



# **TREE HOUSE ACADEMY**

**Children's Learning Center**

## **Parent Handbook**

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## **Tree House Academy of St. Mary's**

### **Operating Services & Hours:**

Tree House Academy operates year round  
Monday-Friday 6:00am-6:30pm  
We serve children ages 6 weeks-12 years

### **Philosophy and Goals:**

Every child is uniquely blessed with the ability to learn and should be provided with developmentally appropriate opportunities conducive to learning guided by knowledgeable and loving hands. Children need to experience childhood. The individuality of each child should not be lost in an effort to teach. Learning should be a natural, rewarding and fun experience for children based upon their interests and developmental patterns. At Tree House Academy, we strive to provide the best in educational opportunities for the children in our care, while maintaining that delicate balance between learning and individuality. We also seek to instill in children basic core values such as respect for one another and pride in our country. Our goal is to prepare children for today and for the rest of their lives in a loving and educationally-sound environment.

### **ADA Statement:**

- Tree House Academy is in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This federal law, passed in 1990, requires that every business offering services to the public not discriminate against a person based on a disability.
- Acceptance of enrollment is not based on a child's or parent's disability unless needs cannot be met on "reasonable accommodations." The company makes every attempt to reasonably accommodate children and parents in a typical childcare setting.

**Enrollment Paperwork:** Due to being licensed by the State and our participation in several State and Federal Programs that help many of our families, we appreciate your help in keeping all of your child's paperwork up-to-date.

## **Equal Opportunity Provider:**

Tree House Academy is an equal opportunity provider. We accept applicants for admission and enrollment without regard to race, religion, national origin, color, creed, physical or mental disabilities or any other protected status.

## **Curriculum:**

Tree House Academy is now using Frog Street Press curriculum. The Pre-K curriculum is a comprehensive, research-based program that integrates instruction across developmental domains and early learning disciplines. The Toddler program is designed around the latest scientific brain research and is comprised of 52 weeks of easy-to-use activities specifically created for children ages 18-36 months. Each of the weekly activity choices are organized around five developmental domains and include adaptations to meet the needs of children.

The cornerstones of Frog Street Press' entire program are:

- An extensive integration of theme, disciplines, and domains
- Social and Emotional development includes Dr. Becky Bailey's Conscious Discipline ®
- Differentiated instruction
- Equity of English and Spanish materials and instruction
- Joyful approach to learning

## **Miscellaneous Fees:**

1. A registration fee of \$60 per child or \$80 per family is due at the time of enrollment. Then the annual charge (same price) for enrollment will be applied every January 1st.
2. Curriculum fees are assessed August 1<sup>st</sup> of each year to cover cost of supplies, cooking materials, projects, etc. Curriculum fees are \$55 for 18 months-2 year olds & \$75 for 3-5 year olds. If your child starts after October 1<sup>st</sup> your curriculum fee will be prorated.
3. There will be a late pick up fee of \$1.00 a minute starting at our center closing time. The fee is due at the time of pickup in cash.

For families enrolled in our half-day program, the late pick up fee of \$1.50 a minute will be charged beginning at 2:10pm.

4. School Age children additional days will be \$15.00/day.
5. Fees are subject to change, but parents will be notified of any change immediately.

**Tuition Payments:** Tuition payments must be made by one of the following options:

1. Credit/Debit Card payments (Visa and MasterCard only).
2. Checks MUST include a valid driver's license and phone number (There is a \$35 NSF fee on all returned checks. Money order or Cashier's check will be accepted as a replacement form of payment. One returned check will result in your account being placed on money order, cashier's check or credit card payment only basis.
3. Cashier's Check
4. Money Order
5. **We DO NOT accept cash for a tuition payment.**

### **General Payment Policies & Tuition Schedule:**

1. Tuition rates are established on a yearly basis and based on a child's age. Rate increases will apply with a minimum written two week notice to parents.
2. All tuition is due on Tuesday by the end of business day for the current week and is considered late Wednesday. A \$25 late payment fee will be added automatically to all past due accounts. Any unpaid balance will result in a late payment fee.
3. For insufficient or neglected payments, student participation may be suspended starting Wednesdays until the account is settled.
4. In any situation when a parent suspends tuition payments for one week or more, enrollment may be terminated. Re-enrollment will be based on availability of space; a new registration fee must be paid as well as any outstanding balance.
5. Accounts will be charged their weekly rate regardless of attendance.

6. Once your child has been enrolled at Tree House Academy for six (6) consecutive months, you will be entitled to one week vacation annually at no charge. Vacation must be taken in full week increments. No partial week credits will be given. Each additional full week of vacation, up to two weeks, is charged at a reduced rate of 50% off your regular weekly tuition rate. You can utilize these 50% discount when your child(ren) have been in attendance 2 days or less during those 2 applicable weeks. This vacation benefit applies to full-time children only. In order to receive Vacation credit a Vacation Request Form must be filled out and turned in before the vacation is taken. No Vacation credit will be given after the fact.
7. Vacation Credit will not be given to families with third party payers as the state mandates how much tuition we must collect monthly.
8. Parents can save 5% if they are wishing to pay for their child's tuition on a monthly basis, but they must pay in advance. Monthly payments are due on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month and will be considered late on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of the month. In order to receive your 5% discount you must pay on or before the 3<sup>rd</sup> of the month. If tuition is not paid by the 3<sup>rd</sup> of the month your discount will be forfeited. The monthly discount cannot be combined with any other discount.
9. No discount or pro-rated options will be given for holidays, illnesses, bad weather days, absences, etc. for part time or full time students; In the event of hazardous weather conditions or water/power outages beyond our control, we reserve the right to close the center for the safety of the children and staff. Full tuition is due unless the center is closed the entire week.
10. Part time students may add additional days based on availability. Please refer to the Weekly Tuition chart for the "Drop In" rate.
11. No weekly or monthly statements will be sent out; only statements for late or delinquent accounts.
12. For school age children an additional fee of \$15 per day will be charged for each day children are at the center for more than their schedule hours (i.e. snow days, teacher in service days, etc.) However, this amount will never exceed the "summer" weekly rate.

13. We do offer a 10% sibling discount for the second and any additional child when all children are enrolled full-time in the center. The discount will apply to the lowest tuition rate.
14. The highest single discount available to you will apply to your account and discounts cannot be combined.

**Refunds:** Tuition Refunds will be given only if:

1. Proper withdrawal procedures have been followed and the family still has a credit. This procedure includes giving a two – week notice of ending enrollment.
2. The family has been asked to withdraw from the center and still has a credit.
3. A processing error on behalf of the center.
4. Under no circumstances are registration or supply fees refundable.

**Withdrawals:**

1. A two week written notice is required from all families wishing to discontinue care or go from a full-time to a part-time status. Once a notice is given, payment is due at that time.
2. Withdrawals are not accepted over the phone and re-enrollment will be based on availability. A new registration fee will be required for re-enrollment.
3. Please understand that once a notice is given, the center fills your child's spot with a child from the waiting list- it may not be possible to "take back" a withdrawal notice.
4. We regret that due to the high demand for quality pre-school services in the community, we are unable to "hold" spots. If your child has to leave the program for a significant length of time, you may choose to change your child's status from a full time to a part time status in order to ensure their spot in the class.
5. Once a written withdrawal notice is given, all vacation credit is forfeited.

**\*Holidays:** Tree House Academy honors the following holidays:

- a. New Year's Day
- b. Good Friday
- c. Memorial Day
- d. Independence Day
- e. Labor Day
- f. Thanksgiving Day
- g. Day after Thanksgiving
- h. Christmas Eve
- i. Christmas Day

If the holiday falls on the weekend the center will be closed the next week day closest to the holiday (i.e. if the holiday is on a Saturday the center will be closed on a Friday, if the holiday is on a Sunday the center will be closed on a Monday). This excludes Christmas Eve.

### **Ultimate Financial Responsibility:**

1. Parents/Guardians are responsible for all tuition payments in advance of service.
2. Should a family leave the center with a balance, we are required to report the default. We will use every legal means possible to collect any unpaid balances.
3. Tree House Academy also reserves the right to charge the parent of any child who destroys property on our facility grounds.

### **Admission Procedure and Waiting List:**

1. Parents wishing to enroll should first tour the center with their child and place their name on the waiting list.
2. The registration fee will be required in order to place your child's name on the waiting list. In addition their completed paperwork (including state forms, immunizations and the special accommodations checklist) is required before the child can attend.
3. Once you are on the waiting list you can make use of our free Fun Day program which used to be known as "Trial Day." During the

Fun Day, parents are encouraged to stay with the child until comfortable and then leave the child to explore the classroom.

### **Safety:**

1. We are proud to be a smoke-free facility. There is no smoking allowed in our center or on our property including Electronic and Vapor cigarettes.
2. No weapons are allowed in our center or on our property.
3. Tree House Academy agrees to keep parents informed of any incidents, accidents, injuries or adverse reactions to medications that involve your child.
4. Tree House Academy agrees to obtain written authorization from parents before allowing your child to participate in routine transportation, field trips, special activities away from the facility and water related activities.
5. Tree House Academy reserves the right to transport a child or allow them to ride an emergency vehicle without a parent's written authorization if the parent does not answer a call from the center on the first try, in a life or death situation. The child will be taken to the nearest hospital. By signing this parent agreement, you agree that Tree House Academy will not be liable for injury or death caused in direct correlation to the transportation of a child in pursuit of emergency attention. Also, that Tree House Academy will assume no responsibility for any cost associated with the emergency 911 call.
6. A gang-free zone is a designed area around a specific location where prohibited gang related activity is subject to increased penalty under law. The specific locations include day care centers and are within 1000 feet of Tree House Academy. Gang related criminal activity within 1000 feet of Tree House Academy is a violation of this law and is therefore subject to increased penalty under state law.
7. Due to the new "Safe Sleep" policy recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics, infants younger than 12 months of age will be placed on their backs to sleep and nothing will be allowed to be



in the crib with them. We are unable to swaddle babies, use positional devices or blankets. If you wish, you may provide your child with a sleep sack or footed pajamas for them to use during nap time.

### **Child Abuse and Neglect:**

Tree House Academy defines abuse as the mental, emotional, physical or sexual injury to a child, or the failure to prevent such injury to a child. Tree House Academy defines neglect as failure to provide a child with food, clothing, shelter and/or medical care; and/or leaving a child in a situation where the child is at risk of harm. To report abuse/neglect call the Camden County DFCS office at 912-729-4583 or after hours call 1-800-422-4453. It is not only Tree House policy, but the law, to report suspected child abuse and/or neglect.

Our staff receives at least 1 training hour annually in recognizing and preventing child abuse and neglect. The center offers literature and books on signs and symptoms of abuse and neglect as well as prevention techniques that are available to both parents and staff. The center also has developed partnerships with local community organizations that can provide additional resources and referrals to parents and staff.

### **Childcare Licensing Reports:**

A copy of our regulatory guidelines is available at the school, along with the latest inspection report. Your center director will be happy to share a copy of the standards with you if you wish to review the rules. The State requires us to post (in a prominent place) our license but the report is available upon request. If you have additional questions, please contact the Center Director.

### **Emergency Preparedness:**

1. Emergency preparedness information may be picked up in the Center Director's office.
2. In case of inclement weather or in an emergency, we will match the nearest Independent School Districts' opening and closing information. Upon multiple closing days it is up to the Center Director's discretion, based on safety for the staff, families and

children, to re-open the school and/or delay the opening of the school. Please see the center's Facebook page for up-to-date information regarding the center's closings.

3. In case of an emergency that requires re-location, children will be moved to Agape Christian Fellowship, 10600 Colerain Road, St. Mary's, GA, 31558. Phone: 912-673-7075.
4. A fire drill will be performed at least once a month and severe weather drills will be performed at least once every six months.

### **Arrival & Departure Procedures:**

1. We require you to accompany your child in and out of their classroom.
2. Children must arrive and depart from the center in an approved child safety restraint in accordance with state law.
3. An authorized person must sign the child in and out each in the front office.
4. As you arrive, you may relay any messages to a staff member present and receive any messages the center staff has for you. We feel it is especially important for children to know that the people in the center and at home are working together to ensure that all of their needs are met.
5. In case of an emergency, if you need someone other than an authorized person to pick up your child, the center requires to be notified in advance. We will not release a child without the adult showing a current Driver's License.
6. The center **MUST** be notified of absences of any school age children. If your child will be absent and not require transportation to or from school, please notify the center by 2:00pm or two hours prior to normal pick up time (in the case of half days, etc.). Also, there will be a \$10 charge for people who do not call.
7. Each child needs to be in attendance by 10AM. If your child will be in attendance past 10am due to a doctor's appointment or other appointments, you must call and notify your center by 9AM.

8. Children cannot be dropped off at naptime. Double check with your child's classroom teacher or your Center Director to verify the specific times to avoid.

### **Transportation:**

1. We provide transportation to and from the following elementary schools: Crooked River Elementary, Sugarmill Elementary, and Mary Lee Clark Elementary. Schools Are subject to change based on enrollment
2. We do not provide transportation to or from home.
3. Transportation will only be provided for children ages 4 and older, unless there is an emergency situation.
4. To transport your child we must have a current Authorization for Transportation on file and on all Tree House vehicles.
5. On field trips, parents may not drop off or pick up their child from the field trip. Tree House Academy must have signed permission for your child to attend all field trips and a Tree House Academy field trip shirt or name tag must be worn by your child. All Tree House Academy staff that attends and monitors field trips is given Transportation and Field Trip training annually and adheres to field trip ratios determined by our regulatory guidelines. Field Trip location, departure and arrival times will be posted on the front door the day before and of the field trip.

### **School Age Drop off & Pick up Procedures:**

1. If there is no one to receive a child upon deliverance at the destination, the bus driver will walk the child into the school. If there is still no one to receive the child, the child will be transported back to Tree House Academy and parents will be contacted.
2. Tree House Academy bus driver will take attendance before departing from elementary schools and not depart until all children are accounted for. Upon return to the center, parents will be contacted to confirm any information relayed to us by the elementary school staff.

3. Again, parents must call before 2PM for no pick up or a fee of \$10.00 will be assessed.

### **Naptime**

Tree House Academy offers a nap/rest time period each day. Please provide a blanket and small comfort item (i.e. small enough to fit in backpack and personal storage space at school) for children over 12 months up to school agers. These items will need to be taken home each week to be washed.

### **Animals**

Tree House Academy does not allow animals of any kind on premises during and after operating hours. Consequently, no animals are to be brought through the center doors.

### **Outdoor Play**

Weather permitting, Tree House Academy offers outdoor activities each day. We do not permit the children to play outside on red ozone days or after 12PM on orange ozone days. It is required by our regulatory agency that the children participate in outdoor activities each day, so please ensure that they are dressed appropriately for this each season.

### **Sunscreen**

Topical sunscreen and/or bug repellent will be applied to children only when the appropriate product has been supplied by the child's parent in a named, un-opened container and is accompanied by the appropriate center release form.

### **Water Play Policies**

Tree House Academy offers water play activities for children ages 18 months and up. This includes sprinkler play, splash pads and water parks. To ensure the safety of children involved in water activities we adhere to the ratios given in our regulatory guidelines.

- A lifeguard will be present at all times and is NOT counted in ratio at water parks.
- The use of diving boards is prohibited at water parks.

- All persons included in the ratios for water activities must be able to swim and must be prepared to do so in an emergency

## **Health & Illness Policy**

1. Immunizations must be kept on file and up-to-date at the center for each child.
2. Parents will be contacted to pick up their child if the child has:
  - a. An under arm temperature of 101°F or higher
  - b. 3 or more loose BMs, vomit, a rash or if we suspect a case of conjunctivitis (pink eye)
  - c. Symptoms or signs of possible severe illness (Such as: lethargy, uncontrolled breathing, uncontrolled diarrhea, vomiting rash with fever, mouth sores with drooling, wheezing, behavior change, or other unusual signs)
3. We require that children be picked up within ninety (90) minutes after we first contact you. After ninety (90) minutes pass, late pick up fees may be charged. Parents will be contacted by their preferred mean of communication, as specified on enrollment paperwork, as soon as contact is deemed necessary. Children will be kept comfortable in the office and apart from other children until parents arrive.
4. Children with contagious illnesses are not allowed to attend the center. Should your child have a contagious illness please do not bring them to the center.
5. Any child either removed from the center or kept at home due to illness must remain away from the center and be symptom free and non-antibiotic medication free for twenty-four (24) hours before returning. Any child beginning an antibiotic regime must not attend the center for the first twenty-four (24) hours of the regime.
6. Each staff member at our center is required to be certified in First Aid and CPR. In case of an emergency, a qualified staff member may administer first aid or CPR to your child.
7. If a severe emergency does occur we will contact 911 and the parents to discuss the extent of any injuries or illnesses.

8. Any time that a child is sent home with an illness or injury, an Incident/Illness Report or Illness Report will be filled out by the witnessing staff member. We require that parents sign the form and a copy will be kept for our records. A copy will be provided to parents upon request.
9. Please make sure your child has up-to-date Emergency Medical Information on file.
10. Parents will be notified immediately in the event children are exposed to a communicable disease while in our care. We ask that you as parents notify us immediately as well if your children are exposed or diagnosed with a communicable disease outside of our care, so that we may make others aware.
11. Tree House Academy does not require our Staff to be immunized or bring any documentation of it.

### **Medication:**

1. We distribute only prescription medicine. They will be distributed at 10AM and 3PM. The only exception to this is breathing treatments or inhalers used "as needed" indicated on the prescription. Since we are not a medical facility, we prefer to seriously limit the amount of medication we dispense.
2. Medication will only be dispensed with a State required form completed and on file. Medicine must be signed in daily and all paperwork must be filled out properly including the medication name, the dosage, time and date the medicine is to be given. This information must be consistent with the labeling on the medication; this includes breathing treatments and inhalers.
3. Medication will be administered orally, with the only exceptions being eye drops, ear drops or Diaper Cream to children 2 yrs and younger
4. Medication will be kept in the front office in a locked drawer and out of the reach of children.
5. All medications must have the original label attached; we will only administer medication to the child whose name is printed on the label.

6. Expired medication will not be administered under any circumstances.
7. The center will document distribution of the medicine, including the name of the medication, the amount given, the time given, and the name of the person administering it.
8. Designated employees will give out medicine.
9. The center will notify you in case of any adverse reaction to any medication.

### **Hearing & Vision Screening:**

We do not require a hearing & vision screening for all students but the GA State Pre-K program students do have a required EED Form 3300 that must be completed and on file.

### **Nutrition:**

1. Children are served nutritious meals throughout the day in accordance with state mandated guidelines.
2. In case of any special dietary needs, please check the posted weekly lunch menu.
3. We are proud to be a nut free facility. In case of any other allergies or preferences, please provide the center with a doctor's note or notarized note from a religious leader stating so.
4. On your child's birthday or holidays, you may bring sealed pre-packaged, store bought, and nut free treats for your child's class for afternoon snack, as long as the ingredients label is still attached. We ask that you let your child's teacher or the administrative team at your center know in advance.
5. Chewing gum is not allowed in our center.
6. FOR PARENTS OF INFANTS AND TODDLERS;
  - a. Parents are responsible for supplying already made formula, commercial baby food, and a current up-to-date feeding schedule.

- b. If parents/children are eligible and choose to participate in CACFP utilizing the formula provided, you must provide empty bottles.
- c. All baby bottles must be plastic with a lid and be labeled with the child's first name and last name.
- d. All bottles and opened jar food must be taken home daily.
- e. We request that all breast milk bottles are already made; bottles will be stored in the classroom's refrigerator.
- f. Mothers wishing to breastfeed their children on-site are welcome to do so. A rocking chair located in the Infant Room is available.

### **Student Meals:**

- 1. Tree House Academy adheres to a strict "no outside foods" policy. The center does it's best to reasonably accommodate all allergies. If for any reason the center is unable to do so, the family may provide a physician's statement stating the child's allergies and will therefore be allowed to provide the child's meals from home. There is no tuition discount for children who bring their own lunch.
- 2. Tuition includes breakfast, lunch and snacks. Formula and baby food for infants and toddlers not yet eating table food is not included in the tuition and must be provided by the parents. (Unless you are participating in the CACFP.)
- 3. The meal schedule is as follows;
  - g. Breakfast is served daily from 8:00am-8:30am
  - h. Lunch is served daily between 11:00am-12:00pm
  - i. Snacks are served daily between 2:30pm-3:30pm
- 4. More snacks may be provided to children at alternate times if necessary.
- 5. Water will be served with every snack and meal. Milk will also be provided at breakfast and lunch. No sweetened beverages, including chocolate milk, will be served unless it is a class party or special occasion.



## Guidance & Discipline:

1. We focus our attention on teaching children what behaviors are acceptable and present positive options to unacceptable behaviors. Redirection is always attempted to correct negative behavior.
2. We encourage positive behavior by structuring the child's day to give ample opportunity for quiet and stimulating activities.
3. Tree House Academy does not allow corporal punishment of any form under any circumstances. This includes, but is not limited to: spanking, pinching, flicking, popping, squeezing, slapping and biting.
4. The denial of food will never be used as a form of discipline.
5. Parents will be contacted to assist in resolving consistent disruptive behaviors. We reserve the right to discontinue child care services without notice when we feel that a child's behavior is detrimental to a class as a whole.
6. Biting is a common issue in early child development. The best way to deal with biting is consistency between providers and parents. Biting could occur for multiple reasons. Proper communication will help determine why a child is biting. Tree House Academy will work with parents when biting becomes a problem. We will make every effort to solve the issue as soon as possible. If a child bites more than 3 times in one day he/she will need to be picked up and an action plan will be put in place to correct the behavior. We will follow the illness pick up procedures giving you ninety (90) minutes to pick up. If a child bites more than 9 times in one month the action plan will then be forfeited and the child will need to be dis-enrolled. After a two week dismissal the child may be re-enrolled to retry if space is available.
7. Tree House Academy employs the practice of "time out" and will redirect and teach each child the best way to solve the problem or relieve the stressful situation. We will work closely with the parent/guardian to lend assistance and support in any persistent behavioral circumstances. No children under 2 years of age will be subject to this practice. Also, our policy limits the time to 1 minute per each year of the child's age: i.e. 3 min/3 years old.

8. During field trip season, school age children are required to go on field trips because there will not be a teacher left behind for families requesting their child not participate in the field trip.
9. All school age must sign the code of conduct for the field trips. Tree House Academy has zero tolerance for disruptive behavior on field trips and the Director may deny attendance on certain field trips for any child(ren) who is disruptive on a field trip.
10. Any child(ren) conducting verbal or physical abuse against staff will have enrollment terminated.

### **Confidentiality Policy:**

Tree House Academy believes that each child entrusted to its care has a right to have their individual personal information kept confidential and private. The following procedure will be followed to ensure children's confidentiality:

1. Original records made by the center will be kept on file in the Director's or Assistant Director's office.
2. No records shall be released to any party without a court order authorizing the release of records.
3. Being a paying member does not authorize the release of records.
4. Private information will be shared only with necessary parties on a necessary basis.

### **Classroom Placement & Promotions**

1. Children are in their own classrooms with children their own age for the majority of the day. Only early in the morning, naptime or late in the afternoon may children of different ages be mixed.
2. Whenever possible, we try to place children in a classroom that, as it promotes, will evolve into the same class that the child will be in when qualifying for Pre-K or Kindergarten. Some exceptions may be made due to a child's developmental status. For this reason, your child may turn three but remain with the younger age group until the next center-wide re-grouping.
3. The center keeps appropriate staff/child ratios at all times.

## Clothing & Belongings:

1. Each child must have a bag with change of clothes clearly labeled with their name, filled with an extra change of weather appropriate clothing (including socks) in their cubby. Please check the bag regularly and replenish items as needed. If your child does not have these items, we may need to call you to bring them. This bag must be able to hang and accommodate all of their belongings.
2. FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN WHO ARE POTTY TRAINING: We require at least 3 full sets of clothing including socks and underwear (and shoes if possible).
3. FOR PARENTS OF INFANTS AND TODDLERS WHO ARE NOT POTTY TRAINED OR TRAINING: We require at least two extra sets of clothing and at least 6 diapers per full day of attendance. Also, no cloth diapers are allowed –only disposable diapers. Measures will be taken to communicate with you when you are low or out of diapers or extra clothes. If Tree House Academy must provide diapers for you until you are able to provide replenishments, a service fee of \$1 a diaper used will be applied to your account.
4. We request you send children dressed in clothes that are easily manageable.
5. For safety's sake we require that all children wear tennis shoes. No flip-flops, heels, mules or shoes with wheels are allowed.
6. Please do not send toys to school with your child. We cannot be held responsible for the loss of or damage to personal items.
7. Please make sure EVERYTHING your child brings from home is clearly labeled with your child's name. This includes, but is not limited to: clothing, blankets, cups, backpacks, etc.
8. No cell phones are permitted for school age children. If your child has a phone, it will need to be kept in their bag the entire time they are in the care of Tree House Academy.
9. School age children attending field trips must wear the summer field trip shirt for the current year or purchase another in order to attend any field trip.

## Role of the Parent in our Center:

1. Our programs are developed with parents and guardians as an integral component involving you in many aspects of our program. You are invited to participate in our parent teacher conferences designed to present you with our observations of your child's progress.
2. Parents are encouraged to discuss their child's activities with their teachers. Open communication between parents and teachers makes for easier transitions between home and center.
3. Feel free to contact your center director or assistant director at any time, in person, by phone or email, to resolve any issues. This may help eliminate confusion and misunderstandings.
4. Tree House Academy has an "open-door policy." This means parents are invited to visit the center at any time throughout the day, without making reservations or giving an advanced notice. This of course is as long as the parent interaction does not disrupt the stability of the classroom or the child's behavior.
5. It is the responsibility of the parent to make sure their child's file and contact information is up-to-date.
6. Please understand that it is against Tree House Academy policy for our staff to have any outside employment. This includes, but is not limited to: babysitting, house sitting, nanny services, mother's helper, or carpooling. If you should offer a position to a member of our staff and they resign to take your offer, you are required to pay Tree House Academy a Finder's Fee of \$1,500.00.
7. Parent participation is a vital part of the success of our programming. We have several opportunities per year for the parents to become involved. Please contact the Center Director for any interest that you have in regards to parent participation.
8. Parent Code of Conduct-- Please understand young children are present in our building. Some adult language is not appropriate for young children. Tree House Academy prohibits swearing or cursing on our property. Threatening staff, children, or other parents will not be tolerated. Tree House Academy has the right to terminate care in the event of disruptive behavior from a parent or guardian.

Tree House Academy must follow particular rules on discipline and guidance as outlined in regulatory guidelines for Child Care Centers. All adults, including parents, must follow these rules while on our property.

9. Proper parent communication is imperative when working with young children. It is difficult to communicate when cell phones are in use. *Effective January 1, 2013 we will be prohibiting the personal use of cell phones in our building.* We, at Tree House Academy, know that you trust us with your most valuable treasure, your child, and we strive to serve our families the absolute best in preschool education and childcare. We believe that excellent early childhood development is the foundation for a bright future for our children at Tree House Academy.
10. In order not to confuse school toys with a child's personal property, we ask that children not bring playthings from home. Tree House Academy staff cannot be responsible for lost or broken personal toys. Two exceptions to this are a stuffed animal for use during naptime by full-day preschool children and for Show & Tell purposes. You will be notified by your child's teacher if and when the class will have Show & Tell.
11. Cyber identity and social networking is very exciting these days. However, please understand that employees of Tree House Academy are prohibited from participating in social networking with parents and children. This includes, but is not limited to Facebook and Twitter. Please do not put the employee's job at risk by interacting with them via any of these social media venues. To stay up to date on Tree House Academy news, please refer to our school sponsored Facebook and Twitter accounts or website.
12. Tree House Academy prefers NOT to get involved with custody disputes. Tree House Academy will follow a court order exactly as written. If your family has a court order on file, please provide us with the most recent copy. *PLEASE NOTE: PER STATE LAW, IN THE ABSENCE OF A COURT ORDER, BOTH PARENTS HAVE EQUAL RIGHTS. When applicable, State Law will supersede Tree House Academy policy.* With this being said, it is imperative that all enrollment forms are completed with both parents information. A

copy of a child's birth certificate may be requested at the director's discretion. In the event that a custody dispute takes place on our property, the police will be called and asked to handle the dispute. Our staff will not be placed in the middle of such disputes. If a custody issue creates a risk for our facility or staff, Tree House Academy has the right to terminate care. Also, we will not be able to provide any statements and/or documentation for either party unless ordered by the court.

13. If an "authorized pick up" is asked to be removed from the account (other than mom or dad) that person will not be allowed to be resubmitted to the account and will be denied authority to pick up at any time

To help us provide the best classroom environment:

1. Communicate any concerns regarding our program or your child immediately to staff.
2. Pick up and read the notices and information left for you in your child's folder and/or posted outside your child's classroom, at the reception desk, or on e-mail.
3. Pick up your child's papers/projects daily. Their work is very important to them and provides another means of communication between parent and child and helps the parent share in the child's day.
4. Please be aware of the scheduled meal times of breakfast and lunch, 8:00am and 11:00am, and make sure your child arrives in time to be included in those meals, if necessary. It is very difficult to try and feed a child later than the scheduled meal time, and causes a disruption in the classroom schedule, which affects all of the children in the classroom.
5. Periodically check on your child's supply of extra clothing. Please take home soiled clothing promptly.
6. Please remember not to drop off your child during naptime. This disrupts the other children resting and makes it very challenging for the staff.

7. Again, we do not allow smoking on the premises, either indoors or outdoors including Electronic and Vapor cigarettes.

**Parent Notifications:** All parent information will be posted on the boards in our reception area. Any changes in the center, field trips, and/or other events will be posted. You may also access recent reports and a copy of our regulatory guidelines by making a request in the front office. If there are any changes to enrollment procedures, tuition policies, etc. parents will be notified through a letter sent home and a posting in the reception area. Also, our current tuition rates and monthly calendar and newsletter are available via our website.

### **Webcasting:**

Tree House Academy has a program whereby web cam's are in use and your child(ren) are under constant streaming video surveillance that is accessible from the web in accordance with the terms and conditions associated with the Peanut Butter & Jelly, LLC website. All photographs and/or recordings singularly or in conjunction with other photographs and/or recordings may be used for advertising, publicity, commercial or other business purposes. The video footage is the sole property of Tree House Academy by which you have no rights to any of the video footage or photographs for any reason at any time. The video footage will be used for internal training and management within the facility.

### **Termination of Enrollment by Tree House Academy:**

Tree House Academy reserves the right to terminate enrollment as a result of, but not limited to, the following circumstances.

- Non-payment of tuition
- Abuse of children, staff or property
- Continued violations of Tree House Academy policies.
- Disruptive or dangerous behavior by child or parent
- Our inability to meet your child's needs.

A decision to terminate enrollment will be based on whether it is in the best interest of the child, the other children in the program, and/or the overall

operation of the center. Every effort will be made to correct the problematic situation before a final decision is made.

**Referral Program:** The Referral Program allows parents to spread the good news about our program and enjoy free quality educational services at the same time! When a newly referred child remains in the program for four weeks, you receive one child's free week of tuition. We want you to be rewarded and want other children to benefit from the same quality educational programs that your children enjoy.

**Questions or Complaints:**

Parents should feel comfortable discussing any issues with their child's teacher. If there is anything you feel needs the administrative team's attention, please feel free to stop by the front office at any time; there is usually no need to make an appointment. However, during high traffic times, especially normal drop off and pick up times, you will need to make arrangements due to the staff's primary responsibilities.

You may also call the center at 912-576-8697 or email the center at [thast.marys@yahoo.com](mailto:thast.marys@yahoo.com)