on confining equipment, such as high chairs used to stabilize the child in that type of chair, cannot be used for punishment or discipline.
[**Note:** If a child needs to be restrained in an extreme situation to prevent harm to him/her or others, place the child's arms across the chest in a criss-cross position, position yourself behind the child with your arms on top of theirs until they are calm and the situation is safe.]
- Inflicting mental or emotional punishment, such as humiliating, shaming, or threatening a child.
- Depriving a child of meals, snacks, rest, or necessary toilet use.
- Secluding or confining a child in an enclosed area, such as a closet, locked room, box, or similar cubicle.
- Excluding a child from outdoor play or other gross motor activities. Examples of this include:
 - Not allowing a child to go outside because of misbehavior during small group time
 - Excluding the child from the entire outdoor period for throwing sand
 - Excluding the child from gym activities for not eating their lunch
- Excluding a child from daily learning experiences. This does **not** include age appropriate discipline techniques, such as:
 - Redirecting a child from the block area after throwing blocks
 - Having a child participate in small group time in a way that benefits the child and doesn't disrupt the group, such as having the child sit a few feet away
 - Using Time-out when appropriate (not appropriate for children under 3 years of age)

Conscious Discipline. Utilized in classrooms, this classroom management system emphasizes connections through empathy and encouragement so that children are better able to see from another's point of view and understand the impact of their behavior on others. Morning greetings are especially helpful in establishing a nurturing environment and creating rituals. When possible, children will be greeted with both their home language and the option of non-verbal greetings/gestures such as high-fives, fist bumps, and smiles.

Use of Time-Out. Removing a child from classroom activities is used as a last resort technique for children who are harming themselves or in danger of harming others. It is an opportunity for children to clear their minds and rejoin the group or activity in a more productive state. Time-outs are used only as a last resort to help the child gain a better sense of self-control. When using time-out, care giving staff must assure:

- Their expectations of the child's behavior are realistic
- Consequences immediately follow the child's behavior
- Children are not humiliated or made to feel threatened or afraid
- The Time-out does not last longer than it takes for the child to calm down
- Children remain supervised at all times

Note: Time-out is not an appropriate discipline technique and must not be used for children under three years of age.

Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports. Staff will utilize a PBIS system (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports) when working with children. This system is a set of tools and ideas used to approach discipline and interactions in a positive manner, to prevent problem behaviors, and to encourage child success. A PBIS system sets clear expectations for children, outlines simple rules, and allows children to be thoughtful about the choices they make. Our rules are: *Be safe, Be kind, and Be helpful*. Staff will encourage children to learn these rules, help them understand what they mean in each classroom, and direct them to think about them when a problem arises. When persistent challenging behaviors occur, staff will refer to the [Behavior Flow Chart](#) for specific steps to follow. For more information about our PBIS system and the Behavior Flow Chart, see the Site Director or Education Director.

Behavior Concern Management. If a child has a reoccurring behavior issue that continues after teachers have implemented the positive discipline guidelines above, the following steps will be taken:

- The child's teacher will fill out a [Behavior Concern Report](#) and give it to the Site Director.
- The Site Director will evaluate the steps taken by staff to correct the behavior and review all incident reports involving the child to look for patterns or other information that might be useful.
- The Site Director may aid the staff with intervention techniques and will set up a meeting with the child's parent ensuring that they are aware of the problem.
- At the parent conference an intervention plan will be developed. The age of the child, the child's background, the classroom setting, and other extenuating circumstances will be considered.
- In some cases, consultation with health care professionals and/or family services may be required.
- If the above intervention is not successful and the behavior does not improve, the Site Director may remove the child from the program for a period of time, or permanently depending on the circumstance.
- The Site Director may, at any time during this process, decide not to continue care for the child if the safety of the child or other children is compromised or if behavior severely disrupts the daily classroom routine.

Child Biting Intervention. Biting another child should never occur but sometimes children get frustrated and bite other children. We want to be supportive of parents as they teach their children not to bite but at the same time, we need to protect other children in our care. A bite that leaves red marks, bruising or broken skin must be reported to both children's parents and an Incident Report must be written. LLPP suggests that a parent seek medical attention for a child if the bite they receive breaks the skin.

If a child bites twice in 2 weeks (14 calendar days), staff members will follow the steps for Behavior Concern Management. Staff also will attempt to identify the reason for biting and apply the following preventions for biting:

- If it is being used for means of communication: help the child find a simple word or hand gesture to substitute for biting.
- If it is being used for attention: spend more one-on-one time with the child to alleviate their need for additional attention-seeking behavior.
- If it is being used for an oral fixation: provide a teething ring loosely attached to their wrist.

LLPP School-Age Behavior Policy.

School-Age children are expected to understand and follow behavior expectations (similar to school settings) while in attendance at LLPP. Due to a School-Age child's ability to better understand and be more in control of the choices they make, LLPP has established a specific behavior policy for our School-Age programs.

Keeping the children and staff of LLPP safe is a priority. Keeping children and staff safe includes protecting and preserving their physical and mental/emotional well-being. Behaviors that compromise safety and that are prohibited by LLPP School-Age children include, but are not limited to:

- child hurting him/herself
- child hurting staff
- child hurting other children
- inappropriate language (swearing, bullying, teasing)
- verbal threats of physical or bodily harm
- verbal threats of damage to property
- sexually inappropriate words or actions
- words or actions that jeopardize the status of LLPP's child care license

LLPP will always take into account what would be considered age-appropriate for a child and any special needs/circumstances a child has.

If any of the above behaviors occur, or any other behaviors a Director deems as unsafe or not within the guidelines of LLPP's School-Age Behavior Policy, the following steps will be taken:

1. **Warning.** If an unsafe behavior occurs, written (emailed) notice to parent/guardian will be given. The child may remain in care at LLPP for the remainder of that day. Parent/guardian must reply to the email before their child returns to LLPP on their next scheduled day, indicating they have read and understand the behavior that occurred that day. A copy of this behavior policy will be attached to that email.
2. **Placed on Notice.** If a second unsafe behavior occurs (either the same or different from the behavior that resulted in the warning), the child will need to be picked up from LLPP within one hour and will be required to take a one-day break from LLPP (their next scheduled day). Parent/guardian will receive written (emailed) information about the behavior and must reply to the email that they have read and understand the behavior that occurred that day before their child may return from the one-day break.
3. **Dismissal.** If a third unsafe behavior occurs (either the same or different from the behavior that resulted in the warning or notice), the child will need to be picked up from LLPP within one hour and that child will be dismissed from the LLPP School-Age program, effective immediately.

In the case of extreme unsafe behavior, the child must be picked up within one hour (and the warning step above would not apply). If the child is on a field trip, the Site Director will work with the parent/guardian, and depending on timing, the parent/guardian may be required to pick up their child from the field trip location. The child will not be able to attend care on their next scheduled day. Extreme behaviors include, but are not limited to: physical aggression towards self, another child, staff, animals, and/or property, fleeing or attempting to flee a teacher or the group, sexually inappropriate words or actions, or extreme inappropriate language. An extreme behavior situation may result in a possible immediate dismissal from the LLPP School-Age program.

LLPP Providence – The timeframe for this policy will reset seasonally, every three months. At the conclusion of each three-month period, each child starts over with a clean slate. Timeframes are June-Aug, Sept-Nov, Dec-Feb, and Mar-Apr, as School-Age care is offered year round.

LLPP Hamilton South – The timeframe for this policy will reset at the beginning of each summer, as School-Age care is offered only during the summer months of June-Aug.

A copy of this School-Age Behavior Policy will be given to parents/guardians and must be signed and returned to LLPP prior to a child attending the School-Age program.

Classroom Information

Classroom Ratios. LLPP maintains lower teacher to child ratios than state guidelines whenever possible. The children to teacher state ratios are as follows:

- Birth to 2 ½ years of age is at least 1 caregiver for every 4 children
- 2 ½ to 3 years of age is at least 1 caregiver for every 8 children
- 3 to 4 years of age is at least 1 caregiver for every 10 children, or each fraction of 10
- 4 to 5 years of age is at least 1 caregiver for every 12 children, or each fraction of 12
- School-Age children (kindergarten to 5th grade) are at least 1 caregiver for every 18 children

Parents may give written parental permission, when developmentally appropriate, that their child be enrolled in the following classrooms if the following conditions are met:

- A three-year-old classroom if the child has reached 33 months of age (2 years, 9 months)
- A four-year-old classroom if the child has reached 45 months of age (3 years, 9 months)
- A School-Age classroom if the child has reached 57 months (4 years, 9 months)

Daily Schedule. A typical day may be as follows: arrival/center free choice play, breakfast, clean-up and bathroom breaks, teacher-directed circle time, literacy training, small group math and science activities, morning snack, large group activities, art & music, outdoor activities, bible story, bathroom, lunch, child-led free choice, literacy training, bathroom, rest time or quiet activities, bathroom, afternoon snack, center free choice play, teacher-directed circle time, small group activities, bathroom, outdoor time, clean-up, and child-led activities. For specific times, please refer to your child's classroom schedule.

School-Age Daily Experiences. A variety of experiences will be offered during School-Age programming, including but not limited to: social/emotional concepts, physical and academic learning opportunities, creative expression, culture and character development, and STEM activities. Topics and areas of interest School-Age children have expressed interest in learning about will be considered and utilized, to allow our youth voices to be heard.

Curriculum. The High Scope approach uses ACTIVE LEARNING where children are involved in direct, hands-on experiences with people, objects, ideas and events. ADULT CHILD INTERACTION involves adults observing and interacting with children at their level to discover how each child thinks and reasons. The LEARNING ENVIRONMENT is arranged in several clearly defined interest areas that enable children to find, use, and return the materials they need in order to explore, invent, and learn about their world. Finally, the DAILY ROUTINE includes a plan-do-review process, which gives children the opportunity to pursue their own interests, make plans, follow through on them and reflect on their experiences with peers and adults.

Bible Curriculum. LLPP offers daily experiences that help children understand God's love for us. Experiences include reading Bible stories, taking part in devotionals, hands-on learning for story re-tellings, creative experiences, music, and conversations throughout each day. Infant/Toddler classrooms will utilize Gospel Light's Baby Beginnings curriculum, and Preschool classrooms will utilize Heart Shaper's Preschool curriculum.

Zoo-phonics. Zoo-phonics is a curriculum that helps children learn their letters and sounds. Each letter is assigned an animal and body movement. The Zoo-phonics program fully involves the child's eyes, ears, mouth, and body as they learn phonemic awareness and the alphabet. Preschool teachers will incorporate these experiences into their daily lesson plans.

Lesson Plans. Lead teachers, with the help of the assistants, will develop a written lesson plan developed around High Scope Key Developmental Indicators. Teachers will familiarize themselves with either the High Scope Infant/Toddler or Preschool Curriculum Content including the following 8 areas: Approaches to Learning, Social and Emotional Development, Physical Development and Health, Language Literacy and Communication, Mathematics, Creative Arts, Science and Technology, and Social Studies.

Classroom Newsletters. Classroom newsletters are written by the classroom teachers. The newsletter reviews events and reminds families of upcoming activities and items they may need to bring from home.

Daily Reports/*tadpoles*®. In order to provide the best school to home communication and keep parents involved in the day to day activities of children in care, an online program called *tadpoles*® is used (Infant – Young Fives). This program makes it easy for LLPP teachers to share lesson plans, daily experiences, the social/emotional health of children, accomplishments, reminders, and pictures on a daily basis. Daily reports will be securely communicated to parents through the *tadpoles*® app that parents will download. These reports are sent daily once a child is signed out for the day.

Observation Records. Teaching teams will use note taking and checklists to accurately record behaviors, developmental milestones, and daily social/emotional progress reached by each child as they occur within the classroom setting. These records will be used to guide behavior plans and recall skills when completing an individual child's progress report. Teachers will also use these observations to guide curriculum and lesson planning to increase skill levels in the classroom as a whole.

Progress Reports. LLPP specifically designs its assessments to document a preschool child's progress towards kindergarten readiness skills. Teachers will document a child's competency in several core areas. Progress reports are completed twice per year for preschool children and are used to individualize each child's specific needs, monitor a child's progress, and evaluate teaching effectiveness. Teachers will share results with parents during parent/teacher conferences.

Screening Tool. LLPP uses the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ-3 and ASQ:SE-2) for its developmental and social-emotional screening tool for children from one month until they enter kindergarten. Highly reliable and valid, ASQ-3 indicates differing levels of development, educates parents about developmental milestones, and incorporates parents' expert knowledge about their child. Parents will complete the ASQ-3 two times per year and teachers will evaluate results and use the information to guide lesson plans. If a delay is indicated by the assessment, teachers will notify the Site Director who will work with the teachers and parents to develop a plan to address the delay, including referrals for available resources. If the parent has already completed this with a health care provider or other professional, a copy of the form can be submitted to their child's teacher. Parents can also complete their own ASQ-3 by visiting www.helpmegrowottawa.org/your-childs-development. If the child meets criteria for a delay, the parent will be contacted with available services.

Conferences. Parents are given the opportunity to discuss the child's progress at any time by requesting a meeting with their child's teacher. Teacher will also keep parents updated on a regular basis of their child's progress. For preschool age children, conferences will be held twice a year to discuss their child's developmental progress.

Great Start to Quality. LLPP participates in GSQ by committing to quality early care and education practices and improvements. LLPP participates in a rating and improvement system, which assess quality on a 5-level system. Measures of quality are assessed not only internally, but also by a team of state validators and assessors. LLPP may be observed by GSQ team members, to evaluate the quality of our programs using the CLASS tool. CLASS is a tool for observing and assessing the effectiveness of interactions among teachers and children in classrooms. It measures the emotional, organizational, and instructional support provided by the teacher that contribute to the children's social, developmental, and academic achievement.

Room Transitions. Moving from one room to the next can be very hard for some children. At LLPP, we like to make that transition as easy as possible. Several factors determine when a child moves into a new classroom including reaching the required age, being developmentally ready, and classroom space availability. Parents will be informed in writing from the Site Director when your child is scheduled to move to a new classroom. To ease the transition, staff members may fill out a [Move-Up Information Sheet](#) before the child moves up into the new classroom. This will help the new teachers get to know the child better during the transition. We also encourage the teachers to arrange visits to the child's new classroom before the move. The child can visit for a short period of time or longer, depending on how comfortable they are and if it does not cause the teacher to child ratio to be exceeded.

Food Program. Breakfast, lunch, and a snack are provided for children in accordance with the USDA childcare food program. Snacks are provided before and after school in the School-Age program. Food costs are included in the tuition. Make sure food allergies are communicated clearly on enrollment forms and to classroom teachers so that special accommodations can be made. LLPP is a peanut and tree nut free environment. Meal-time can be a social learning time where children are encouraged to try new foods prepared. Good table manners and eating habits are encouraged. All parents must complete the [Child and Adult Care Food Program Enrollment Form](#) as well as the [Parent Providing Food Agreement](#) included in the enrollment pack.

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, and Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 or (202) 720-6382 (TTY). USDA is an equal opportunity provider employer.

Special Occasions and Food Service. As a licensed childcare facility, we are required to follow strict guidelines for food service. In the instance of special occasion days, such as birthdays and holidays, we ask that "treats" are limited to non-food items. If a classroom wishes to incorporate special snacks into the celebrations, a parent sign-up for food items, approved by the Site Director, will be provided. If a food item is brought as a treat, it should be individually wrapped and it will be sent home with the children so that the parent can choose whether to give it to the child and determine any potential allergic reactions.

Use of Media in the Classroom. Teachers are asked to use movies and media to support academic instruction and should not use media for entertainment purposes, unless used as a focused reward for the students with the approval of the Education and/or Site Director. Movies, books and computer games need to be age appropriate with a “G” rating. A maximum of 2 hours of media per week is acceptable but must be part of a written lesson plan. The classroom lights must remain on and an alternative activity must be provided for children who do not wish to participate in watching the video. All media is prohibited for children under two years of age. Media means the use of electronic devices with a screen, including but not limited to, televisions, computers, tablets, iPads, cameras and electric game consoles.

Use of Photos. LLPP uses photos of children for many purposes. They may be used for a special project/craft, identification of personal belongings, classroom/hallway decoration, LLPP publicity, and/or within our *tadpoles*® system. *Tadpoles*® electronically sends photos of a child participating in LLPP classroom activities to his/her parents. There are times that group photos may be sent to parents within the program through *tadpoles*® that include children other than their own. Parents may request in writing to their Site Director that their child not be photographed for one or all of the mentioned purposes.

Clothing. Children should wear clothes that are comfortable and easy to fasten. Rubber-soled shoes are recommended. An extra set of clothing should be placed in the child’s cubby for spills or accidents that may occur. Please label all clothing, including coats, with your child’s name. Warm outerwear including boots, caps, snow-pants, and mittens are needed on cold days. All belongings should be kept in a labeled bag.

Rest Time. Full time children have an opportunity to rest each day on an assigned cot provided by the center. Children who do not sleep at rest time will be provided with quiet activities such as books or puzzles. Each child may bring a small sheet, small blanket, and small pillow. If your child likes to rest with a favorite stuffed animal, you are welcome to bring it. Bedding will be sent home on Fridays for laundering and should be returned the following Monday. For additional information regarding infant/toddler rest time, please see the section Additional Information for Parents of infant/toddlers.

Toys from Home. LLPP discourages children from bringing any toys from home, unless requested for a classroom activity. If an item from home is needed to assist a child with a transition throughout the day, it should be discussed with the classroom teacher. LLPP cannot be responsible for lost or broken items. Guns, war toys, and other toy weapons are prohibited.

Playground and Gym Time. According to child care licensing, all children in attendance for more than 3 continuous hours shall be provided with outdoor time unless prevented by inclement weather. Since LLPP is part of the Great Start to Quality Improvement System, LLPP strives to offer more outdoor time than is required by licensing. At minimum, 2-3 daily outdoor experiences will be provided for all children, including infants and toddlers. Outdoor time includes play on outdoor equipment that follows state guidelines. Children will not be permitted to go outside when the “feels like” temperature is under 10 °F or above 100 °F. The “feels like” temperature takes into consideration the wind chill or heat index and is a better measure of the weather conditions for outdoor play.

Field Trips. Occasionally, classroom teachers plan class trips. Field trips are meant to be fun, learning experiences. When taking children off-site on field trips or even stroller rides, the book containing classroom Child Information Record (emergency cards), cell phones, and first-aid kit are taken. All field trips must be pre-approved by the Site Director. Parents will receive written notice of all field trips and written permission must be given before a child is allowed to attend a field trip. All vehicles must meet state licensing transportation standards, and drivers must hold a chauffeur’s license and meet state licensing standards.

Transportation. LLPP Providence provides transportation to/from local schools, as part of the before and after School-Age Program. Before school, LLPP may be able to transport to Holland West, Jefferson, Southside (Holland Christian), and Pine Ridge (Holland Christian). After school, LLPP may be able to transport from Holland West, Jefferson, Southside, Pine Ridge, Black River, and Forest School. LLPP transportation is dependent on staffing, school arrival/dismissal times, and capacity.

Staff members who transport children in LLPP vehicles are required to meet all requirements of a Motor Vehicle Operator as described in the Licensing Rules for Child Care Centers. This includes but not limited to holding a valid chauffeur’s license and providing a driving record with no more than six active points. All LLPP vehicles are properly insured and registered. Vehicles are inspected by a licensed mechanic annually to ensure that they are in safe operating condition, and regular maintenance is done as needed. Vehicles are equipped with a first-aid kit, necessary safety equipment, a fire extinguisher, and flares and triangles that are inspected annually. Each vehicle will have on hand a Child Information Record for all students who ride in the vehicle.

Employee and Volunteer Requirements

Employee Screening Policy. The following steps will be taken by the Site Director to ensure that all staff members are of responsible character and suitable to meet the needs of children as stated in the Licensing Rules for Childcare Centers:

- Site Directors will have written record of three or more references and complete a public sex offender registry (PSOR) clearance for any/all staff before having any contact with a child in care. Any individual registered on the public sex offender registry (PSOR) is prohibited from having contact with any child in care.
- Staff must sign a written acknowledgment of the following:
 - That they will act in a manner that is conducive to the welfare of children, have not been convicted of a crime, and will report upon being investigated or convicted of a crime
 - That they have received a copy of the Michigan Child Protection laws excerpted by the Department of Health and Human Services and understand its contents including mandating requirements, definitions and indicators of abuse/neglect
 - That they will report any suspected abuse or neglect of a child by parent, staff, or other to the proper authorities
 - Sign a statement that they have never been named in a central registry case, are the perpetrator of a child abuse or child neglect, nor have been investigated for abuse or neglect
- A Comprehensive Background Check is required for all employees working in a licensed childcare center including:
 - Applicants/licensees, Licensee Designees and Program Directors
 - All childcare staff, including self-employed and contractual, and minor caregivers
 - Unsupervised volunteers
- Background checks will include:
 - A check of the licensing database for previous disciplinary action
 - An FBI Fingerprint check (checks all state and federal crimes)
 - Michigan child abuse and neglect registry
 - National Sex Offender Registry
 - Criminal history registry and child abuse/neglect registry for any states of residence in the past 5 years
- If an applicant has lived out of the country in the past five years, an equivalent check must be provided, if available. If it cannot be provided, the person must sign a self-certifying statement that he/she is eligible to be the licensee, and/or work in the childcare.
- LLPP reserves the right to require drug/alcohol screening of any employee at any time during employment.

Employee Training Policy. All employees must comply with training requirements mandated by federal, state, or local agencies. All employees will complete an orientation process before unsupervised contact with children. All employees will also familiarize themselves with the State Licensing Rules for Childcare Centers.

All employees must read and sign the [Employee Acknowledgement](#) stating that they have read and understood all the policies of the center as stated in the Employee and Parent Handbooks, Crisis/Disaster Response Plan and Health Care Service Plan.

All employees must complete 24 hours of annual training in child development, curriculum, child discipline, health/safety, emergency preparedness, nutrition, working with parents and licensing rules for childcare centers. All staff must also complete training in the areas of child abuse/neglect, cultural competency/inclusions, safe sleep and shaken baby syndrome.

All employees must complete First Aid and Pediatric, Child and Adult CPR and Infectious Disease Control training within 90 days of hire.

All lead teachers and assistant teachers will meet requirements set by Michigan's Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA). Each classroom is also required to have a lead teacher that meets educational requirements in child development or a related field. Infant/toddler leads must also have additional semester hours/CEUs/or MiRegistry training in infant/toddler development.

Employee Evaluations. Parents are given the opportunity to evaluate classroom functioning and teacher performance in the fall and spring. The Site Director will use these evaluations to set improvement goals for the classrooms and provide feedback to individual teachers on their performance. The Site Director will also see written feedback from co-workers regarding an employee's performance. These feedback forms are designed for the use of the Site Director only and are destroyed after the information is used to assist in the Site Director's written evaluation of the employee. The Site Director will meet with the employee annually to give feedback and assist employees in creating goals for the upcoming year.

Outside Employment. LLPP is not liable for any employee aside from the time in which they are actually working for LLPP. An employee who is hired for private duty by a parent of a child enrolled in the program is not a representative of LLPP during that time. This includes but is not limited to: babysitting, serving as a nanny, house sitting/cleaning, transporting children, or any other services for which they are paid by any source other than LLPP.

Volunteer Policy. Volunteers provide a wonderful service in the classroom as they lend their time, energy and compassion toward the children. It is important to keep in mind that ultimately the children are the responsibility of the employees. Staff members will ALWAYS have a “line-of-sight” observation of the volunteer.

All volunteers must be approved by the Site Director. If the volunteer will be in contact with the children at least 4 hours per week for more than 2 consecutive weeks, they must provide documentation confirming a negative TB test.

Volunteers under eighteen years of age must provide references from an educator or other unrelated adult qualified to give a reference. All volunteers will complete a Volunteer Agreement and agree to:

- A public sex offender registry (PSOR) clearance before having any contact with a child in care. Any individual registered on the public sex offender registry (PSOR) is prohibited from having contact with a child in care.
- Sign a statement that they will act in a manner that is conducive to the welfare of children, have not been convicted of a crime, and will report upon being investigated or convicted of a crime
- Sign a statement that they have received a copy of the Michigan Child Protection laws excerpted by the Department of Health and Human Services and understand its contents including mandating requirements, definitions and indicators of abuse/neglect
- Sign a statement that they understand child abuse/neglect is against the law and will report any suspected abuse or neglect of a child by parent, staff or other to the proper authorities
- Sign a statement that they have never been named in a central registry case, are the perpetrator of a child abuse or child neglect, nor have been investigated for abuse or neglect
- Review Policies and Procedures of LLPP
- Maintain parent/worker confidentiality, including not disclosing full names of any children in reports or other class work
- Follow direction given by the classroom teacher and Site Director

Furthermore, it is agreed that a volunteer at Lakeshore Little People’s Place **WILL NOT:**

- Have any unsupervised contact with children such as being left alone in a classroom with children or accompany children to the bathroom
- Have access to receipt books or payment boxes
- Have access to staff personnel or child records
- Be counted in determining staffing to child ratios

Note: A supervised volunteer does not include the rare occasions when a parent/guardian accompanies their child on a special activity such as a classroom party or field trip, when the parent is only with their child and has no responsibility for classroom activities or children other than their own.

Classroom Visitors. Any classroom visitor, volunteer, or guest speaker must be pre-approved by the Site Director and check in with the office when they arrive.

Parent Involvement and Resources

Parent Involvement. Lakeshore Little People's Place welcomes your family into our community and invites you to become active partners with us as we teach and care for your child. When parents and teachers join in partnership, an optimum learning environment can be created. LLPP has an open door policy with all parents and we invite you to drop in anytime. Here are some ways you can get involved:

- Have informal day-to-day conversations with teachers
- Communicate with your child's teacher through email, phone and notes
- Attend formal parent teacher conferences
- Participate in developmental discussions regarding your child by request or invitation
- Volunteer within the classroom
- Read your child's lesson plans, monthly newsletters and parent board information
- Participate in special events for parents and families
- Reinforce lesson plan activities at home
- Participate in program evaluations and giving input on policy and procedure
- Share ideas or items related to your culture that can be shared in the classroom, including photographs of your home culture

Procedures Related to Concerns. Lakeshore Little People's Place strives to provide a positive environment for all, however at times concerns may arise. If you have any concerns, please bring them to the attention of the Site Director who will complete a Concern Resolution form. If you are unable to resolve your concerns through the Site Director, the Executive Director may be contacted. If you have concerns regarding a policy or procedure, you can contact the Executive Director who will bring your concern to the Board of Directors. If you feel that LLPP is in violation of a licensing regulation, reports may be made to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services: Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA). A copy of the regulations is available on the parent table.

Parent Resources. A list of family health resources is available in the Health Care Services Plan. Resources include information about local DHHS offices, oral care, counseling services, mental health assistance, abuse/neglect support, child development, and more. Health related information regarding specific communicable illnesses/diseases is also available in the Site Director's office. If you wish to speak with someone about your needs, dial 2-1-1 which is an access point for persons needing health and human service programs.

Local Kindergarten Programs. Below is contact information for local school districts and elementary buildings that may be utilized by parents and guardians, as their child transitions to kindergarten.

Hamilton Community Schools

<https://www.hamiltonschools.us/>

- Hamilton Elementary (269) 751-5413
- Sandyview Elementary (269) 751-5372
- Blue Star Elementary (269) 751-5630
- Bentheim Elementary (269) 751-5335

Holland Public Schools

<https://www.hollandpublicschools.org/>

- Holland Heights Elementary (616) 494-2750
- Jefferson Elementary (616) 494-2500
- West Elementary (616) 494-2350
- Holland Language Academy (616) 494-2600

Black River Public Schools

<https://www.blackriverpublicschool.org/>

- Elementary School (616) 355-0055 ext. 302

Holland Christian Schools

<https://hollandchristian.org/>

- Rose Park (616) 820-4055
- Forest School (616) 820-3535
- South Side (616) 820-3535

Help Me Grow Ottawa. Help Me Grow connects families with children birth through age five to free local resources helping children grow up healthy and ready to succeed in school. Some ways Help Me Grow supports families include:

- Up-to-date information on childcare, kindergarten tips and free or low-cost quality preschool
- Families interested in GSRP Preschool (qualifying four-year-olds) or a Ready for School Scholarship (qualifying three-year-olds) may apply online. Click on our [Application - MiECC](#)
- Free and convenient access to the nationally recognized [Ages and Stages Questionnaire\(ASQ\)](#) in English and Spanish to check-in on your child's development
- Answers to prenatal and pregnancy questions
- Links to local playgroups, library happenings and other parenting resources including home visiting services

If your child's teachers, caregivers, or doctors have concerns about your child's behavior, development, learning or wellbeing, call 844-233-2244 or visit www.hmgottawa.org to be connected to helpful services in the community.

Parenting Education Opportunities. Opportunities for parenting education will be highlighted in the center's monthly newsletters, displayed on the parent boards or distributed through your child's mailbox. Education opportunities may include: speakers, playgroups, parenting articles, seminars and special community events.

Donation Opportunities. Lakeshore Little People's Place is a non-profit organization and relies on fundraising to provide extra income for the center. If you would like to share fundraising ideas or would like to help coordinate a center fundraising event, please see your Site Director. Here are ways you can get involved:

- LLPP has the option to accept donations on our website in the form of credit/debit cards. Visit llpp.org, click on *Donate*, fill out a simple form, and make a contribution safely and securely with a card. A one-time gift option is available, or a recurring gift may be set up (weekly, monthly, or annually).
- As another opportunity to give, each LLPP site location offers fundraisers throughout the year, for families who would like to support LLPP in another way.

Additional Information for Parents of Infants / Toddlers

General Information. It is important that you keep us informed regarding your child's regular daily schedule. Caregivers will follow your child's schedule as closely as possible throughout the day.

Supplies. LLPP will supply: hypoallergenic/alcohol free wipes, bibs, washcloths, crib sheets, and burp cloths. LLPP will supply food, according to the Child and Adult Care Food Program, unless specified by the parent.

Parents will supply: diapers, a change of labeled clothes, and outdoor garments. Parents choosing to provide food must follow guidelines below and sign the [Parent Agreement for Providing Food](#).

Ratios and Group Size. The ratio of caregivers to children is based at all times, on the following provisions: Birth to 2-½ years of age is at least 1 caregiver for every 4 children. The maximum group size for children ages birth to 30 months is 12.

Primary Care Providers. Each infant/toddler will have a primary caregiver. This primary caregiver will provide continuity so that a child is able to develop a nurturing relationship. The primary caregiver is responsible for direct care, verbal and physical interactions, primary responses to the child's physical and emotional needs, and continued interaction with the child's parents regarding the child's experiences. Each child should have no more than 4 primary caregivers in a week. Primary caregivers will share information daily regarding the child's food, health, and temperament. Primary care providers will be posted in your child's classroom.

Sleeping Equipment. Infants will be provided with a crib that meets state safety standards. Full time infants will have sole use of their crib and all bedding will be washed upon being soiled or weekly at a minimum. Infants attending part time may share a crib with another child. In this circumstance, all bedding and sleep equipment will be cleaned and sanitized before being used by another child. **Infants (under one year of age) must sleep alone in the crib with no soft objects, bumper pads, stuffed toys, blankets, quilts or comforters and other objects that could restrict a child's breathing.** Sleep Sacks that fit as an article of clothing will be permitted. Swaddling with a sleep sack swaddle attachment or swaddle wrap is only allowed for Infants up to 2 months of age. Car seats, infant swings, bassinets and playpens are not approved for sleeping and if the child falls asleep in one, the child will be moved to a crib if they fall asleep.

Infant Sleeping and Supervision. Infants **must** be placed on their backs for resting and sleeping. When infants can easily turn over from their stomachs to their backs and from their backs to their stomachs, they will be initially placed on their backs but allowed to adopt whatever position they prefer to sleep. Written instructions from a health care provider, including a health care provider's signature, detailing an alternative safe sleep position must be provided in case of an illness or disability that will not allow an infant to sleep on his/her back. The caregiver will maintain supervision and frequently monitor infants' breathing and sleep position for possible signs of distress. All children under 18 months of age will be allowed to sleep on demand.

Breastfeeding. Breastfeeding is welcome and encouraged at the site. Please let us know if you would like any special accommodations such as a quiet, comfortable place to breastfeed or items to make you more comfortable such as a pillow or foot rest.

Infant and Toddler Feedings. Caregivers shall feed children birth to 29 months on demand. The following guidelines for serving beverages (breast milk, formula and other types of drinks provided by parents) will apply:

- Beverages for a single day use will be provided in a ready to serve bottle or in a clean sanitary beverage container to be poured into bottles or cups throughout the day.
- Single day beverages must be labeled with the child's first and last name, and the date.
- Single day beverages in ready to serve bottles or sanitary beverage containers must be returned to the parent at the end of the day.
- Beverages for multi-day use must be provided in an unopened commercial container (i.e. ready to eat containers of formula or Silk).
- Multi-day beverages must be labeled with the child's first and last name and the date of opening and will be returned to the parent or discarded after seven days. Breast milk may be supplied in a multi-day supply in a clean, sanitized container kept in the refrigerator for up to 4 days or kept in the freezer for no more than 2 weeks.
- Bottles are warmed using a warming device approved by state licensing. Bottles are shaken to distribute heat and are tested for proper temperature before serving. Microwaves are not used for any bottle warming.
- Formula or breast milk left in the bottle after a feeding that exceeds 1 hour must be discarded.
- Infants unable to hold their own bottles will be held by a caregiver for all feedings. Older infants may be fed in high chairs or bouncy seats.
- When milk is introduced (after age 1), whole homogenized vitamin D-fortified cow's milk will be served unless an alternative is authorized in writing by the child's physician.

The following guidelines for serving food items will apply:

- If baby food is fed to a child directly from a factory-sealed container, it must be used in one feeding period or discarded.
- Baby food may be transferred into a serving bowl and the remainder of the unused jar can be used later for a second feeding period.
- Non-perishable food items furnished in a multi-day supply shall be labeled with the date of opening and the first and last name of the child.
- When a child is ready for solid foods, staff will foster the child's independence. Staff will also facilitate language and social interactions by encouraging self-feeding, serving appropriate portion sizes and sitting and eating with the toddlers during meal times.
- Infants and toddlers will not be served foods that may easily cause choking including, but not limited to: popcorn, seeds, nuts, hard candy, uncut round foods such as whole grapes and hot dogs, raw carrots, peas, hard pretzels, chips, marshmallows, large chunks of meat, cheese cubes and small bite-size crackers.
- Infants and toddlers may not have bottles, beverage containers or food in sleeping equipment or while they are walking around or playing.

Records. Parents of children up to 30 months of age will receive electronic reports sent by *tadpoles*® that includes the following: food intake (time, type of food and amount eaten), sleeping patterns (when and how long the child slept), elimination patterns (bowel movements, consistency and frequency), developmental milestones, and changes in the child's usual behaviors.

Infant Play. Infants, like older children, need to be exposed to a variety of play experiences throughout the day. The use of confining equipment, other than cribs, for infants shall be minimized and will not exceed 30 minutes. Confining equipment means equipment used to assist in caring for infants and includes, but is not limited to, swings, stationary activity centers, infant seats and molded seats.

Daily Learning Experiences. Infants and toddlers will be provided with a developmentally appropriate program that promotes physical, social, emotional and cognitive growth. Infants and toddlers will follow the Infant/Toddler High Scope Curriculum key developmental indicators: approaches to learning, social and emotional development, physical development and health, communication/language/literacy, cognitive development, and creative arts. Tummy time is required daily for all infants under 12 months of age and will be directly supervised by a caregiver at all times. The use of media is prohibited for children under 2 years of age.

Diapering and Toileting. Diapers (disposable or cloth) are checked frequently and changed when wet or soiled. Please refer to the Health Care Service Plan for diapering/toileting procedures. Toilet learning is planned cooperatively between the child's primary caregiver and the parent so that the toilet routine established is consistent between the center and the child's home if possible.