

Operational Policies and Procedures Handbook

TAMU CLC

Collaborative Learning Center (CLC)

1411 Hensel Street, Building PD01

College Station, Texas 78746

979-347-2222

WELCOME

Thank you for your interest in CLC! Our staff welcomes you, your child, and your family!

Our goal is to establish positive relationships with children and caregivers by providing high quality learning experiences in socially, emotionally, and physically safe classroom communities where children are engaged in age-appropriate learning activities that help them develop social-emotional skills and friendships, competencies as thoughtful decision-makers, and confidence as skillful young learners.

CLC is a Tobacco-Free and Drug-Free Environment

CLC is a non-smoking and non-vaping, drug-free and alcohol-free environment. For the safety of children, staff, and families, smoking and vaping and using any form of a drug without a prescription and completed medical release form are strictly forbidden. Failure to adhere to this zero-tolerance policy will result in immediate removal from the building, immediate termination of services by CLC, and immediate termination of employment. Additionally, under the Texas Penal Code, any area within 1000 feet of a child-care center is a gang-free zone, where criminal offenses related to organized criminal activity are subject to a harsher penalty.

CLC Non-Discrimination Policy

CLC is in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Public Law 88-352), the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (Public Law 94-135), and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Public Law 93-112). CLC is an equal opportunity program. No person will be denied benefits of or be subjected to discrimination on the grounds of race, color, national origin, age, sex, disability, political beliefs, or religious beliefs and practices.

This handbook describes the operational policies and procedures applied at TAMU Collaborative Learning Center (CLC). Our program strictly follows state guidelines for operating a licensed childcare facility approved and monitored by the Texas Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). It is a state requirement that you have access to a CLC Policy and Procedure Handbook. A copy of the handbook may be viewed and downloaded from our website, www.tamuclc.com.

You will be asked to sign a form acknowledging you are aware of and have been provided access to the CLC Policies and Procedures Handbook.

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MISSION STATEMENT

Preschool years are busy times for children's growth and development. Your child is rapidly acquiring knowledge and language while developing skills for self-regulation and socialization. Providing high quality early learning experiences is essential for developing competent learners with strong foundational skills for cooperating, thinking, and communicating. CLC differentiates its mission and service to provide high quality care and instructional excellent for children and families, and our community.

- Our **behavioral mission** is to help children acquire socially acceptable ways to manage their emotions and behaviors as they cooperate, share space and materials, and respectfully communicate ideas, thoughts, and feelings. Our goal is to help children develop analytical thinking and to become competent learners that make informed, responsible choices.
- Our **educational mission** is to develop children's foundational skills for listening, speaking, thinking, and reasoning so children gain competencies for language and literacy, numeracy/mathematics, science and social studies, physical health, and fine arts. Our goal is to ensure children receive age-appropriate instruction and constructive guidance as they participate in educational and play-based activities.
- Our **community mission is** to become a collaborative resource for teaching and learning for parents, caregivers, local and state childcare providers, teachers and administrators, faculty and staff at TAMU, and college students pursuing careers in child care and family support services. Our goal is to provide evidence-based professional development to educate and support adults working with children and families.

Our Vision for the Community

The Collaborative Learning Center (CLC) is destined to become a model of excellence that provides high quality childcare and educational experiences for children, families, faculty members and college students, and senior citizens. CLC is part of a larger project called the TAMU Intergenerational Learning Center for Senior Citizens that will be located adjacent to our building. Construction of the senior citizen residential facilities will begin in early 2020.

Future plans include coordinating health care and educational opportunities by establishing partnerships purposed to develop social relationships and provide mentoring and tutoring. Professional development will also be provided by CLC staff and faculty from the College of Education and Human Development, some who have offices and services are located on the second floor our building. Our goal is to work together to enhance learning opportunities and experiences for children and families, local childcare providers, and college students pursuing careers in education and support services.

Commitment to Families and Children

The CLC staff is committed to providing high quality learning experiences and childcare for your child. We desire to work collaboratively with you to ensure needs are recognized and addressed, and that our staff is sensitive to and supportive of your family preferences. We honor and respect diversity and we invite feedback that will increase our knowledge about your child.

Our daily schedules include whole- and small-group activities where we communicate personally with every child! Our program includes multiple opportunities for children to share ideas, thoughts and feelings, and ask and answer questions for clarification. Our goal is to provide attentive and compassionate care and learning experiences for children and families at CLC.

HOURS OF OPERATION AND SCHOOL CLOSURES

Licensed Hours of Operation **7:30 - 6:00 pm, Monday–Friday**

CLC is open Monday-Friday all year except on holidays or inclement weather days.

School Closures for Holidays

CLC is closed for designated holidays. Holidays and special activities are listed on monthly calendars that are posted in the office, in classrooms, and on our website: www.tamuclc.com.

Holidays for January 6, 2020 – January 1, 2021

Martin Luther King Day	Monday, January 20
President's Day	Monday, February 17
Spring Break	Thursday-Friday, March 19-20
Memorial Day	Monday, May 25
Independence Day	Friday, July 3
Labor Day	Monday, September 7
Columbus Day	Monday, October 12
Veteran's Day	Wednesday, November 11
Thanksgiving Holidays	Thursday-Friday, November 26-27
Christmas Holidays	Thursday-Friday, December 24-25
New Year's Eve-Day	Thursday-Friday, December 31 - January 1, 2021

There are no reductions in tuition for school closures due to holidays or inclement weather, illnesses or family vacations. Monthly tuition is assessed for 48 weeks of preschool and childcare. There are 52 weeks in a year. By paying monthly, you receive 20 days of childcare free per year. CLC closes 15 days per year for holidays.

School Closures Due to Inclement Weather

Decisions about school closings due to inclement weather will align with local school district closures. Announcements regarding school closings will be posted on our website and announced on local radio and television networks. School closings will be based on:

- Road conditions and threatening weather conditions are unsafe for travel, and
- Unhealthy or unsafe conditions that may threaten staff or children.

MONTHLY TUITION AND FEES

Monthly cost for tuition for children attending CLC full-time is \$775.00. **Tuition is due on the first of each month.**

- Tuition payments should be payable to TAMU CLC.
- Late fees of \$10.00 per day will be assessed for failing to pay monthly tuition on time.
- There will be a \$25.00 fee for any payment that is invalid.
- Tuition is NOT prorated or reduced due to absences, holidays, inclement weather, vacations, or sickness. Tuition is paid for 48 weeks per year. There are 52 weeks in a year so parents do not pay for childcare on days the school is closed for holidays.

Supply Fees

Supply fees are due at the beginning of each semester: August, January, and June. Supply fee cost is \$75.00 per child. Parents do not purchase or supply any materials other than your child's lunch. Once supply fees are collected each semester, you will receive a list that identifies items purchased with supply fee funds. If you have suggestions for purchases, please notify the Director.

Late Pick-Up Fees

CLC is state licensed to operate as a preschool and childcare facility from 7:30 am until 6:00 pm on Monday-Friday. Our operational hours are regulated and monitored for compliance by licensing agents. Our insurance provides coverage during hours of operation only. Therefore late fees will be assessed to ensure children are picked up on time and CLC remains in compliance with state regulations.

- Late fees are \$1.00/minute for the first 15 minutes and \$5.00/minute after 6:15 pm
- Late fees must be paid within one week of noncompliance.
- Unless there is an emergency, failure to comply with CLC policies related to hours of operation will result in discontinued services for your child.

STAFF QUALIFICATIONS

The Collaborative Learning Center (CLC) is owned and directed by Vicki Gibson, Ph.D. She is a nationally known and respected author, teacher, professional development provider, and expert in classroom management, curriculum development, and early childhood. Dr. Gibson owned and directed three preschools in Bryan and College Station, The Education Station, Collier Campus, Inc., and Longmire Learning Center. Dr. Gibson's resume and bio are available on the CLC website.

The success of CLC is a direct outcome of the highly qualified, experienced, caring, and nurturing staff. Photos, names, and bios for each CLC staff member are available on our website. Additional information about our staff may be viewed on the monitor in the CLC office and our website.

The quality of programming at CLC is a result of on-going instructional support and coaching for staff who participate in on-going professional development to learn more about child development and age-appropriate expectations for performance, teaching methods and progress monitoring.

The safety and comfort that you expect for your child is guaranteed by our careful selection of staff, activities and curriculum, and commitment to evidence- and research-based professional development. All staff members are screened by the state for previous records of child abuse, criminal history background check. State requirements for childcare providers are:

- Staff members have a high school diploma, or GED, plus training hours as specified by the state
- All staff undergo testing for tuberculosis and provide CLC with a statement of good health completed by their physician
- At CLC, a full-time CLC employees and staff are certified to perform First-Aid and CPR.
- All CLC employees and staff are required to participate in ongoing professional development for a minimum of 24-30 clock hours per year in addition to First-Aid and CPR.
- TAMU students and volunteers will also receive informative briefings about CLC policies and procedures and the limitations of their interactions and responsibilities in our classrooms before they participate in activities.

LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS AND CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT

Our classroom communities are inclusive, responsive to needs, and supportive as young children develop skills as learners. Our staff uses classroom management routines and procedures to create an orderly environment with enough structure to help children develop self-regulation and decision-making skills. We implement routines consistently to clarify expectations and establish safety and predictable order that reduces behavioral disruptions. Research shows that children, like most adults, are more likely to cooperatively participate when expectations are clear, children know what is happening and when they have choices for productive play in learning centers.

Children are active members in our classroom communities. They share daily responsibilities as helpers by completing jobs and assisting others. Children work together to identify and resolve minor problems. They develop social-emotional and leadership skills from classroom helper experiences that teach kindness, tolerance, patience, and empathy for self and others.

We believe in teaching children how to make age-appropriate responsible choices and how to be accountable for their decisions and actions. Children have multiple opportunities each day to choose learning centers with their friends and manage their own behavior with less direct supervision from adults. Our staff models and teaches ways to cooperate and communicate respectfully, share materials and space, and develop positive social relationships that undermine responsible, accountable behavior and decision-making.

Children learn to participate safely and cooperatively through modeling, role-play, guided practice and constructive feedback. Our goal is to help children develop independent and competent skills as they:

- Feel comfortable, accepted, and safe socially, emotionally, and physically
- Develop skills for self-regulation, cooperation, and collaboration
- Respectfully communicate and identify and express needs, thoughts and feelings
- Explore, experiment, ask questions, and solve problems, and
- Acquire skills and become competent learners and confident decision-makers.

BEHAVIORAL MANAGEMENT

Our staff receives professional development for implementing a proactive, preventative behavioral management system that is flexible to needs and ensures children know what to do and how to perform, and to feel safe socially, emotionally, and physically. Our classroom environments are organized and orderly. Activity choices and curricula are interesting and fun and we have fewer behavioral disruptions.

The CLC staff model and teach social-emotional skills that help children participate successfully in activities that include age-appropriate expectations. Children are taught to recognize choice options, think about choices and potential outcomes or consequences, and make responsible and accountable decisions. They choose learning centers multiple times per day to practice these skills and assume responsibility for their behavior and for cleaning up after using materials.

For more information about our management routines and procedures and Two Choice Discipline (TCD) for providing choices with constructive feedback, please check out and review two books written by our director, Vicki Gibson, Ph.D. The books are entitled *Classroom Management for Early Learning* and *Teaching Responsibility and Respectful Communication*. Copies of both books are available in the CLC

office for you to check out and review. We will also offer parent seminars about these topics and work collaboratively with you to apply similar expectations and behavioral management at home and school.

Business Centers

You can learn quickly about classroom and behavioral management routines and procedures by viewing a bulletin board in each classroom called the Business Center. The charts displayed on the Business Center serve as visual roadmaps for participation in activities. Adults and children can simply look at the Business Center and see how and when activities occur each day and when children participate in learning centers. Each Business Center includes:

- a Daily Schedule with pictures and/or print that show the sequence of activities and when whole- and small group activities and learning center and outdoor play occurs
- a Rotation Chart that shows small group memberships for instructional activities and productive play in learning centers
- a Job or Helper Chart shows assigned weekly responsibilities that children share as helpers, and
- copies of class rosters and emergency procedures such as evacuation plans.

Policies for Addressing Aggressive and Unsafe Behavior

Our staff works with all caregivers and families to ensure children enter our program feeling welcomed and safe to minimize fears and behavioral disruptions. If problems occur that involve social-emotional or behavioral concerns, parents and caregivers will be notified immediately in writing and by phone. We can discuss options or choose to meet and work cooperatively to address needs and concerns.

If parents, legal guardians or caregivers do not comply and work with our staff to identify actions and interventions to correct aggressive and potentially harmful behavior. If safety issues continue, no further attendance will be allowed. In the event a child exhibits aggressive behavior that threatens the health and/or safety of other children or staff, TAMU CLC reserves the right to remove any child's name and registration from a class list, thus suspending or ending enrollment and attendance.

SERVICE DOGS AT CLC

Sophie, CLC's Certified Good Citizen Dog

CLC has a certified Good Citizen Dog named Sophie used to ease transitions and help children make friends at CLC. She is a multi-generational Aussie Labradoodle bred and trained to be sensitive to special needs and provide comfort for adults and children during stressful situations. Sophie has participated in numerous training sessions with Tyler Shade, Owner of Texas Modern K9s in Waller, Texas, <https://texasmodernk9s.com>. Sophie is a well-behaved facility dog that loves to play with children and

adults and welcome them into our classroom communities. Sophie is hypoallergenic and does not shed. Children think Sophie looks and feels like a teddy bear!

Canine Companions for Independence and Patriot Paws Service Dogs

There may be occasions when puppy raisers/trainers and their service dogs visit CLC classrooms. You will be notified in advance before puppy raisers and their dogs visit CLC. Both organizations, Canine Companions for Independence and Patriot Paws, train puppies to serve people with special needs or disabilities. We have worked with these agencies before and witnessed their impact on children and adults. You can learn more about the wonderful work of these organizations by reviewing their websites, Canine Companions for Independence, <https://www.cci.org> and Patriot Paws of Aggieland, <https://maroonlink.tamu.edu/organization/37>.

All veterinarian records, training and certification documents for Sophie, and any animal at CLC, are on file in the Director's office. *If your child is apprehensive about dogs, please share that with our staff.*

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

There are two comprehensive early learning curriculums used at CLC that were authored by our Director Vicki Gibson, Ph.D. Both curriculums are published and sold nationally by Benchmark Education in New York. The **preschool** curriculum for 2-3 year olds is called **Ready to Advance PreK3, or RTA PreK3**. The RTA PreK3 books, teacher resources and materials are used at CLC, but they will be sold nationally beginning spring 2020.

The **prekindergarten** curriculum for 4-6 year old children is called **Ready to Advance (RTA) Early Learning Curriculum (or RTA PreK4)**. The curriculum was published in 2018 and sold in the California preschool state adoption. RTA PreK4 is a national comprehensive prekindergarten program that aligns with all 50 state standards and guidelines. A Texas edition of RTA PreK4 was created last year to align with changes in the Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines. It will be sold in 2020-2021.

Both RTA early learning curriculums include hundreds of books, instructional supports and materials, games and technology for discovery and extending learning about 10 themes during the year. The content and skills are integrated into ten learning domains approved by the Texas Education Agency and State Preschool Guidelines. You may review our curriculum in any classroom and obtain a RTA Program Guide in the CLC office. Examples of both RTA curriculums and the instructional materials are included on the CLC website and on the publisher's [website, www.benchmarkeducation.com](http://www.benchmarkeducation.com).

Daily and Weekly Activity Plans

Another instructional tool used by CLC to create orderly learning environments is called an **Activity Plan**. This is a lesson plan that includes an overview of daily and weekly content and skills that will be introduced or practiced in lessons. All activity plans provide instructional guidance for teachers and support staff at CLC staff, and they inform caregivers and visitors about content and skills and practice activities in our classrooms. Activity Plans are posted in each classroom and copies are also available on the CLC website.

All CLC lesson plans, activities, and learning materials align with 50-state guidelines for childcare and the Texas Education Agency's Infant and Toddler Guidelines (2-3 year olds) and the Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines for children ages 4.0 and older. You may access and review the Texas' early learning guidelines [here](https://tea.texas.gov/pkg.aspx), <https://tea.texas.gov/pkg.aspx>.

NOTE: CLC follows the Texas Preschool Guidelines for children in preschool and kindergarten. The Texas PreK Guidelines for 48-month old children include standards for saying the Pledge of Allegiance, recognizing state and national flags, and scheduling a daily moment of silence to commemorate historical figures and events in the past. If there is a conflict with this requirement, please notify the Director.

Copies of the Infant and Toddler Guidelines, the Texas Preschool Guidelines, Texas Kindergarten Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS-K), and Head Start Outcomes Framework are available for your review in the office. This information is also available on the CLC website, or Texas Education Agency [website](http://www.tea.org), www.tea.org.

Progress Monitoring and Reporting

Progress monitoring and informing caregivers about children's development is an integral part of any high quality early learning program. Daily our staff interacts personally with children while participating in whole- and small-group activities. Adults ask and answer questions, introduce and clarify concepts, and develop word knowledge for oral language and vocabularies. Children are encouraged to use American Sign Language (ASL) and gesture and communicate and share ideas as well as verbalize thoughts and feelings. Through practice, children learn to participate in collaborative conversations by taking turns, waiting for a turn to talk, and sharing the talking time (all are state requirements for preschoolers).

Teachers and staff frequently record comments about their observations and use the data to complete progress monitoring checklists that align with the key concepts and skills developed in the RTA curriculums. At the end of each monthly thematic unit, teachers complete a Unit Checklist that includes key concepts and skills introduced and practiced in classrooms. The checklists help teachers monitor and

report children's progress. A copy of your child's checklist will be sent home at the end of each month, and an additional copy will be maintained in your child's records in the classroom and office.

According to state preschool guidelines, **mastery of most concepts and skills is NOT required before 60 months**, if required by that age. The Unit Checklists in RTA use a Likert scale, or rating of 1-5 to estimate progress toward end-of-year goals in state guidelines. *Ready to Advance Early Learning Curriculum PreK4* includes three types of progress monitoring tools that may be used AFTER children enter CLC and feel safe and welcomed:

- Early Learning Screener that provides general readiness information that is useful for planning and beginning instruction,
- Unit Checklists used monthly to estimate and report progress on concepts and skills taught and practiced to date,
- Comprehensive Preschool Assessment – used with 4-5 year old children entering kindergarten the next academic year.

Our purpose for high quality childcare and preschool programming is to offer learning experiences that develop competent and confident learners that will enjoy school and academic success in the future. Preschool learning goals are purposed to help children develop excellent foundational skills for emergent language, literacy, mathematics, science, and other domains such as social-emotional and physical development, social studies and fine arts, creative dramatics and expression, and an awareness of technology's use for gathering information. We are developing content knowledge and skills and our assessments are used to inform teaching and learning, not assess mastery.

ENROLLMENT FORMS AND PROCEDURES

The Texas Minimum Standards for Child-Care Centers sets the guidelines for required enrollment forms and procedures that must be followed before a child may attend CLC. You will be given a folder that includes paper copies of the required forms when you enroll a child in CLC. Once you complete the forms, a CLC office administrative assistant will input your data into our electronic records. You will be assisted with creating an account and password that allows you private access to your child's records and payment history.

The enrollment forms include:

- Enrollment Form completed and signed by caregiver
- Health Care Professional's Statement about child's general health to participate
- Current Immunization Record signed by physician
- Vision and Hearing Screening Report for children ages 4 years and older

The enrollment requirements and procedures include:

- Complete paper copies of enrollment form, sign and date form
- Provide health care forms: statement about health, shot record
- Provide vision-hearing examination, if required
- Read, discuss and sign form for CLC Operational Policies and Procedures Handbook
- Visit classrooms, meet CLC staff, identify preferred pick up/drop off option
- Our CLC Office Administrator will input your data into our software program and assist you with setting up a secure password for your access to records.

Placement on our CLC Wait List

There is a \$200 deposit to place your child's name on our Wait List until there is availability in a classroom or until you are ready to enroll your child. The \$200 deposit will be applied to your first month of tuition. If you choose not to enroll your child at CLC, the deposit is not refunded. **The deposit does not hold a place on a specific roster nor does it guarantee admission by a designated date.**

CLC maintains staff-child ratios set by state licensing regulations and also by determining what works best in classrooms depending on children's needs. When an opening becomes available, you will be contacted. If you choose not to exercise your option and enroll your child at that time, your child's name will remain on the Wait List. You will be contacted again when another opening becomes available.

CLOTHING AND PERSONAL ITEMS

Children will be actively participating in activities that often require movement, play and using creative art materials that can be messy. Children will experiment to learn through discovery and application. We will put art aprons on children during messy activities in classrooms, but accidents happen in preschool! Please send children in comfortable clothing so they can participate without worrying about safety or ruining clothing.

Please send children in safe and comfortable shoes – Tennis shoes are preferred.

- Shoes should have a closed-toe with soft rubber soles.
- No strappy sandals or flip-flops.
- No shoes with metal buckles.
- No boots with a ½ inch or higher heel, even if the sole is rubber.
- No boots with leather soles or heels.

All children need to bring these items:

- Two (2) complete changes of clothes that may be left at school for 2 yr-young 3 year olds
- One (1) complete change of clothing for children ages 3.6 years and older
- A soft towel for rest period, not a blanket
- A small backpack and hat for outdoor play, if desired
- A lunch kit or bag to hold his/her food items.

Due to sanitary regulations by the health department and state licensing standards, **please keep personal items at home.** Do not send blankets, stuffed animals, drinking cups or bottles, toys, games, or digital devices.

- Your child will be assigned a personal cubby or storage space. All personal items sent from home except lunch kits will be stored in that space.
- Lunch kits are stored in the multi-purpose room where children eat snacks and lunch.
- No items will be allowed that encourage aggressive behaviors (guns, action figures or toys).
- CLC staff retains all rights to refuse any personal item that is perceived to be unsafe, disrespectful or offensive of another individual, custom, or culture.
- Our staff will not be held responsible or accountable for lost personal items.

CLC uses supply fees to purchase equipment, materials, and toys. If you have suggestions for purchasing items for outdoor or indoor activities, please submit those to the Director.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OPTIONS AND PROCEDURES

It is a state requirement that caregivers sign in and register children's attendance. Caregivers will sign a form provided by CLC at arrival and departure times for each day of attendance. Completing the arrival and departure procedure for signing in and out is how we transfer responsibility for children's care. There are options for dropping off and picking up children. You are welcome to park and come inside the building or you may use our drop-off and pick-up service using the drive-through lane in front of building.

Drop Off or Pick Up Options Using Drive-Through Area

If you choose to drop-off your child without leaving your vehicle, please enter the drive-through area carefully between 7:30-8:15 am. Display your child's ID card provided by CLC by making it clearly visible through the right front windshield. Come to a complete stop, put your vehicle in park, and wait for a CLC staff member to come to your vehicle and meet your child. All children must exit vehicles on the curbside. The CLC staff member will have you sign a form to record your child's attendance and release your child into our care.

You may choose to follow similar drive-through procedures when picking up your child between 5:15-6:00 pm. Clearly display your child's ID card having it visible through the right front windshield. A CLC staff member will accompany your child to your car and have you sign a form that releases your child from our care.

- Regardless of the option you choose to drop off or pick up your child, you will be required to provide a photo ID before entering any classroom.
- Please do not allow your child to wander and enter classrooms until you complete procedures for signing in your child.

The Texas Minimum Standards for Child-Care Centers allow employees to group children for 45 minutes at the opening and 45 minutes before closing of each day. If you drop off after 8:15 am or pick up a child before 5:15 pm, you will need to park your vehicle and come to the office and sign in or sign out your child. **Please do not park your vehicle and block the drive-through area during 7:30-8:15 am or 5:15-6:00 pm.**

Release of Child to Authorized Person

No person will be allowed access to your child for any reason without your prior written approval and permission. No persons are admitted without submitting a photo ID as required by state licensing.

- All caregivers whose names appear on the enrollment form and have permission to access your child are welcomed at CLC without prior written notification.
- All persons must report to the office and sign in and provide a copy of a photo ID before entering CLC classrooms or playgrounds.
- Children will not be released to any person that is not specifically designated on your child's enrollment form that includes identification information for each person that has your permission to interact with or pick up your child.
- Provide **prior notice in writing** about changes in your child's normal daily activities, especially if change affects picking up your child.
- Include the name of the person(s) allowed to pick up your child, the make/model of their vehicle, and their driver's license number. A photo ID will also be required before we release your child.

Release of Child to Unauthorized Person

No person will be allowed access to your child for any reason without your prior written approval and permission and without submitting a photo ID as required by law. There are no exceptions to our policies about releasing children to unauthorized persons.

- Please create a family password that will be maintained in our records. All persons picking up your child need to know your family password.
- If there is an emergency that requires an unauthorized person to pick up your child, you must inform the Director, Assistant Director, or your child's teacher in writing before access to your child is allowed.
- Unless the situation is an emergency, provide **written permission for a person** to pick up your child. Include the date and time of arrival and car make/model and license plate number of the person picking up your child.
- In the event of an emergency and you cannot provide advance notice and information in writing, you or a person listed on your child's enrollment form must be available by phone so we can verify information.
- CLC staff will call and verify your permission for an unfamiliar person to pick up your child. **No child will be released from CLC without verifying your permission even in the event of an emergency.**
- Regardless of the situation, when an unauthorized person (who is NOT listed on your child's enrollment form) comes to CLC to pick up your child, the person must report to the office, sign in, and display a photo ID that includes his/her full name as it appears on a driver's license or passport.
- In the event of an emergency and we cannot verify information about person picking up your child, a CLC staff person will stay with your child or take your child with them to their home. Without proper documentation, we will NOT allow an unfamiliar person to access your child.

STATE HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

Each child must have a medical examination and a written statement completed by a physician who has examined your child within the past year. The statement indicates that your child is able to take part in the childcare and preschool activities before admittance to CLC. Your child's immunizations must be current and recorded on the statement provided from your physician.

- No child may attend CLC without a completed and signed health statement from your physician and an updated record of your child's immunizations.
- Caregivers must provide updated information regarding immunizations when changes occur.
- **Failure to provide updated information on enrollment and health forms WITHIN ONE WEEK of enrollment at CLC will result in an immediate loss of services for preschool and childcare until all documentation is current and on file in the CLC office.**
- In some instances, a signed affidavit may be required from the parent or guardian stating that medical diagnosis and treatment conflict with the tenets and practices of a recognized religious organization of which the parent or guardian are an adherent or a member.

- Children ages 4 years and older must have a vision/hearing screening and the report must be filed in your child's records in the CLC office.
- The content included in a child's health file is confidential. Persons who may access information to your child's include CLC administrators or full-time instructional staff, caregivers or legal guardians, and HHS licensing agents who monitor to check our alignment with state regulations for children's records ,

Mandatory Rest Period Each Afternoon

Children will rest for a brief time period daily as required by state guidelines. Younger children often sleep. Older children will be allowed to watch an age-appropriate video or listen to music.

- Children who do not sleep will be offered books or other quiet activities after one hour of rest (requirement in Texas Minimum Standards for Child-Care Centers).
- Children may bring a towel (not a blanket) for use during rest period.
- Please use a permanent fabric marker and put your child's name on their towel.
- Towels will be sent home each Friday for laundering. Return towels on Monday.

Procedures For Responding to a Child's Illness

When a child appears ill or is demonstrating symptoms of an illness, or has a fever, a CLC staff member will contact you and request that you immediately pick up your child. Children may not return to CLC until they are symptom-free for 24 hours. If a communicable or contagious illness is present in a classroom (stomach virus, flu, chicken pox), we will notify families about symptoms and treatments. Our staff will not share confidential information about the child who is ill.

Communicable or Contagious Symptoms or Signs of Illness

- Fever indicated by an oral temperature of 101° or an auxiliary (ear/forehead) temperature of 100° within the past 24 hours.
- Severe colds with productive coughs and significant sneezing.
- Unidentified skin rashes that have not been diagnosed by a physician. Children will need a signed note from the physician indicating they are not contagious before returning to school.
- Vomiting due to an upset stomach or accompanied by flu-like symptoms.
- Diarrhea: the frequent passage of watery or loose stools can be extremely contagious in the childcare setting. After the first episode, the child will be observed for further symptoms. If further episodes occur, the child must be taken home and remain home for 24 hours after the last episode.

- Conjunctivitis (pink eye) is considered extremely contagious. A child with these symptoms will be isolated until the parent/emergency contact person arrives. The child may return to the Early Learning Center 24-48 hours after the treatment is started.
- Head/Body Lice: once effective treatment has been completed and the infestation is gone, the child may return to Early Learning Center.
- Impetigo: blister-like lesions that later develop into crusted pus-like sores with an irregular outline. The child may return to the Early Learning Center after the sores are treated and no longer draining. The ELC may ask for a note from the physician.
- Streptococcal infections (scarlet fever or strep throat): parents must present a written note from a doctor that the child is being treated with appropriate antibiotic treatment. Medication must be provided in the original container and must be accompanied by written instructions for administration by a staff member.

Children with the following illnesses remain home for a specified number of days:

- Flu, no school attendance for 48 hours post fever, vomiting, or flu-like symptoms
- Measles, no school attendance for 6 days from the onset of the rash
- Chicken pox, no school attendance for 7 days from the onset of the rash or until the entire rash is scabbed over.
- German measles, no school attendance for 5-7 days from the onset of the rash.
- Mumps, no school attendance for 10 days from the onset of illness or until fever and swelling subside.

Additional concerns about a child's health that may warrant contacting you:

- If your child appears ill or extremely fatigued, not hungry or participating in activities, the classroom teacher will contact the Director or Assistant Direction who will call you for information and suggestions for treatment (allow child to rest longer or earlier).
- If your child is experiencing difficulty and refusing to participate safely in any activity and if your child reacts aggressively such that the safety of staff or other children are threatened, you will be contacted immediately for advisement and may be asked to pick up your child immediately.
- TAMU CLC reserves the right to request written medical clearance from a physician before a child can return to school following an illness.

Lice and Nit Policy

TAMU CLC has a strict "no nit" policy. If a child is found to have head lice and/or nits, they will be sent home and may not return for a minimum of 48 hours. After the 48-hour period, the child may return to school if they have been treated and are completely lice and nit free. Upon returning, parents will wait

with their child in the morning until a designated employee of CLC examines the child. If the child is found to still have lice or nits, they will be sent home again. If there are two or more students affected in any class, all parents will be notified that there is a presence of head lice in the class and all students in the class will be examined.

Dietary Restrictions and Allergies

Due to increased safety risks and children's preferences for foods they like to eat, **children bring their lunch**. CLC provides healthy snacks and drinks each morning and afternoon. Water is available at all times. Snack and drink menus are posted in classrooms, the multi-purpose room and office, and on the CLC website.

- It is the responsibility of a caregiver to notify CLC staff about your child's special dietary needs or allergies.
- Information about special dietary restrictions and allergies is requested and documented on our enrollment forms.
- Health and dietary needs/concerns are shared with our staff.
- Teachers maintain a list of special dietary needs or information about allergies in their classrooms.
- Dietary restrictions and information about children's allergies are also posted in the CLC office and multipurpose room where children eat snacks and lunch.
- **Notifications about life-threatening allergies and special needs must be provided in writing to the Director or Assistant Director.**

Food Preparation and Services

- Lunch kits and lunch sacks are stored in the multipurpose room where foods/meals are served.
- Send foods requiring refrigeration in closed containers with your child's name clearly marked with a permanent marker.
- **Please notify staff if a lunch includes a food that requires refrigeration.**
- We heat foods but we cannot bake or cook due to health department restrictions.
- Our staff prepares the table, opens food containers, and adds drinks and utensils before children enter the room to eat.
- Our staff may supplement a child's lunch when necessary to comply with state health standards regarding nutrition.
- All leftover foods will be thrown away. Please send food quantities that your child can and will eat in 20-25 minutes.
- All eating utensils and condiments are provided by CLC (spoons, forks, napkins, cups, ketchup, mustard, ranch dressing).

- Snacks and drinks served at CLC are prepackaged except for fresh vegetables and fruit.
- CLC does not serve foods that may cause allergic reactions (nuts, peanut butter).
- Caregivers will be informed about life-threatening allergies of any child at CLC.
- You may be asked to restrain from sending some foods in your child's lunch due to other children's medical or dietary needs.

Every effort is made to create a healthy and safe environment for children by attending to special medical conditions, including allergies. If a student or staff member has an allergy that requires special consideration, the school will, within reason, accommodate the special needs of that individual. A written note from the treating physician must accompany the request for this adaptation of the classroom. When the school takes this action, parents will be informed of it and be given guidelines for accommodating this change. Any questions or concerns that a parent/staff member may have should be directed to the Executive Director.

MEDICATIONS OR MEDICAL TREATMENTS

All medications (over-the-counter medicines, lotions or ointments, or prescriptions) will be administered according to the directions on the medication packaging or as prescribed by a signed written note from a physician. All medications must be contained in original containers with current expiration dates.

Caregivers must complete a Medical Release Form that provides permission for CLC staff to administer any medication, including sunscreen. A separate Medical Release Form is required for each medication. Medical Release Forms are available in the office and may be downloaded from the CLC website.

- Staff must be advised that administering a medication is needed.
- **Medications of any kind must be handed to the staff along with a completed Medical Release Form.** Medical Release Forms are available on the CLC website and in the CLC office.
- Medications sent to school in lunches or backpacks will be not administered.
- Each medication or treatment will require a separate completed Medical Release Form that is signed and dated by caregiver. No medications or treatments will be administered without a completed Medical Release Form. This includes over-the-counter products and prescriptions including sunscreen or insect repellent.
- Prescription or nonprescription medications (including sunscreen or insect repellent) will be accepted only in their original container and the medication shall remain in the container.
- The label on any medication container shall identify the name of the medication and the name of the child for whom the medication is intended. Medication shall be administered only to the child whose name appears on the container.

- Medication shall be stored in accordance with the directions on the original label or the written directions from your child's physician.
- All medications will be kept in a locked storage area accessible only to CLC Staff.
- Medications will be returned at the end of a day and handed to a caregiver.
- Special provisions for leaving some medication(s) at school can be arranged.
- Any special arrangement that may be necessary for a medical condition that differs from CLC policies must be discussed with and approved by the Director or Assistant Director. A written agreement will be created to reflect procedures and agreements. The signed agreement will be maintained in your child's records in the CLC office.
- There are no exceptions about adjusting the dosage or administering any over-the-counter and prescribed medications without written and signed/dated medical directives from your child's physician.

The lead teacher or assistant teacher is responsible for maintaining a medication log that identifies when prescription or nonprescription medication is administered. The medication administration log will be posted in the office where medications are safely stored. The log will include the following information:

- Name of child requiring medication or treatment
- Name of the medication
- Requirement for refrigeration
- Dosage amount of medication to be given and that was administered
- Date and time of dosage administered
- Initials of the staff person who administered the medication
- Special notes related to problems of administration

GENERAL HEALTH, PHYSICAL ACTIVITY, AND SAFETY

TAMU CLC assumes a proactive approach to helping children develop physically, socially, emotionally and mentally. Children will be active, talking, and moving. They play outside each morning and each afternoon if weather permits. Children also participate in creative dramatics in their classrooms and play games in the multipurpose room during inclement weather days. While outdoors, children are encouraged to exercise, run, and play with friends. Please do not send personal equipment for indoor or outdoor play.

Playground Safety

- All equipment, ground covering, and fencing on our playgrounds align with state guidelines for safety.
- Playground areas and equipment are inspected by CLC staff monthly and also during state-licensing visits.

- Doors for entering CLC, classrooms, playgrounds, and playground restrooms are locked for safety reasons.
- Gates leading into playground areas are also locked for safety reasons.
- No caregiver or person may enter a playground area without reporting to the office to sign in and without submitting photo ID.
- No caregiver or person may take a child from a playground without reporting to the office first and signing the child out according to CLC procedures.
- The use of personal toys or athletic equipment or any digital device is not allowed on CLC playgrounds. Cell phones may be used when responding to an emergency.

Health Regulations and Safety In Classrooms

Frequent and thorough hand washing is required by all staff, volunteers, and children to reduce the risk of transmission of infectious diseases to themselves and to others. Staff will model, teach, and practice a hand washing routine as required by the Texas Preschool Guidelines. Posters illustrating the hand washing routine are posted sinks.

Children are required to wash their hands before eating, after playing outdoors and touching animals, before playing in water and after playing in sand, and after toileting. They will follow a hand washing routine that includes using soap and water and a clean paper towel to dry hands. Hand sanitizers may be used on children ages 2.0 or older with adult supervision.

Our CLC facility is cleaned and maintained daily to ensure the health and safety for your child. Table surfaces, chairs, toys, utensils, and sleeping mats are sanitized as required by Texas Minimum Standards for Child-Care Centers. All cleaners, chemicals, medications or hazardous materials are stored safely out of the reach of children.

If you want your child to wear sunscreen when playing outdoors, complete a Medical Release Form and hand the form and the sunscreen to a staff upon arrival. Child's full name must be written on sunscreen packaging.

Illness or Injury

Children may not attend CLC if they have symptoms of developing or existing illness that includes either/or fever above 101 degrees when taken orally, or signs of infection or virus. Signs of illness or infection include vomiting, diarrhea, persistence hacking or coughing, nasal discharge, or pain or discomfort, and/or behaviors that are atypical for your child.

Children recovering from an illness must remain at home for one full day with no fever or symptoms related to illness before returning to CLC. We want to protect the health of every child and ensure children have time to recover before returning to CLC.

Emergency Procedures Related to Illness and Injury

- If a child becomes ill at school, caregivers will be notified immediately by phone, text and/or email. Caregivers are expected to pick up child immediately.
- In the event of an injury, caregivers will be notified by phone and text/email immediately. An Injury Report will be completed and sent home. The report describes when and how an injury occurred and our treatment for injury.
- Minor accidents or injuries such as scrapes, bumps, or bruises will be treated with first aid provided by CLC staff. Caregivers will be notified and an Injury Report will be sent home.
- CLC classrooms are equipped with First Aid kits that are safely kept out of the reach of children.
- In the event of a serious accident or injury, CLC staff will notify EMS immediately. CLC staff will respond to your child within the limits of their first aid and CPR training.
- Caregivers will be notified immediately about any serious accident or injury.
- Caregivers assume responsibility for costs related to medical treatment.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Show and Tell on Fridays

Show and Tell offers opportunities for children to speak before a group of peers and practice behaviors included in Texas Preschool Guidelines for listening and speaking. Children will take turns sharing their Show and Tell item during whole group activities that occur on Friday mornings.

- Children may bring ONE item for Show and Tell on Friday.
- Your child's name must be on the bag.
- The item must fit inside a paper grocery bag.
- Prior permission will be required if a Show and Tell item does not fit into a grocery bag or if the item involves anything living or a food or drink.
- Show and Tell items are reviewed prior to use in classrooms to protect children's safety and health.
- No Show and Tell item will be used at school in a center or on a playground.
- No Show and Tell items will be allowed that encourage aggression or that are perceived to be unsafe or inappropriate for sharing with young children.

Occasionally, a special event may be scheduled such as Bring a Bear Day or Wear Something Red Day. Special events will be posted on monthly calendars and announcements will appear on the flat screen monitor located in the CLC entry.

Our staff retains all rights to refuse any personal item that is perceived to be unsafe, disrespectful or offensive to another individual, custom, or culture.

Birthday Celebrations

We welcome celebrations at CLC. Advance notice is required. When planning a party at CLC, all children in the class will be included.

Please communicate plans with your child's teacher at least 3 days prior to event and identify foods that may be served. Our staff will check children's health records to ensure safe participation. Please follow these suggestions for planning and executing a celebration.

- Commercially packaged foods must include a list of ingredients.
- If foods are prepared at home (cupcakes, cookies), caregiver must provide a list of ingredients. Without the list of ingredients, no foods will be served.
- Limit servings of unhealthy foods that contain excessive sugar, salt and fat.
- Food choices for children may include vegetables and dip, pizza, chicken nuggets, cookies, small cupcakes or donut holes. Ingredients must be included on a label or list.
- Do not send or include hard candy or foods that include nuts or peanut butter.
- Do not send balloons or include items that can become a choking hazard.
- No hats, toys, or party bags filled with candy or small toys or coupons.
- No costumes or entertainment may be included in a celebration without written prior approval from the Director or Assistant Director.
- Caregivers must provide advance notice before engaging a performer or performance that deviates from normal daily activities.
- You may bring party plates, cups, or napkins. Please keep celebrations reasonable and appropriate for young children.

Cultural and Holiday Celebrations

Seasonal holidays and cultural celebrations offer special learning opportunities and experiences for children and families. We encourage you to share family traditions and celebrations with us. Please consult your child's teacher, the Director or Assistant Director, to plan a presentation or activity that honors diverse cultural experiences and that requires a change in schedule from daily routines at school.

HOME AND SCHOOL COMMUNICATIONS

Multiple methods are used at CLC to communicate openly with families, caregivers, and staff. You may obtain information about the school, policies and procedures, and events by consulting:

- Read announcements on the monitor located inside the CLC entry foyer
- Consult notices and documents posted in the office
- Locate information on the CLC website.
- Check monthly newsletters and calendars posted in classrooms and on the website
- Ask a staff member when they are NOT supervising children
- Email or call us and we can respond when we are NOT supervising children
- Schedule a conference with administrative staff or child's teacher
- Schedule an observations and consultation
- Review your child's personal file that is kept in the office.

Maintaining a safe and healthy environment is a high priority at CLC. By law, our staff must constantly observe and attend to children in their care. Therefore, our staff will briefly interact with adults when children arrive or depart. We cannot engage in prolonged conversations while supervising children.

- If you wish to have a conversation with a staff member, please email and set up a time for a conference call or personal visit.
- Our staff will not discuss confidential information about other staff, children or their families. Please contact the Director if you have questions and/or concerns.

Parent and Family Involvement

The plans for establishing a CLC Advisement Board that includes caregivers and family members are underway. With the advisement and assistance of CLC Board members, we hope to define multiple ways that families can get involved in the activities at CLC and consider suggestions for summer programming. We hope to have the Board organized by late spring 2020. More information will be forthcoming about this in the future.

CLC Developmental Council

Currently we are establishing Development Council that includes community partners, parents and family members, and others who will advise and participate in activities for CLC. Don Mauro is the Board Chairman of that Council. More information will be disseminated about projects and opportunities to participate in the future.

STATE LICENSING AND CLC POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The following information clarifies CLC's policies and procedures related to state regulations and licensing as required by the Texas Minimum Standards for Child-Care Centers. All CLC policies are effective beginning December 1, 2019 and remain in effect unless you are notified otherwise.

Policies and procedures are subject to change depending on revisions of state licensing standards or guidelines, or other local or state governing requirements. You will be notified in advance of any modification or change in state guidelines or CLC policies or procedures.

Inspections

TAMU CLC will be inspected when construction is completed in late fall and issued a childcare license by the Texas Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) before we can open for business in January 2020. All state guidelines and regulations will be strictly enforced at CLC. Failure to comply with any standard could result in a loss of our license to operate. Therefore, noncompliance with state standards by an adult or child will result in discontinued access to our services at CLC.

CLC is subject to inspection visits by HHS local licensing agents who may appear any time or day without advance notice.

- After each inspection, the licensing agent completes a written report summarizing CLC's compliance, or noncompliance, with state regulations and requirements.
- Current HHS licensing reports are posted in the office along with annual inspections required by the state for safety, health, gas lines, and building and grounds maintenance.
- You may access information about Texas Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Texas Childcare Licensing by clicking [here: https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Care/](https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Care/).
- Please contact the Director or Assistant Director and share any question, concern, or suggestion for improvement.

The purpose for any inspection by a licensing agent varies. The licensing agent can inspect and monitor our facility, our program and activities, and staff and children's records, at any time without prior notice.

- Typically, inspections focus on staff qualifications, facility and playground maintenance, health and safety guidelines, nutrition, record keeping, and specified child-to-staff ratios.
- CLC is required to maintain a file with documentation required by the State. These records are locked in the Director's office. You may review your child's record any time.
- Parents may review safety standards and inspection reports at any time.
- You can request a copy of any HHS inspection. The annual license and current inspection are posted in the office for your review.

CLC also will be subject to annual inspections by local authorities such as the fire marshal, inspectors for plumbing, electrical, or gas line, or any health and sanitation inspectors.

- Printed copies of all inspection reports are posted in the office.
- You may access copies of local and state regulations and standards on the CLC website.
- Upon enrollment you will receive contact information for local and state governing agencies and telephone numbers and web links where you can submit complaints, report grievances, or request an investigation.

Safety Drills

Three safety drills are required by the State of Texas: fire drill, sheltering for severe weather, and lock-down drills. Safety evacuation plans are posted in every room. Evacuation plans are followed during required practice drills. You will be notified in advance when any safety drill is scheduled. Documentations of completed drills are posted in the office with other state guidelines and licenses.

- **Fire Drill** – Fire drills are conducted once per month. All children and adults must exit the building to a safe area and remain out of the building for three minutes.
- **Sheltering/Severe Weather Drill** – Sheltering drills are conducted quarterly. Staff and child will move to a designated area within CLC, taking shelter to temporarily protect children and staff from situations such as a tornado. Shelter can also be used when an endangering person is in the area, though not on the premises.
- **Lock-Down Drills** – Lock-down drills are conducted quarterly. Staff and children move to a protective place within the school to avoid a volatile person or dangerous situation.

State Licensing Requirements for Employees, Substitutes, Visitors, Volunteers

State licensing regulations require all permanent and part-time employees who are assigned scheduled work hours to undergo criminal history checks. All CLC full-time employees and regularly scheduled staff will participate in fingerprinting and background checks.

- All full-time CLC employees will be certified in First Aide and CPR and have tuberculosis (TB) immunizations as required by law.
- Substitutes are required to have all the clearances, completed medical forms, and qualifications that are required of regular TAMU CLC staff. All responsibilities will be assumed for whichever position they are hired for on that day. The TAMU CLC Executive Director or designated representatives obtain substitutes.
- Volunteers and part-time employees are not required to complete CPR and First Aide.
- Volunteers and visitors do not have to participate in fingerprinting and criminal history records checks unless they have a predictable schedule of attendance.

State Regulations for School Visitations and Classroom Observation

Families and visitors are always welcome in our classrooms as long as all state regulations and guidelines pertaining to childcare and safety are followed. We are committed to maintaining a safe environment and providing high quality early learning experiences and safe childcare.

ALL ADULTS (parents, caregivers, guardians, family members and visitors) MUST REPORT TO THE OFFICE AND SIGN IN BEFORE ENTERING ANY CLASSROOM OR PLAYGROUND AREA.

CLC uses electronic fingerprint recognition for signing children in and out of our facility. A photo ID is also required. Paper forms for signing in/out are also located in the office.

Please notify anyone who is visiting with you or coming to CLC separately to visit your child about state regulations and CLC policies.

- All persons must report to the office, sign in, and provide photo ID before entering any classroom or playground area.
- Current photo on a driver's license or passport is required.
- **No entry will be allowed without proper ID, regardless of CLC having a written notice from a caregiver.**
- A written notice must be provided to the Director or Assistant Director or CLC staff in advance if there is a change in your child's schedule.
- You must provide written notice and identify the full name of any person(s) who will enter CLC and pick up your child. Also include their time of arrival and purpose of visit, and the make/model and license plate number of their vehicle.

Announcements and notifications about CLC activities and events will be posted in advance. You can monitor events by locating:

- Announcements on the flat screen monitor located in entry foyer of building
- Notifications on monthly calendars that are posted in classrooms and copies sent home at the beginning of each month
- Updates on the CLC website.

Digital Safety for Photography, Videotaping, or Recording by Web Cams

Web Cams are mounted in strategic locations inside and outside of our facility. These safety devices are for the protection of your children and our staff.

- No photographs or videos will be taken or distributed without prior notice and written consent by a parental/caregiver/guardian.
- There will be occasions when we will request permission to allow your child to participate in a video.

- Absolutely no videotaping or recording will be allowed without prior explanation about the event and your approval for participation.
- Your child's enrollment form includes an opportunity for you to allow permission to participate or decline participation in videotaping and recordings.

Technology Use

TAMU CLC is equipped with computers, laptops, tablets, interactive learning devices, including books and games, Smart boards, and digital cameras. Digital tools will be used by CLC staff to enhance lessons, access music and fine arts, and communicate messages using iPads to keep teachers informed about changing situations that day with children in their class.

Our CLC policy for using digital media specifically limits the use of passive technology and extended screen time by children.

- All digital devices and media will be screened and approved prior to use.
- Each morning and late afternoon when children are arriving or preparing to depart for the day, children will gather in the multipurpose room and watch selected videos.
- Children ages 3.6 and older will be allowed to watch age-appropriate videos aligned to plan classroom activities during rest periods. They may watch short videos demonstrations in class when the content helps clarify a concept.
- Children younger than 4.0 years will have limited access to digital devices as recommended by the American Pediatrics Association (AAP) in August 2019.
- The APA Position Statement evolved from medical case study evidence that is revealing measurable declines in word knowledge, oral language expressive fluency, and social-emotional responsiveness.
- Texas Minimum Standards for Child-Care Centers recommends following the AAP Position Statement and limits time for using digital devices.
- State regulations prohibit use of digital devices for children ages 2.0 and younger.
- According to state regulations, use of digital devices in childcare facilities may NOT exceed 2 hours per day and content must be related to planned activities.

Suspected Child Abuse

All employees employed by licensed childcare facilities are legally mandated to report suspicions or observations of child abuse and or neglect. Failure to report information about child abuse can result in legal action and the loss of our childcare license for operation. A report is not an accusation, but rather a request for investigation and to seek help for the family involved.

If any staff person has reason to suspect a child is being abused or neglected by anyone, the staff will report information to the Director who will investigate further and report concerns to the Department of Health and Human Services and any other agency as required by law. The Director and all staff members who report suspicions of child abuse or neglect are immune from discharge, retaliation, or other disciplinary action unless it is proven that the report is malicious.

If anyone or any staff member at CLC is suspected of child abuse or neglect of a child while attending CLC, the Director should be notified immediately. The staff person will be removed immediately until an investigation is completed. All information regarding any incident or accident will be reported by the Director to the Department of Health and Human Services within 24 hours.

In all cases involving abuse and/or neglect, the confidentiality of the child, family, reporter, and accused are protected unless legally obligated to disclose such information. A list of your community child advocacy websites and other information concerning child abuse may also be obtained from your director. [National Child Abuse Hotline](http://www.ncha.org) is 1-800-4-A-Child (1-800-422-4453).

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR EMERGENCY FIRST RESPONDERS

The Texas Minimum Standards For Child-Care Centers requires telephone numbers for emergency first responders and the nearest Licensing Office for Child-Care Facilities to be posted in a prominent place.

Emergency telephone numbers and contact information for our local childcare licensing office are posted in the CLC office and multipurpose room. Our staff has this information in their classrooms.

College Station Emergency Contact information:

- Collaborative Learning Center Cell 979-347-2222
- Executive Director, Vicki Gibson cell 979-229-7820
- Emergency Call or text: 911
- Emergency Medical Services, TAMU 979-845-1525
- College Station Police Department 979-764-3600
- College Station Fire Department 979-764-3700
- Poison Control 800-222-1222
- Texas Abuse and Neglect Hotline 800-252-5400
- Brazos County Licensing Office 979-776-3637 or 979-731-0130

REPORTING AND RESOLVING DIFFERENCES

All participants in TAMU CLC activities are expected to treat colleagues, caregivers, and their families with honor and respect, regardless of family structure, socioeconomic background, race, religion, cultural differences, gender, or preferred language.

Should a problem arise, please contact the Director immediately. Please refrain from discussing any issue, problem, or event in the presence of children and other adults. *Young children are the best listeners but worst interpreters, and they often repeat information out of context in the wrong places!*

Steps that may be taken by the Executive or Center Director to solve problems:

- Meet with persons involved individually or collectively
- Engage in an honest conversation to clarify the facts
- Communicate respectfully to discuss the CURRENT problem
- Create potential compromises or solutions
- Identify steps for getting started towards resolution
- Set a date to meet again and determine if the issue/problem was resolved, and participants are satisfied with outcomes, or if additional changes are needed.