

Gramma's House Performing Arts Preschool Handbook

Our goal is to provide your children with a clean, safe, comfortable environment where they can play and learn with guidance and loving care while you work. We will be integrating curriculum, arts, and crafts, performing arts and a variety of skill development activities during our days, and of course we want your child to HAVE FUN!

To make our relationship as enjoyable as possible, the following are some mutual beneficial requirements that are necessary to assure that there are no misunderstandings between either party, that each party is aware of the requirements, and that these requirements are conducted in a business-like manner. There is a lot of information here. Please read all of it and if you have any questions please ask. It is especially important that we communicate from the start.

At Gramma's House you are paying for a specific slot, so no discounts are given if your child does not come to care. We are preschool teachers, not babysitters, and we expect our clients to show respect for our home, family, and each other. We are also small business owners. Our fees, hours and policies are well thought out and non-negotiable. Like you, we too have lives outside of preschool. We would love for your family to have a chance to enjoy all that Gramma's House has to offer, but for us to have a successful placement for your child you must read and fully accept our terms before you sign a contract.

The policies listed are set forth by Gramma's House and are in accordance with state regulations. Failure to comply with these policies may result in immediate termination and loss of your fees at the discretion of Gramma's House.

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Admission

Parents will be required to sign the contract and authorization form, fill out and sign the child admission form, and provide a copy of the child's immunization records before the child's first day of preschool. A copy of a recent physical must be provided within 30 days of the enrollment date.

There is an **\$85 registration fee per child**, which will be paid at the time of registration along with a deposit of the first monthly contracted payment. For returning students the registration fee will be due yearly, June 1, along with August payment. It will not be refunded if you decide not to continue with us.

Business Hours

Gamma's House is **open Monday through Thursday from 8:00a.m. until 3:00p.m.**

We can be reached at 375-0709. You can call between the hours of 7:00a.m. and 4:00p.m.

Fees

***Monthly- (Payments are due for 10 months August-May)**

Mon.-Thurs., Full day- \$900

Mon. & Wed. or Tues. & Thurs., Full day- \$608

Mon.- Thurs., Half day 8-11 am, or 12-3pm- \$530

Payment fees are based on a 39-week schedule.

To hold a slot for your child, Gamma's House must be paid in advance of the time of care. **No refunds or discounts will be given for any reason; there are no exceptions.**

Payments and Late Fees

A paid two-weeks advance notice and a two week's payment must be given by the parent if childcare is being terminated.

The contracted payment is due before care on the 1st day of every month and is considered late if not paid on that day. If not paid that day, it will then be due the next day before care including a **\$30 late fee. Your child will not be able to attend if payment is not made on this day.** A **daily \$10 late fee** will be added for each day the contracted payment is not paid for the next 3 days.

We will only accept payment through our chosen payment system. Gamma's House is not responsible for any additional fees charged by any payment system. Other forms of payment may be accepted with an added convenience fee with approval from Gamma's House. We will not have cash on the premises so please pay the correct amount that is owed. **Personal checks will not be accepted.**

All payments will be raised yearly starting with the first payment in August.

Payment will not be refunded if your child does not come or is on vacation. Payment will not be refunded if Gamma's House is closed due to extreme weather or providers being sick. You must have back-up care just in case these instances take place.

Closing Procedure

The late pick-up fee is to be paid at the time of pick up at the rate of \$5.00 per minute per child starting at 1 minute after your contracted pick-up time.

When a child is left after closing and the parent/guardian or emergency contacts cannot be reached the Department of Human Services will be contacted. Appropriate activities and a snack will be provided for the child during these cases.

School Closings

Gramma's House will be closed whenever Widefield District 3 elementary schools are closed, including for bad weather. We will close for the summer when elementary schools in WD-3 close for summer break and open when WD-3 elementary schools open for the new school year. We will also have a late start whenever WD-3 elementary schools have a late start due to severe weather.

Emergency Leave

Gramma's House may take 5 days of emergency leave and 5 sick days a year. Payment will still be due. When we close for these days, **you will be responsible for seeking other means of care for your child.** We will try to give as much notice as possible if these days have to be used. Your payment will be due on the first of the month or it will be considered late.

You will need back-up care in cases of vacation, sickness, or any other times Gramma's House may have to close. **No refunds will be given.** In instances where Ms. Sandy, or Ms. Felicia cannot be at Gramma's House (and the option is available) we may provide substitute care. Substitutes who may be used are Ms. Angela, Ms. Pat, or Mr. Ed.

Smoking

Gramma's House is a non-smoking environment for the health and welfare of the children.

Curriculum

The main goal of Gramma's House is to have fun, improve social, cognitive, language and motor skills, encourage creative expression and independence, and prepare children for kindergarten. We will utilize a variety of activities to accomplish this goal. Free play, reading, arts and crafts, music/singing, water play, dancing, dramatic play/pretend, puzzles, drama, different academic learning activities, and nature study are just some of the activities we will be doing. We will focus on one topic a month like family, emotions, camping, winter, etc. We will also do circle and calendar time. Social and self-help skills will be worked on continuously. It is also our goal to have a variety of toys readily available to the children.

We will do an assessment for each child once in the fall and once in the spring.

Gramma's House does have certain times where the children will be allowed to watch T.V., movies, listen and dance to music, and play games on children-friendly websites on the computer, laptop, or tablet, and they will be closely monitored. They will have 0-15 minutes a day to play on the computer. Children will also be allowed and encouraged to pray at mealtimes.

Our curriculum includes:

- name writing
- recognizing letters and letter sounds
- rote counting
- counting items
- sorting
- recognizing and naming shapes
- recognizing and naming colors
- writing letters and numbers
- rhyming
- cutting
- following directions
- naming weather patterns
- singing
- dancing
- drama

We will hold performances throughout the year consisting of singing, dancing, and/or drama.

Photos & Video

By signing the contract, you give Gramma's House permission to take photos and videos of your child and post them on our websites and social media pages.

Arrival and Departures

Children must be signed in and out by their parents/guardian, or a personal contact 16 years or older. Children will not be allowed to sign themselves in or out.

You must **drop your child off at the contracted time**. Do not bring them early or pick them up later than their contracted times. **Any changes will require a 2-weeks' notice. If they have not arrived within 30 minutes of their contracted drop-off time and we have not heard from you, we will assume they are not attending for the day and will not be able to take them later.**

Children are to arrive clean, and they will be returned to you clean. **We will not allow drop-offs during nap time.** Please be as quiet and as brief as possible when picking up children during nap time.

Please remember to inform emergency contacts or people designated to pick up your child that if we do not know them and the child is too young to recognize them, we will need to ask for identification. This is simply a measure taken for your child's protection. If a parent or person designated to pick up the child appears under the influence of a controlled substance, an emergency contact will be called to pick up the child and if he or she cannot be reached, the police will be called.

Absences and Tardiness

Gramma's House must be notified in case of absences. Please call or text if your child will not be coming in. **No child may be dropped off after 9 am.** Exceptions will be made for doctor's appointments in which case we will require 24hr notice. Waiting for children to arrive affects our schedule. Please be courteous and **inform us of absences and lateness.**

Cleanliness/Hygiene

Each child is provided a separate nap mat or cot, sheet, and blanket. Blankets and sheets are washed monthly (unless soiled, then they are washed as often as necessary) and mats and cots are wiped with bleach water weekly. Children will be allowed to bring their own blankets if they are labeled.

Transportation

All children being transported while in our care will use seat belts and the appropriate type of seat for each child's weight, height, and age according to state standards. **Parents are responsible for providing the appropriate car seats.** In addition to field trips there will be short trips to the park, school pickups and drop offs, or the grocery store. A note will be left on the door at these times. We will not at any time leave children unattended in vehicles. The vehicle that will be used is a Ford E 150 van, 15 passengers.

Termination

All new children will be allowed a 2-week trial basis. During this trial period, either party may terminate the contract. **After this trial period a paid 2-week written notice is required by the parent to terminate the preschool agreement.** A termination notice will not be accepted while the provider or the parents are on vacation.

Parents are financially responsible for payment of the final two weeks of preschool whether your child attends our program or not.

Providers reserve the right to terminate the contract for the following reasons, but not limited to:

- Past due payment, late pick up, dishonesty, lack of parental cooperation.
- Blatant disrespect towards the teachers or teachers' family
- Lack of compliance to outlined policies
- If parents knowingly bring their child ill
- Failure to complete required forms
- Failure of a child adjusting to childcare after a reasonable time
- Failure to get required immunizations
- Our inability to meet your child's needs
- Serious illness of child or teachers
- Unacceptable behavior that interferes with the atmosphere of the preschool home and/or is detrimental to the well-being of others

Providers reserve the right to give written notice of immediate termination in these cases. **A 2-week payment is still required if care is terminated by either the parents or the provider.**

Child Abuse/Neglect

It is state law and our responsibility as preschool teachers to report any, and all abuse or neglect performed on a child. Therefore, **we will notify Children's Protective Services and the Police Department when it appears that a child in our care is being physically, sexually, or emotionally abused, neglected, or exploited.** The El Paso County Child Abuse telephone number is (719) 444-5700.

Release of Child

Your child will not be released to anyone other than those listed on your child's admission form unless you call and let us know. **Anyone the providers or child are not familiar with will be asked to show ID.** If they do not comply, the child will not be released.

Supplies

Parents are responsible for supplying:

- Wipes
- Sunscreen
- A full change of clothing, including underwear and socks
- Helmets, wrist protection, and knee and elbow pads for riding a scooter, bicycle, skateboard, skates, or rollerblades
- Any other supplies your child may need

Please have your child clean and dressed for play. We expect your child to arrive dressed for the day and dressed appropriately according to weather conditions, including snow clothing. We will be going outside once daily weather permitting. **If your child is not appropriately dressed for the day, we will have to notify you to bring the required clothing or items, or to pick the child up.**

All personal belongings should be marked with your child's name. The teachers **are not responsible for your child's clothing or personal items brought into our home.**

Sunscreen must be supplied and in cases where no sunscreen is available the provider will use sunscreen, with a SPF of 30 that Gramma's House has on hand.

Toileting Procedure

Your child must be fully potty-trained. That means they know how to undress and dress themselves to use the bathroom. They must be able to go to the bathroom on their own without any reminders or assistance.

Toys

Please know that if your child is unwilling to share a toy brought from home with the other children it will be put away until the end of the day. We do not mind if a child brings a toy from home, but if a certain item becomes a problem, we will have to ask that that item be left at home. **We are not responsible for items brought from home that become lost.**

Parents will be notified of recalled toys and the recalled toys will be dealt with accordingly.

Regular Attendance

If your child will be late or absent, please notify us as soon as possible but no later than- within 30 minutes of your child's regular arrival time. You are required to keep your child at home when ill and need to inform us as soon as possible if you must stay home with your child.

Medication

State law prohibits us from giving your child medication of any kind unless you have a doctor's prescription. Parents must always give the first dose of the day. Medications will be stored according to the doctor's orders. The teachers will make sure it is the right time and they have the right child and medication before administering it. After the administering of the medication the teacher will record it in the child's records. Medication will be returned to parents when it is no longer needed.

Child Illness

Under no circumstances should you bring your child to preschool sick. That includes but is not limited to a fever of 100 degrees or higher for all ages, vomiting, diarrhea, sore throat, coughing, runny nose other than clear, draining eyes or ears, unexplained rash, lice, etc. If you are not sure your child is well enough to attend preschool, call and discuss it with us.

If your child becomes ill while in our care, we will call you immediately. The teachers reserve the right to determine when a child should be sent home and if you need a doctor's note to return. **Your child may not return to preschool the next day and must have been symptom free for 24 hours when they do return.** For example, if your child is sent home with a fever, they cannot return the next day and they must be fever free for 24 hours before they can return. Please call by your normal drop-off time if your child will not be attending that day. **Payment is still due if your child does not come to Gramma's House due to sickness.**

Meals and Snacks

Meals are at the scheduled times mentioned below and **if your child is going to arrive after a meal is scheduled to be served, you must feed them before bringing them to preschool.** Any child not present for a meal will wait until the next meal is served.

- Breakfast 8:00am – 8:30am (child must be here by 8:15 a.m. to receive breakfast)
- Lunch 11:30am – 12:00pm (child must arrive no later than 11:45 a.m. to receive lunch)
- Snack 2:30pm – 3:00pm

All children will be offered the same foods and will only be fed at the above mealtimes. Alternatives will be provided for children with allergies. If your child has special dietary needs, we must have them in writing. If these needs are numerous or too difficult to meet, we will ask you to provide the required food. We will not allow outside food for any other instance.

Disasters

Fire drills will be practiced monthly to accustom children to evacuating in a prompt and orderly manner without panic. In addition to fire drills, we will also on occasion practice drills for severe weather, lockdowns, reverse evacuations, active shooters, and shelter-in-place emergency situations.

In case of a disaster such as fire, severe weather, lockdowns, reverse evacuations, active shooters, or shelter-in-place, if there is sufficient warning, parents will be called to pick up their children as soon as possible. We will meet parents in the parking lot of Janitell Jr. High, on Fountain Mesa Blvd., after evacuations. 911 will be called and CPR and first aid applied in cases of any emergency.

Medical Emergencies

Minor injuries will receive appropriate first aid, and if an emergency injury or illness occurs, you will be contacted immediately. If necessary, your child will be transported by ambulance to Memorial Hospital. Parents are responsible for costs involved in emergency medical treatment, including transportation if required. Gramma's House will not be responsible for any illness/injury of either child or parent/guardian while on the premises, or while your child is in the company of the teachers during field trips or outings.

Immunizations

All immunizations must be kept up to date. Any child found with immunizations not up to date will have 24 hours' notice to receive required immunizations. The teachers can refuse to accept any children if required immunizations have not been received.

Nap/Quiet Time

Children who attend full day preschool will take naps from 12:00-1:00 or 1:45pm.

Damages

It is expected that your child be respectful of our private property and furnishings. A certain amount of wear and tear is normal, but **if your child is malicious upon breaking or damaging any item, we will expect reimbursement in full for the replacement cost of an identical item.** This reimbursement is due the same time your next payment is due.

Discipline

We will use time out as a form of discipline. Children will be required to sit away from the activity for a time according to their age. We believe positive discipline should be used to teach children guidance. The children are explained the rules of the preschool home frequently, so they are aware of the guidelines.

Field Trips

Children participate in field trips at various times throughout the year. Notice of place and time of field trips will be given at least 1 week in advance. Occasionally, there may be fees related to the trips to cover entry fees or any other fees that apply. A permission slip for all field trips will be signed at the time of admission.

We will take all possible precautions when transporting children in our car. Parents are responsible for providing a car seat. It is **not necessary that your child attends these field trips, but you will be required to find alternate care for your child if he/she does not attend. Regular preschool fees still apply whether your child attends or not.**

Equal Opportunity Provider

Gamma's House is an equal opportunity provider. Applications for enrollment are accepted without regard to race, religion, sex, or national origin. We also comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

General Information

If you will not be reachable at your normal telephone number listed on your enrollment form, please let us know and give us an alternate phone number if possible so that you may be contacted promptly in the event of an emergency.

For more information on rules and regulations please go to www.cdhs.state.co.us/childcare

Complaint Reporting Procedure

To file a complaint related to a Child Care facility, please call the Division of Child Care Licensing at 1-800-799-5876 or mail a letter to:

The Division of Child Care 1575
Sherman St., First Floor Denver,
CO 80203-1714

You must include your name, phone number, the provider's name, and the provider's address with the complaint.