



Child Development Center Laboratory School

Family Handbook

FY 24-25

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<https://www.riohondo.edu/cdc>

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WELCOME LETTER

Dear CDC Families,

We would like to welcome you and your child to Río Hondo College Child Development Center (CDC) Laboratory School. Our program is an essential component of Río Hondo College's plan to fulfill its goal of providing student support programs and being a collaborative center of lifelong learning for the community. Río Hondo College has provided a program for children since the 1960s.

The program is funded by the California Department of Education, California State Preschool Program (CSPP), California Department of Social Services, General Child Care and Development (CCTR), parent fees, and other state and federal grants. We provide nutritious foods that contribute to young children's wellness, healthy growth, and development. The Child Care and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) provides meals at no cost to families.

Through accreditation by the National Association of Education of Young Children (NAEYC), we meet the professional standards as we provide a high-quality program for your child. We strive to provide a quality children's program that provides services to you and your child and provides learning opportunities for students enrolled at Río Hondo College. All of our staff meet or exceed state requirements for professionals working with children and participate in Professional Growth opportunities to expand their skills and abilities. All center staff has background and child abuse index clearance that qualifies them to work with children.

We strongly believe you are your child's first and most important teacher. In partnership with you and your family, we are here to facilitate and lay a strong foundation for your child's first learning experience. Our goal is to partner with you to provide a high-quality program that will foster curiosity and exploration as your child develops a love for learning.

This handbook serves to assist you, and your child get the most from your preschool experience at Río Hondo. Please read it carefully and keep it handy for reference in the future. The center welcomes all eligible children regardless of gender, ethnicity, religious affiliation, special needs, or immigration status of the child or the child's parent(s).

We are delighted to have you join our Río Hondo College Child Development Center community.



Sincerely,

Cindy O'Neill, Director

ALL ABOUT THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

PHILOSOPHY

The Río Hondo College Child Development Center Laboratory School bases its program on best practices regarding the development of children. Both theory and research agree that overall, children's physical, cognitive, and social/emotional development follows certain general patterns. However, theory and research also agree that the rate of development for each individual child is unique and often uneven. For example, three-year-olds may develop slower or quicker than their peers and may be advanced in their physical development but a bit behind in their emotional development. A quality children's program will consider age expectations and individual children's development as it sets up environments and curriculum to facilitate learning. Río Hondo College CDC blends the various theoretical perspectives in the field of Child Development and the information gained from current research to provide an optimal learning experience for young children with a focus on the emergent curriculum. Another important consideration in providing children's programming is the influence of family and community culture on their development. Our program is sensitive to this consideration and provides an environment that respects diverse cultural perspectives and reflects aspects of the children's culture in classroom décor, equipment, and food served.

MISSION/ GOALS

The Child Development Center parallels the mission of Río Hondo College. As a laboratory school, we support the academic mission by:

- Providing safe, healthy, culturally relevant, and developmentally appropriate educational experiences for preschool children.
- Supporting parents in their educational and vocational goals.
- Serving as an educational research facility for pre-service laboratory experiences and high-quality teacher training for Río Hondo College students.

OPEN DOOR POLICY

Río Hondo College CDC has an "open door" policy. Parents/ guardians may visit their children in our facilities at any time aligned with the California Department of Education, Early Education Division and California Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing Division; Parent's Rights policy. We ask those who plan to visit their children frequently to follow the classroom flow of the day to maintain classroom routines and structure. Additionally, please make an appointment if you wish to meet with the Director or a staff member. This is so arrangements for staff coverage can be made and the supervision and the safety of the children are ensured while you meet with the director and/or staff member.

Observation Rooms with one-way mirrors are for adult use only. CHILDREN ARE NOT ALLOWED IN THE OBSERVATION ROOMS. Other college students also use Observation Rooms as they fulfill class assignments. Please do not use the Observation Rooms to visit with other Parents/Families. Students from the College or community observe and/or participate in the children's groups. Visitors must sign in at the desk and receive a nametag upon arrival.

RHC CDC LEADERSHIP

The following is a list of designated personnel to assume responsibility of the CDC in case of the Director's absence. Each can be contacted by calling the CDC's main line (562) 908-3494. Dean of Behavioral and Social Sciences, Child Development Center Coordinator, or Designated staff in the Director's absence.

COMMUNITY CARE LICENSING

The Río Hondo College Child Development Centers is licensed by the State of California, Department of Social Services, and Community Care Licensing Division. The Center's operations exceed the state standards for childcare. These standards relate to staff qualifications, health issues, facility design, teacher to child ratios, records, and nutrition.

The Department of Social Services (DSS) has the right to perform the duties authorized in Section 101200(b) and (c) of the General Licensing requirements. This section allows an authorized agent of DSS to come into the center unannounced for the purposes of annual inspection or investigation of complaints against the facility. The agent has the

right to interview staff and children without prior notification. Annual Licensing Reports and Complaint Investigation Reports are a matter of public record and copies are available to Parents/Families upon request.

If you SEE something, SAY something.
To report a complaint or concern regarding any licensed facility, Contact the Hotline at:
1-844-LET-US-NO
(1-844-538-8766)
You may also contact the California Department of Social Services LetUsNo@dss.ca.gov

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Various programs fund the Río Hondo College Child Development Center Laboratory School, such as the California Department of Education, State Preschool Program (CSPP), California Department of Social Services, General Child Care (CCTR), parent fees, and Río Hondo College. There are full-time enrollment options available Monday through Friday. Families who enroll under the CSPP and CCTR programs must meet the criteria of need and eligibility as outlined by the Department of Education and the Department of Social Services. As part of our contract with the Department of Education and the Department of Social Services, our services include age-appropriate, planned educational activities throughout each day that address all developmental domains contained in the California Department of Education’s Desired Results Developmental Profiles (DRDP). The children are provided daily with nutritious meals made possible by funding from the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). Discrimination based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA programs is prohibited. The center welcomes all eligible children regardless of gender, ethnicity, religious affiliation, special needs, or immigration status of the child or the child's parent(s). *The program does not engage in religious instruction or worship.*

The Río Hondo Child Development Center laboratory school is committed to:

- a joint mission providing a quality learning program for the children enrolled
- to provide Río Hondo students with an opportunity to observe the behavior and developmental characteristics of preschool children and interact with children.
- Students will utilize practical classroom experiences to make connections between theory and practice, develop professional behaviors and build a comprehensive understanding of children and families.

Age of Eligible Children & Ratios

4-year-old children	3-year-old children	2-year-old children
1:8	1:8	1:4
CSPP-eligible four-year-old children are defined as children who have their fourth birthday on or before December 1 of the fiscal year they are being served.	CSPP-eligible three-year-old children are defined as children who have their third birthday on or before December 1 of the fiscal year they are being served.	CCTR- Children who will have their second birthday on or before the day they start the program. We are licensed to serve children starting at 2 years of age.

**Adult Staff Ratios are based on children's ages and are determined by state and federal guidelines.*
Children who meet the age criteria (5 years old on or before December 1st) to attend public Kindergarten are **not eligible for enrollment.*

HOURS OF OPERATION
Monday through Friday 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM

CONTRACT HOURS

Although our center is open from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., the RHC CDC will provide families with a schedule, referred to as contract hours. Upon enrollment, a family will be given contract hours. Our contract with the state of California requires that we provide an educational program that promotes the achievement of the California State Preschool Frameworks. The staff must also complete a 48-item assessment for each child called the Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP). To accomplish these requirements and allow your child to benefit from our educational programming, we ask that **all children arrive at school by or before 9 am each day.**

All families must comply with contracted hours. Families must arrive and depart at their scheduled time, as they affect staffing ratios. When children are not scheduled to be present but arrive early or leave late, it changes the number of children for each adult present and jeopardizes the safety of the children. It can also put our program out of compliance with state law and result in a substantial fine. If your schedule changes, please let us know the details of the change as soon as possible. The CDC office must pre-approve arrivals and departures different from your contract because of special circumstances as a best practice that benefits the continuum of care and per the voluntary request of the families.

CALENDAR OF OPERATION

The program calendar will coincide with the Río Hondo College Academic calendar, with the exceptions of Staff In-Service and state-required days of operation. A calendar will be available at the beginning of each academic year. The calendar is subject to change, and families will be notified via email of such changes. The full day program operates for approximately 230 days per year and closes for all legal holidays, during the winter and, spring break and up to three (3) college flex days. Calendars are available online and at the center office.

Tuition is charged for all holidays and staff development days for which your child is enrolled.

HOLIDAYS

We observe all of the same holidays as Río Hondo College:

Independence Day
Labor Day
Veterans Day
Thanksgiving Holiday
Winter Break
New Year's Day
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr Day
Lincoln's Birthday
Washington Birthday
Spring Break (last week of March)
Memorial Day
Juneteenth

CURRICULUM

At the RHC CDC, we follow an Emergent Curriculum. In this process, teachers plan activities and projects based on the specific group of children they are working with, considering their skills, needs, and interests. What happens in side-by-side classrooms will look different because of the varying skills, interests, and needs of the children within those classrooms. A teacher considers what is known about an individual and a particular group of children in each classroom and then plans accordingly.

The RHC Child Development Center atmosphere is intentionally designed to help children grow emotionally, intellectually, socially, and physically. We value and nurture relationships. Every child is treated as an individual and is provided with a diverse and responsive environment. We use a research-based curriculum that understands the developmental stages of children's growth. The CA Preschool Learning Foundations serve as the basis for our curriculum plans. Daily routines are changed to accommodate the needs of the current children in the classroom and are posted outside of the classrooms on the parent board and handed out at Family Orientation.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE TEACHER?

- to co-explore the learning experience with the children
- to provoke ideas, problem-solving, and conflict resolution
- to take ideas from the children and return them for further exploration

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE ENVIRONMENT?

- The 3rd teacher
- The environment is recognized for its potential to inspire children. An environment filled with *natural light, order, and beauty*. Open spaces are free from clutter, where every material is considered for its purpose, and every corner is ever-evolving to encourage children to delve deeper and deeper into their interests.
- The space encourages collaboration, communication, and exploration. The space respects children as capable by providing them with authentic materials and tools. The space is cared for by the children and the adults. Parents often ask us the question- what about academics? Is my child going to be ready for kindergarten when they leave here?

We want to assure you that academics are embedded in the curriculum as part of the focus area that each group of children is interested in. When children are interested and engaged, they are ready to learn. Our lesson plan format ensures that our teaching team considers all learning areas when planning and the whole child. Our goal is for all children to leave our program with academic and life skills.

We believe "Play" is the business of childhood. What children experience is what they will learn. The center staff provides a learning environment with opportunities to explore, interact, and experience their surroundings. Parents and guardians are highly encouraged to participate in the learning experiences at the CDC and home. Together, we help children receive the necessary skills to empower them for future success. We encourage each of the children we care for to grow at their own pace. **Our staff embraces the following beliefs;**

- **We believe** that by providing the highest quality of child care, our program will be a place where children and adults can grow to their fullest potential.
- **We believe** each child is unique, and by providing a safe environment, each child will learn by exploring, experimenting, and enjoying their learning experience. Play allows the child to discover and develop an understanding of the world.
- **We believe** that parents are the most important people in a child's life, and we want to establish a respectful, culturally sensitive partnership between teachers and parents for the best benefit of the children.
- **We believe** each staff member has a unique gift to offer, and we value the diversity of our humanity in the rich variety of ethnic customs, languages, traditions, and differences in personality and individual perspectives.
- **We believe** that all children, parents, teachers, and staff deserve the right to be treated with respect and dignity regardless of gender, cultural, or religious background.
- **We believe** that ongoing communication between staff and parents is vital in providing for each child's individual needs in our care.

CULTURAL DIVERSITY

RHCCDC is one of the most diverse campuses in CA, in line with the Río Hondo College vision statement: *Río Hondo College aspires to be an evolving community-focused institution that embraces diversity, equity, and inclusion as a means to achieve personal, professional, and educational goals in a caring and rigorous environment (RHC, 2021).* Our center reflects this diversity. The book *Multicultural Issues in Child Care* by Janet Gonzalez-Mena reflects the beliefs and practices of Child Care Services. The following is an excerpt from her book:

It's good for children to receive culturally competent care that is sensitive and has a global, multiethnic view. Culturally competent care requires that:

- Adults in children's lives respect each other.
- Adults in children's lives work to understand each other's perspectives.
- Caregivers and Parents/Families understand how program and family values may differ and work together toward blending different value systems.
- Adults in children's lives create ongoing dialogues, which means that information exchange occurs so that good judgment can result from the blending of shared points of view. Dialogues also mean that everyone who works with children is both a teacher and a learner, and that Caregivers view Parents/Families as the experts who know what is good for their children; Parents/Families and Caregivers genuinely listen to each other instead of judging.

CELEBRATIONS

SEASONAL EVENTS

We honor and respect each family's cultural, linguistic, and religious customs and beliefs. Due to the diverse community that we serve, we realize that not all of our families recognize certain holidays and celebrations. The following policy regarding holidays and celebrations are acknowledged to respect each family's needs: Seasons (Fall, Winter, Spring, Summer)

Holidays are introduced as part of the season, and no one holiday is recognized over another. To learn about diversity, children are taught about the different cultural practices for each holiday through books, pictures, celebrations, and music. Examples of these events are as follows:

- Fall- Fall Festival
- Winter- Snow Day
- Spring- Spring Week of the Young Child Earth Day
- Summer- End of the Year Celebration Luau

At school, our birthday traditions include singing happy birthday to your child during circle time. The children will be invited to create birthday wishes for your child to take home. We invite you to send us a short three-minute video or pictures of how you celebrate birthdays at home to share with the class. If, for any reason, a child's religious or cultural background does not permit a child to take part in a celebration or activity, the following options are available; The child may be provided with alternate activities that would be away from the group or outside the classroom and given the choice of an alternate activity. The child may be issued an excused absence if the parent chooses to keep them home during a celebration, the child can observe the activity/ celebration but not actively participate in it. Every effort will be made to respect each family's cultural and religious beliefs. We encourage parents and families to share information on their cultural beliefs and celebrations with their child's classroom teacher to incorporate it into the curriculum. ***Please do not send any goodies, treats, toys, candy, etc., with your child during the national holidays. Unfortunately, we will have to politely decline any items sent to the school and return them to you.**

BIRTHDAYS

We understand that your child's birthday is truly a special celebration time. Still, for our center to maintain a sense of equity and community, we ask that you refrain from bringing in goodie bags or treats. When other children see the concept of goodie bags and cannot provide them in return on their birthdays, they can feel less than their peers. Instead, each teacher will check in with parents in advance to prepare a meaningful celebration among the children they can experience together in the classroom. If your child's teacher has not reached out to you within a week of your child's birthday, simply remind them. Thank you so much for your cooperation in helping us foster each child's sense of self.

*****Respectfully, any goodie bags or treats brought into the school will be returned to the family.***

END OF YEAR CELEBRATION

At the end of each fiscal year, we will celebrate a year of learning, fun, and exploration. The CDC will honor your child's participation in the program during the end of the year celebration. Please note that there will be no caps and gowns during our celebration as this is a celebration, not graduation.

POSITIVE GUIDANCE & DISCIPLINE

The RHC Child Development Center works to encourage children to make positive choices during the day. Staff uses positive reinforcement, redirection, and other developmentally appropriate methods when working with the children. Children are encouraged to "use their words" to voice their feelings and needs. We do not use corporal punishment, such as shaking or hitting, and do not engage in psychological abuse or coercion.

Discipline is a complex topic and is defined differently by everyone. We approach discipline in positive terms. We see discipline as a structure through which a child's involvement helps them become responsible for their actions toward others and toward school property.

For the younger child, redirecting words to explain the adult's actions gives the child a clear message about acceptable or unacceptable behavior. Discipline is only effective when consistent age-appropriate limits exist, meaningful language to express their feelings, and a healthy environment. With gentle adult guidance, children gain the confidence to express themselves and work through difficult situations.

PROCEDURES FOR CHALLENGING BEHAVIORS

If a child has a specific "challenging" behavior that persists over time, the following procedure will be followed:
The teacher will...

- Work with the child to support changes in the behavior.
- Stop the challenging behavior (gently and respectfully). An example may be the teacher will extend out his/her arm, get in-between a child who is attempting to hit to prevent another child from getting hit.
- Observe and try to determine what is motivating the misbehavior.
- Document over a period of time to look for patterns in behavior.
- Use positive guidance techniques of active listening, staying close, and assisting the child verbally expressing their needs.

If the behavior continues to disrupt the classroom environment, the teacher will follow the Protocol for Sensitive Issues and share information with the director. Further action may be taken, including parent conferences, creating a Family and Center Plan for Action Meeting Form, consultations, and referrals. These steps will align and comply with [California Welfare and Institutions Code 10491.1](#). If the challenging behavior continues, additional meetings will be held in order to create additional support systems for the child following the California Welfare and Instructions Code 10491.1.

We believe in the importance of setting limits, and teachers' techniques reflect their understanding of each child's developmental stage, family goals and cultural background. We understand that our interactions, expectations, curriculum and environment affect children's behavior and therefore look to all of these areas for the purpose of helping children channel their energy into activities that are both personally and socially satisfying. Our goal is to guide children towards self-regulation knowing that the ability to control and inhibit certain actions to achieve new and rewarding ends takes time and involves the support of Parents/Families.

The discipline techniques we use include limit-setting, redirection, natural and logical consequences, problem solving and role-play. Teachers also use the Incident/ Accident Report form to let you know when unacceptable classroom behavior occurs. If you find a report in your mailbox, please read it aloud to your child to reinforce the message that both you and the teacher care about your child's behavior and work together to ensure everyone's safety and well-being.

When unacceptable behavior occurs, teachers take the following steps:

1. Separate the children involved and comfort the injured child.
2. The teacher's role is to discover the root of the problem of both the hurt child and the one committing an offense and by

first acknowledging the feelings of both children involved. It will be important for the aggressor to hear next: “it’s not “ok” to hurt anyone at the Center.” The teacher will demonstrate to the injured child with hands and words how to say “no” to unwanted advances when appropriate (it is important for the hurt child to speak up for themselves of the perceived hurt).

3. Depending on the severity* of the hurt, both families will be notified with an Incident/ Accident Report and verbally at pick-up time. *Severity of hurt is interpreted to be a bruise, cut, or lump left on a child’s body. The center will not report on everyday occurrences of small hits and pushes that happen as children are negotiating how to work in group settings.

4. Review incidents with Center Director/ Site Supervisors and classroom staff to ensure adequate caregiver supervision and appropriate activity as well as to take administrative corrective action if necessary.

When repeated, unacceptable behavior occurs, teachers:

5. Track the child’s behavior to seek a pattern or possible cause of frustration.

6. Meet and discuss the situation with the Parents/Families and seek ways in which together, teachers and Parents/Families can attempt to change the child’s undesirable behavior in a group-care setting.

7. Monitor the effectiveness of classroom discipline techniques with staff and keep Parents/Families informed on a daily basis.

If the above steps do not result in a positive change in behavior, the CDC director will:

8. Meet with you and the teaching team to look for new solutions, including creating a Family and Center Plan for Action Meeting Form, which will outline the plan of action to support the child/ ren and people responsible (teachers, parents, etc). Additionally, it will include follow-up actions such as referrals for hearing, vision, behavior screenings, follow-up meetings, etc.

9. Recommend counseling or parenting classes to gain further insight about the problem and additional strategies for intervention.

10. If the issue is of a bigger concern and the staff in accordance with the program Director does not have the resources to support the child and the family, the center will follow the protocol of the Parent Handbook and might look for additional support until resources are collected.

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION IN THE CALIFORNIA STATE PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

Except in specific circumstances listed in the “Directives for Implementation” section, per *Education Code (EC)* Section 8489.1(a) and (b), a program must not:

1. Suspend a child due to a child’s behavior.
2. Encourage or persuade a child’s parents or legal guardians to prematurely pick up a child due to a child’s behavior before the program day ends.
3. Expel or unenroll a child because of a child’s behavior.
4. Persuade or encourage a child’s parents or legal guardians to voluntarily unenroll from the program due to a child’s behavior.

NOTIFICATION TO FAMILIES PRIOR TO EXPULSION OR SUSPENSION

Beginning July 1, 2023, upon enrollment, the CDC staff will inform the child’s parents or legal guardians (via this handbook) of the policy on disenrollment, including expulsion and suspension. This notification is in writing and informs parents on how they may file an appeal to the California Department of Education (CDE) in the event of the expulsion or suspension of a child.

In addition, beginning July 1, 2023, in the event a program suspends or expels a child:

- RHC CDC must issue the child’s parent or legal guardian a written Notice of Action (NOA), Recipient of Services and follow the requirements described in 5 *CCR* Section 17783, except as noted below.
 - Since the action to suspend or expel a child involves persistent and serious behaviors impacting the safety of children, the child may not attend the program during the appeal process.
- The effective date of the action may be no less than 24 hours after service of the notice. **This is an exception to the notice periods in 5 *CCR* Section 17783(d)(1) through (3).**
- The RHC CDC must, at the same time as issuing a NOA, inform the parent or guardian in writing of their right to file

an appeal of the action to expel or suspend their child directly with the CDE by submitting a written request for an appeal hearing to EEDappeals@cde.ca.gov, no later than 14 calendar days after receipt of the notice. **Note:** This is a change to current requirements. State law now includes a specific appeal procedure for suspension and expulsion of children in CSPP, which differs from the procedure required in 5 CCR Section 17785.

BITING

It is the policy of the Child Development Center to practice positive behavior modification by working closely with the parent, child, and teacher to redirect the child's behavior. For two-year-olds, biting is a natural reaction to stress, lack of language, teething, etc. Staff will work to redirect this behavior to a more acceptable one.

If biting occurs, the following actions will take place:

1. Provide immediate care to the injured child.
2. Complete an "Incident/ Accident Report."
3. Inform both parents and discuss this with them privately.
4. If the child continues to bite and is not responding to staff redirection, the CDC will meet with the director and/or coordinator to follow the sensitive issues protocol.

Teachers Will:

- Observe what might be causing the child to bite and keep a log of occurrences.
- Follow sensitive issues protocol, which outlines setting up a meeting with the teacher, coordinator and/or director.
- Create a plan for the child and family that may include specific services, providing extra support in the classroom, and reaching out for more resources within the community.
- The CDC will conduct follow-up meetings on a need-by-need basis to continue meeting the needs of the meeting while ensuring the health and safety of all children enrolled.
- Ultimately, we will need to consider whether this placement is appropriate for the child.
- Please see the CDC termination policy

CALIFORNIA PRESCHOOL LEARNING FOUNDATIONS

In 2008, the California Department of Education acknowledged the importance of early learning to success in school and life by releasing the first of three volumes of the California Preschool Learning Foundations and Curriculum Frameworks. The third volume, released in 2012 by the California Preschool Learning Foundations, acknowledges the unique characteristics of learning during the preschool years. It establishes a range of development that could be expected during that time. The Preschool Curriculum Framework aligned with the Learning Foundations sets criteria for what will be addressed in the classroom to prepare children for Kindergarten. Our program incorporates these standards into the classroom curriculum and follows each child's progress by utilizing the Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP). For more information on the standards, visit www.cde.ca.gov/sp/cd/re/psfoundations.asp

DOCUMENTATION OF DEVELOPMENT

The CSPP and CCTR programs require that the staff observe and document your child's development and learning utilizing the Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP) created by the California Department of Education and the California Department of Social Services and aligned with the Preschool Learning Foundations and Curriculum Frameworks. The Desired Results Profile includes information for each child regarding:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. personal and social competence | 3. physical and motor competence |
| 2. how each child learns | 4. safety and health |

Observation and documentation of each child's development is an integral part of our program. Observation and documentation are central to understanding individual children and identifying their levels of development. Information is used in planning the appropriate curriculum to facilitate and support development and learning.

When difficulties occur, observation is also key to our interpretation of the factors involved. Staff and parents confer together to decide what approach best benefits children. Each child's progress is documented and reviewed periodically by teachers and support staff. Children's artwork, student observation notes, and photographs of children at play are kept in Portfolio Files to use as evidence for the rating of DRDP items.

DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENINGS

Developmental screening is an essential tool for parents and staff. Through this tool, staff can identify when a child has met their developmental milestones. Every parent/guardian completes and submits an Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ). ASQ3 & ASQ screenings are administered at the beginning of the year and before each parent-teacher conference. ASQ will be used as the first screening tool to understand if there are possible needs or arrangements to support the family and child. The earlier support can be provided to a child, the better the overall outcomes. Staff will use this tool to implement appropriate strategies to support the child's growth and development.

PARENT - TEACHER CONFERENCES

Teachers schedule parent conferences twice yearly to share children's developmental progress with families and collaborate on the learning process. Formal parent-teacher conferences take place each fall and spring semester. During your conference, you will receive information on your child's developmental progress utilizing the Desired Results Developmental Profile Preschool (DRDP-r). During this meeting, teachers and parents will collaborate to develop a plan to support your child's learning and development at school and at home.

CONFIDENTIALITY

A locked file cabinet stores children's records at all times. The CDC will not release children's information or share it with anyone without the written permission of a parent or guardian. The information gained through the day-to-day interactions in the program will also be kept private and not revealed outside the program by the program staff or by students who participate in laboratory activities.

COMMUNICATION/PARENT ENGAGEMENT

Families are encouraged to consistently take the opportunity to communicate with the teachers regarding their child's concerns during drop-off and pick up each day. Please direct any questions that you may have to the professional teaching staff.

As your child's first and most important teacher, getting involved in your child's education is critical. We highly encourage all families to get involved by participating in the following:

- a. Maintain and keep open lines of communication with program staff
- b. Participate in parent-teacher conferences
- c. Join or participate in the Parent Advisory Committee
- d. Attend and participate in special events and parent meetings.
- e. Share your talents and help us find out what your talents are.
- f. Attend workshops and/or pieces of training offered to parents.

Examples of parent communication include

- A program monthly newsletter
- Announcements
- Incident Reports (regarding accidents and injuries)
- Curriculum information from each classroom, i.e., what children are learning, parent meetings, pieces of training, and workshops.
- Invitations to participate in a parent/teacher conference to discuss their child's progress. Parent evaluation forms and Parent Advisory Committee (PAC)
- E-mail notifications with center updates and information
- Important information for parents will also be posted on the office entry doors and counters and the classroom doors and will be communicated digitally as well.

CHANGES TO CONTACT INFORMATION

Please keep your contact information up to date at all times.

- ◆ If you move, please let us know.
- ◆ If you change your phone number please let us know.
- ◆ If you change your emergency contacts, please let us know.



We need to know how to reach you by phone in an emergency.

VOLUNTEERS (Title 22 101216)

Title 22 requires that all students and volunteers, including parents who work in the classroom, be in good physical health and shall be verified (**INCLUDES Río HONDO PARENTS/ GUARDIANS, and STUDENTS**) :

- All volunteers must complete and submit the Volunteer Request Form.
- A statement signed by each volunteer affirming that they are in good health.
- Results of a test for tuberculosis performed not more than one year before volunteering in the classroom.
- Criminal Record Clearance is required if a volunteer will spend more than 16 hours per week at the facility.
- HR will ask a volunteer to complete a Live Scan. **Fingerprinting is a mandatory requirement.**
- Human Resources (HR) must first approve the volunteer request. The volunteer's name will be forwarded to the Board of Trustees for approval after HR approval.

The above items are presented to the Director before any student or volunteer can stay in the classroom. All volunteers and students will never be left alone with the children, and professional staff members will directly supervise them.

How can I participate in the program?

Parent/family involvement at the CDC's is an important component of the program. Parents/families involvement in their child's school enhances the success of the program and the child. The variety of parent participation options offered each school year allows single-parent families and working Parents/families to contribute even if they cannot come to the school to do so.

PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) comprises parents of children currently enrolled at the center, the center director and or coordinator, a teacher representative, and a Río Hondo College campus representative. The Parent Advisory Committee provides the parent perspective in policy and procedure revisions and program review. They also assist in particular events via organization, preparation, and implementation efforts. We genuinely value your input and feedback. Our goal is for you to become involved to maximize the opportunities we offer. We look forward to collaborating with you as we help lay a solid educational foundation for your child.

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips may be planned and organized when funding permits. These trips will be related to some aspect of the curriculum and developmentally appropriate for children. Children may only participate in field trips after parents have signed a Field Trip Permission form for that particular trip. "Blanket" Field Trip Permission forms are not acceptable. Field trips are planned in collaboration with the director, teachers, and parents. Vehicles used for transportation are licensed and insured in accordance with federal and state laws. Safety equipment, including first aid kits, will also be utilized where appropriate.

NATURE WALKS

As part of our curriculum, children participate in weekly walks around the campus. Please ensure your child wears comfortable shoes, a hat, and sunscreen on those days. We may ask for family members to join us on these walks to ensure maximum supervision and safety measures can be met.

CDC STAFF

The California Commission on Teacher Credentialing permit authorizes holders to provide care and instruction to children in a program setting. All CDC staff have and/or qualify for a Child Development Permit. Staff receive ongoing training in the areas that include but are not limited to safety, curriculum, care, and supervision. Every two years, staff must complete CPR & First Aid & the Child Abuse Mandated Reporter training by law. On an annual basis, staff must complete 105 hours of professional development.

Information regarding the staff is posted in the front office and [digitally](#) updates are made. Professional staff members will be wearing a Río Hondo name tag with their name and position. Other adults in the classroom are students working or observing under the supervision of the professional staff. You will see different adults have different badges depending on their reason for visiting. All adults must check in and have prior approval before working with children directly.

PROFESSIONAL BOUNDARIES

We strive to have close yet professional relationships with the families that we serve. Please respect the personal boundaries of CDC staff and teachers by not asking to “friend” or follow them on social media sites or asking for their cell phone or home phone numbers. All CDC staff members are expected to maintain appropriate professional boundaries with families. Questions about acceptable behavior should be discussed with the center director.

BABYSITTING/CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENTS

It is not the mission of the CDC to provide childcare for its clients in any location other than the RHC CDC’s during regular hours of operation. Parents/families and staff should understand that a babysitting arrangement is not within the course and scope of the staff member’s duties. The CDC respectfully requests that Parents/Families do not employ the teaching staff after hours for babysitting services or otherwise. This puts the Center at risk and places the teacher in a compromising position.

PROGRAM EVALUATION

Data is gathered to inform the program improvement process input secured from staff and parents. A written report is provided for staff and parents at the end of the evaluation process. A technology-based management system is in place to manage program improvement data. The program has a strategic planning process focused on the mission, child outcomes, quality service, and long-term resources. Goals for continuous improvement are developed through evaluation and strategic planning processes with input from staff and parents. The annual program self-evaluation process includes but is not limited to the following: Environmental Rating Scales, Parent Surveys, Desired Results, Developmental Profile, etc.

PREPARING FOR THE PRESCHOOL EXPERIENCE

SUPPLIES NEEDED

- **CHILDREN MUST ALWAYS HAVE A SET OF EXTRA CLOTHES AT SCHOOL.** Please bring a change of clothes to be kept in the classroom. Label all items brought to school with your child’s first and last name. If clothes get soiled while at school, the teachers will inform you. Please return with a new set of clothes for the following day. Our school does not use aprons as we feel children experience learning through all of their senses. Dirt, paint, water, and other fun experiences will cover your child’s clothes.
- **Emergency supplies** are also requested. Provide two-gallon-sized zip lock bags, one labeled clothing, a family picture, and a note for your child. Please see the detailed emergency list included in the enrollment packet.
- **Sunscreen:** Please make sure to provide sunscreen and sign a permission slip to allow the application of sunscreen. Please supply additional sunscreen as needed. Teachers will then apply sunscreen on children as required. Please be sure to bring contactless sunblock (spray bottles).

WELLNESS POLICY

Adults and children are expected to be in good health and able to participate in the planned activities. To reduce the spread of illness, please keep your child home if he or she has had a non-clear nasal discharge, unexplained rash, sore throat, diarrhea, vomiting, stomach/earache, swollen glands, fever over 100° without medication, or strong cough during the previous 24-hour period.

Upon arrival at school, the center staff will conduct a health check for each child and will not allow a sick child to stay at school. (101226.1) The parent must remain at the center until the child is accepted. Children must be symptom and fever free without medication for 24 hours to attend school. Staff will ensure that children with apparent symptoms of illness, including, but not limited to, fever or vomiting, are not accepted at school. CDC center staff shall pay additional attention to children who:

- (A) Have been absent because of illness.
- (B) Have been exposed to a contagious disease.

Please see our Health and Safety section below for more details on why your child may not be accepted during a health check to come to school. ***Pro tip: It is helpful to check for these symptoms prior to leaving your home.*

CHILD PASSENGER RESTRAINT/CAR SEAT REQUIREMENTS

- (California Vehicle Code Section 27360.) **Children under the age of 8 must be secured in a car seat or**

booster seat in the back seat. Children who are 8 years of age OR have reached 4'9" in height may be secured by a booster seat.

Senate Bill 255, (AKA) Kaitlyn's Law makes it illegal for a child who is 6 years of age or younger to be left alone in a motor vehicle.

ARRIVING AND LEAVING THE CENTER

Upon arrival and pick up of your child, please adhere to the following guidelines to ensure the safety of your child and other children:

- Please observe all speed limits in the parking lot.
- Always park in a designated spot. The center lot is for drop-off/ pickup only.
- Hold the hands of any children you escort from the car to the front door.
- Once inside the center, turn your cell phone on, vibrate and refrain from using the cell phone until you leave the building.
- No drinks, water, food, or cell phone use in the children's environment.

DIGITAL SIGN IN AND OUT

Parents must sign in and out using a digital device. State law requires that each child be signed in and signed out daily by a parent, guardian, or other person designated by the parent who is 18 years old or older. The signature must include the first and last name and a **complete and legible signature; Signatures are required for audit purposes.**

Anyone else who will be picking up your child must be listed on the "Emergency and Identification Information" form. Identification will be requested when they come to pick up your child. Individuals who do not meet these criteria will not be allowed to pick up your child. **The legal parent or guardian must make any changes or additions in person. We cannot accept phone calls with changes to the emergency and identification form.**

**Disclaimer: If a parent/ guardian's signature is not legible, a CDC staff member will add a notation to the sign-in sheet to document this. The signature must match from the Application for Services signature on file.*

THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

The key to a smooth adjustment to a new learning environment is preparation, information, and patience. Spend time carefully reading all the information the program provides for you, so you know what to expect, and then talk with your child over a reasonable time about what they should expect. Talk about the environment, toys, food, teachers, and the other children. Allow your child to assist you in selecting and preparing items for school. For example, what they will wear to school or which extra clothes they should wear.

Maintain a positive attitude yourself and have reasonable expectations regarding the adjustment period. Naturally, your child has fears and excitement regarding a new group experience. Prior to starting at the center, you and your child will have the opportunity to have a meet and greet with your child's teacher.

- Plan to arrive early the first few days to allow some adjustment time during goodbyes.
- When the time comes to leave your child in the program on their own, let them know that you are leaving by giving them a hug and a kiss goodbye.
- There may be tears, but it is important that you leave when you tell your child goodbye.
- Remember to tell your child that you will be back.
- You must be on time to pick your child up every day, but it is especially important on the first day.
- When you get home, ask questions about your child's day to let them know that you think school is an important part of life.
- Don't be alarmed if they say, "I did not do anything!" Prepare for that response by communicating with the staff regarding the day, reading the communication via Learning Genie, posting curriculum materials on the parent boards in each classroom, and taking any of your child's work for the day. If you do this, you can remind your child of what happened during the day and enjoy a more detailed response.

DRESS CODE

Dress children in play clothes that will not concern you or the child if the clothes become soiled or torn. Aprons/Smocks

prohibit children from the full benefits of their learning experiences. Long skirts and dresses, scarves, jacket hood strings, or other clothing that can be caught on equipment are dangerous when a child plays or uses school equipment.

Label ALL garments with your child's name.

Shoes that fasten or tie are preferred because they provide more security when children use large motor equipment. Closed-toed shoes prevent injuries. Tennis shoes are recommended to enable safe running, climbing, and balancing activities. Dressing your child in layers will ensure their comfort as the temperature changes throughout the day. We believe that children learn from the natural elements and will play outdoors as much as possible. We follow guidance from the National Weather Service for hazardous conditions.

We reserve the right to restrict a child's activities or offer them alternative clothing. All children need the opportunity to feel included in each daily activity. The parent/family must provide an extra set of seasonal clothing, including underwear and socks, in case of accidents or spills. Please return the borrowed clothing.

TOYS/PERSONAL ITEMS FROM HOME

Children will be encouraged to share thoughts, feelings, and memories. Children will be encouraged to share events at home or have their parents come and share something special about their culture. Please refrain from sending toys or other personal items to school with your child unless approved by the teacher and Director as part of the curriculum.

ATTENDANCE

It is extremely important that children attend the program regularly. Parents/Families are asked to phone the Center each morning the child will be absent and give the reason for the absence. If the child will be out consecutively for 5 days due to illness, a doctor's note is required upon the child's return. Please see the Health and Safety Section of this handbook for more information on the CDC's attendance policy as it relates to illness.

Parents/Families must sign their name using their full legal and legible signature (no initials) on the child's sign-in and sign out sheet and verify the specific reason for the absence (i.e., flu, cold, cough, fever, appointment, etc.). Below is a list of excused and unexcused absences.

We feel strongly that your child will benefit greatly by being in school every day they are scheduled. However, we realize that some absences are unavoidable. The following is at the discretion of the Director, below is a list of some examples of excused and unexcused absences, including what constitutes a best interest day:

Excused Absences	Best Interest of the Child	Unexcused Absences
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Illness of child or parent• Family emergencies- situations that cause the parent to keep the child with them and out of school that can be documented and is out of the parent's control.• Extended illness, quarantine, or death of a family member or close family friend.• Travel away from home for legal issues such as court or visa-related issues, travel due to work or school,• Car problems or housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Family Vacation• Cultural or Religious Activities• Spending Quality Time With Parent or Relatives <p>10 days per fiscal year (July 1 through June 30) is allowed for absences that revolve around special events for children and their families, such as vacation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• My child did not want to go to school.• I didn't feel like taking my child to school today.• Child/ parent work up late• Weather is too hot/ cold• Running errands• No reason stated for being absent

problems (car breaks down, broken water pipe at home). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Custody issues or incarceration/arrest of a family member, • Cancellation of class on campus. • Time spent away from home required by a formal court order (such as shared custody of a child). 		
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ABSENCE NOTIFICATION

We understand that there may be circumstances where children may be out if they are ill, such as a family emergency, best interest days, etc. All absences are billable. The Río Hondo CDC office will track all absences (fee-based and subsidized) as this is a requirement by the Department of Education (CSPP) and the Department of Social Services (CCTR).

Please call the CDC office or add your child's absence to the digital M-sign portal by 9:00 a.m. on the day of your child's absence.

- ◆ The school office number is **562-908-3494**. When your child is absent, please specify the reason for the absence. There is also an answering machine so messages can be left the night before.
- ◆ Children who are sent home due to an illness or health issue must remain at home for 24 hours and may return to school once they are symptom-free. (*See Illness Policy)
- ◆ Children not attending school for more than **5 (five)** consecutive days because of illness must submit a "Return to School" notice from their health care provider indicating doctor approval to return to school.

ABANDONMENT OF CHILD CARE (18066.5)

When a child has been absent for 7 consecutive calendar days and has not notified the provider of the reason the family is not using services, abandonment of care is considered. Additionally, when the school personnel has made every effort to contact the parent and has been unsuccessful, services will be deemed abandoned by the parent/ guardian after 30 consecutive calendar days. Communication attempts will occur using the contact information on file, the contractor shall attempt to contact the parent through a variety of communication methods. At least one communication attempt shall be in writing, which may be through electronic methods. The CDC shall keep documentation of all communication attempts, including a copy of all written communication, in the family data file. The CDC will inform the parent in these communications that failure to communicate with the contractor or provider may result in the termination of early learning and care services. The CDC will provide/mail a Notice of Action to disenroll the parent/ guardian on the basis of abandonment of care.

EARLY PICK-UP & LATE DROP-OFF POLICY

It is imperative that children are dropped off and picked up on time, as this creates continuity and consistency in their routines. This policy applies to all families whether they are fee-based or subsidized. Please follow all contract hours as outlined in the Notice of Action. The following policy is outlined if children are dropped off after 9am without pre-approval and picked up after business hours at 5 p.m.:

1. **The first time the parent drops off late or picks up late**, a verbal reminder to the parent will be given as a courtesy. A signature from the Parent is required to document notification on behalf of the parent. The CDC will maintain this form on file.
2. **The second time the parent drops off late or picks up late**, a signature will be required to document notification on behalf of the parent. The CDC will maintain this form on file.
3. **The third time the parent drops off late or picks up late**, a signature will be required to document notification on behalf of the parent. The CDC will maintain this form on file and will schedule a meeting with the coordinator or director to discuss support options.
4. **The fourth time the parent drops off late or picks up late**, a signature will be required to document notification on behalf of the parent. After the fourth time, continued late drop-offs or late pick-ups may lead to

service termination.

**Pre-approval of late drop offs are given on a case by case basis, and may need a letter from a doctor or agency for the reason for late drop off.*

**Late pick-up that exceeds the center's business hours of 5 p.m. will be charged late fees. (*See late fees). A fee of \$10 will be assessed for the first 10 minutes, plus an additional \$1 for every minute after that. All late fees must be paid within a week of receiving the invoice.*

HEALTH AND SAFETY

DOCUMENTATION OF HEALTH & IMMUNIZATIONS

Upon enrollment, a parent/ guardian will be asked to submit a Physician's Report (LIC 701) and a copy of the child's immunization records. Before being admitted, a child shall be immunized against diseases as required by the California Code of Regulations: Title 17. A child can be "exempt" or excused from shots *only* if they have a temporary medical exemption. The following immunizations are required:

**One Hib dose must be given on or after the 1st birthday regardless of previous doses.*

If a child does not have all immunizations up to date, the parent/ guardian will be asked to obtain up-to-date immunizations before enrollment. If needed, the center will work with the families to help meet this requirement. Also, if a physical is not up to date, the family has 30 days to submit it from the day of enrollment. Failure to submit a physical may result in termination from the program.

2 years to 5 years	3 Polio	4 DTaP	3 Hepatitis B	1 Varicella
On or after 1st birthday:	1 Hib* and 1 MMR			

ILLNESS POLICY

If your child becomes ill while at school, we will notify you immediately. Parents/Guardians must arrange for their child to be picked up within an hour. All sick children will be isolated (in the Director's office) from the other children until they are picked up. According to our Illness Policy, if a child leaves school because of illness, the child will not be allowed to return to school until 24 hours have passed. Per the illness policy stated above, the child may return to school with a doctor's clearance after 5 consecutive days due to illness.

SYMPTOMS YOUR CHILD MUST REMAIN AT HOME UNTIL:

- **Fever-** 101° or above: 24 hours after the fever has subsided and the temperature returned to normal without medication.
- **Colds/Flu:** Thick yellow or green mucus discharge no longer drains from the nose, and coughing has subsided.
- **Diarrhea/Vomiting:** Loose stools have subsided, and the child has returned to normal eating without stomach upset for 24
- **Unexplained Rash:** Until the rash disappears, or it is determined that the rash is not contagious. "Not contagious" is determined by a written doctor's note.

OTHER COMMON CHILDHOOD ILLNESSES

PEDICULOSIS (HEAD LICE)

Head Lice is very common among preschool children and is a seasonal issue in temperate climates like California. When the weather is warm, the incidence increases. For children with head lice, the CDC will notify the parent/guardian, who will need to pick up the child. The CDC will provide parents/guardians with Treatment General Guidelines outlined by the Centers for Disease Control And Prevention (CDC). Children may return to school when there are no head lice or eggs present in the child's hair. Upon returning to school, a CDC staff member will recheck the child for eggs or lice.

COXSACKIEVIRUS (HAND, FOOT, AND MOUTH DISEASE)

Infection caused by Cocksackievirus is more common in summer and fall. If CDC staff find tiny blisters in the mouth, fingers, palms or hands, buttocks, and/or soles of feet, then the CDC will contact the parent/guardian. Additionally, common cold-like symptoms (sore throat, runny nose, cough, fever) may be present in some children. Children may return to school with a doctor's clearance indicating the child may return to school.

EPIDEMIC & OUTBREAKS

*The CDC will notify all families at the center of any epidemic or outbreak. The CDC will provide the parents with general guidelines on treatment and care as outlined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) including isolation guidance.

ALLERGIES

Please make sure the staff is aware of all allergies and that the applicable information is noted on the "Parent Consent for Administration of Medication" form and Child's Health History – Parents Report form. If your child has an allergy or a food restriction, the CDC staff will provide you with a "Medical Statement to Request Special Meals and/or Accommodations." Your child's physician must submit a completed form to the CDC. The CDC will make every attempt to make a meal accommodation. We cannot substitute the menu unless this form is complete. During the enrollment appointment, information is shared about meal accommodations. The child may not start the program unless the form for food accommodations is complete, as your child's health and safety are our priority.

MEDICATION POLICY

If your child requires medication (i.e., asthma, diabetes, food allergies, etc.). A parent must notify the CDC staff, and the following will occur:

1. The parent will obtain and complete the form- Parent Consent for Administration of Medication and Medication Chart (LIC 9221).
2. A prescription from the doctor indicating the medication prescribed by the physician
3. The parent will fill out the Individualized Plan for Incidental Medical Services (IMS), which outlines:
 - a. Procedure for administering medication
 - b. Precautions that CDC staff will follow when administering IMS.
 - c. What to do with unused and expired medication
 - d. When CDC staff will call 911 & when to notify the child's authorized representative.
 - e. Staff training.

Please note that your child may not begin at the center unless all emergency medication is onsite, paperwork is received, and staff is trained.

MEDICATION PROCEDURES

In the necessity for the administration of incidental medical services, such as Epi-Pen, Inhalers, or Nebulizers, the medication, whether prescription or non-prescription, can be given to children only when there is a note from their doctor AND written permission from Parents/Families. Medication may be given to a child during program hours if the parent completes the "Parent Consent for Administration of Medication" form. The form must contain dosage, method, and medication administration directions and possible side effects. The parent/guardian must bring the medication to the center in its original container along with tools to administer medication via syringes, medication cups, etc. After completing the form, a meeting with the parent/ or guardian and teaching staff will finalize the details of the medication administration process in the classroom.

The CDC staff must review the doctor's documentation and the medication container's instructions for accuracy. A designated teaching staff member will be responsible for giving the medicine to the child and keeping a dosage schedule. They should also be knowledgeable about the medication and any possible side effects.

Administrative staff will administer medication if the teaching staff is unavailable. The Director will designate available staff to administer the medication. The CDC will keep a log on the site indicating the time and person who

administered the medication. This form will be available for the parent or guardian to review anytime.

All medications must be stored out of the reach of children in a centralized locked cabinet. If the medication requires refrigeration, it must be stored and labeled. Assuring this storage is the responsibility of the designated teaching staff member who is giving the medications at the center.

****Over-the-counter medication will not be administered to any child by staff.***

ACCIDENTS WHILE AT SCHOOL

*As children are learning about the world around them, it is imperative that they explore their environment, and that may include taking risks. Developmentally, taking risks is healthy for young children as it allows them to develop confidence as they learn to deal with challenging situations.

If a child has an accident, the staff member who witnessed the accident will complete an "Incident Report." The CDC will place a copy of the incident report in the child's file and will give a copy to the parent.

Parents will be notified by phone of any accidents involving head injuries or severe bleeding. The child must be picked up within one hour of initial contact. If the CDC cannot reach the parent after several attempts, the Center will call emergency numbers on the Enrollment Card. State licensing requires the CDC to note/document any occurrence of unusual behavior and/or signs of illness in the child's file.

**Please keep emergency information (persons to contact and phone numbers) current on your child's Enrollment Card. Let a staff member know, if you will not be in the usual place.*

If a child is stung by a bee or gets a splinter, the CDC staff will not remove it. CDC staff will clean the affected area with soap, water, and ice for comfort. CDC staff will notify parents so they can decide on the treatment.

SANITATION POLICIES

Clean hands are the most effective way to keep illness out of our Center and away from your child. The first thing you will be asked to do everyday is help your child wash their hands. All adults and children need to wash hands with soap and water:

- upon entering the classroom,
- before handling food, after toileting,
- after assisting a child with toileting,
- after using a tissue.

Hand washing procedures are posted near the sinks. Remember to turn off the water using a paper towel, NOT YOUR CLEAN HANDS.

TOILETING

Only the program staff is allowed to assist children with toileting in the classroom restrooms. Other adults and children are not permitted in the classroom restrooms. A family restroom is available in the pavilion at the center and is also available for adult use. At drop-off and pick-up, please use the bathroom in the pavilion to assist an enrolled child with toileting or if their siblings have a toileting need.

Children will be supervised at all times while toileting. If the child is soiled, the staff will assist the child in changing themselves but generally will provide verbal assistance rather than direct physical assistance to protect the child and staff. The children and staff are required to wash their hands after toileting thoroughly.

Parents are required to provide diapers and wipes for their children.

Parents must ensure that the child has diapers in order for services to be rendered.

TOILET TRAINING

This is a monumental milestone for young children. Toilet training is an intricate process that requires time and patience, among other things, as this will ensure that the overall experience is good for the child and parent.

How do you know if your child is ready to be toilet trained?

1. Child is uncomfortable in a soiled diaper.
2. Children may be able to follow simple directions.
3. Child is often dry when changing a diaper.
4. Child pulls down & up bottoms.
5. Child seems to be interested in the toilet.
6. Nighttime dryness

Techniques Used:

1. Be familiar with the words the child describes when they need to use the potty.
2. Check in with family to ensure consistency at home and school
3. Begin to use pull-ups
4. Invite children to sit on the potty.
5. Reading books, songs, and playing games support children through potty training.
6. Invite children throughout the day to use the potty (i.e., before lunch, after nap time, after snack, etc.).

At the CDC children will never be forced to sit on a toilet; they will be encouraged to use it. Children will always be supervised by a staff member while using the toilet.

NUTRITION

The RHCCDC participates in the California Department of Social Services, Child and Adult Care Food Program(CACFP). Families must fill out a food application each school year for continued funding. As a state funded program, the Child Development Center and lab, does not charge for food, including breakfast, snacks and/or lunch. The CDC serves hot, nutritious meals that comply with the Child and Adult Care Food Program guidelines.

RHCCDC is a nut-free school. For this reason, we ask that parents do not bring food from home, as we ensure all food purchased has no nuts.

Per Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this agency is prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410, (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD).

**USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

Our program recognizes and respects all families' personal and religious beliefs. If your child has a food restriction due to a personal and/or religious belief, we will work with you to accommodate reasonable requests. (See allergies section)

NAPPING (101230)

During a 2-hour period, children are given an opportunity to rest daily. Children are never forced to sleep but are encouraged to rest quietly. A napping space, cot, blankets, and sheets are provided for your child. No child shall be forced to stay awake or to stay in the napping area longer than the normal napping period. Children who are not sleeping are provided with alternative, quiet activities such as books, puzzles, drawing journals, etc.

CENTER SAFETY

Happiness is feeling safe. The first responsibility of all center staff, participating adults, and visiting students is to provide a safe indoor and outdoor environment for children and adults at the CDC. Disorderly conduct, verbal abuse, or profanity towards anyone present at the program may cause termination of services.

We aim to keep all traffic pattern areas free of objects (blocks, toys, paper towels, etc.) and ensure that all spills are wiped up immediately. CDC Staff conducts an environment parameter check for any unsafe materials. Children are encouraged to wipe up their own spills and to pick up what they have dropped.

If, at any time, you are concerned about the safety of a particular situation, please ask your Child Development Teacher or Director.

RULES OF CONDUCT

The CDC prohibits the following behavior on its premises. Any parent/guardian or authorized representative who displays

any of these behaviors may be prohibited from participating in a CDC related activity.

- No child or adult will be physically abused, including shaking, grabbing, hitting, pushing, etc., at the CDC or at a CDC related activity.
- No child or adult will be verbally abused or harassed and no adult will use profane or obscene language at the CDC or at a CDC related activity.
- No alcoholic beverages will be allowed at the CDC. No child will be released to anyone who appears intoxicated.
- No illegal drugs will be allowed at the CDC or at a CDC related activity. Any prescribed or over-the-counter medications must be out of reach of children at all times. No child will be released to anyone who appears to be under the influence of drugs.
- Smoking is prohibited at the CDC or at a CDC related activity.
- Theft or damage of CDC property is prohibited.

Failure to follow these rules of conduct will result in dismissal from the program.

SUPERVISION

There are many important things that we do at the Child Development Center, but the most important task, the one that makes all of the parent, student and child learning possible is to keep the children in our care safe. The #1 way we keep children safe is by making sure that all children are observed by an adult at all times. For Parents/Families this can be very different from home, where we trust that the children out of our sight in the living room or back yard are safe. At school Parents/Families and teachers work together to make sure that all of the children are watched while at play.

The following is a list of reminders for when you are working in the classroom with children at our Center.

- If you are assigned an area to watch, know that you are assisting to watch all of the children who enter that area.
- Know that you are not alone, the teachers and other Parents/Families are working with you as a team to keep all of the children safe.
- Alert the nearest teacher if there are too few or too many children in your area--they will find assistance for you or ask you to assist in watching a nearby area as well.
- If you are watching a particular area, it is up to you to enforce safety limits. For example, if you observe a child riding a bike without shoes, don't wait for someone else to set a limit with them--stop them and let the child know you will hold their bike for them while they get their shoes.

SUNSCREEN

It is strongly recommended that children wear sunscreen to prevent sunburn. Parents/Families should apply sunscreen of SPF 15 or higher before children come to school. Staff will reapply sunscreen, with parent permission, if the parent supplies a contactless or spray sunscreen bottle labeled with the child's name after nap time.

USING WHEELED EQUIPMENT

Each child is encouraged to wear a bicycle helmet while riding on any wheeled equipment and must wear shoes. The CDC does not provide knee or elbow pads. Like the importance of establishing healthy eating habits, establishing safe practices early in life can make an important difference in lifelong safety.

SMOKING & DRUG-FREE ENVIRONMENT

Our program has a NO SMOKING policy on any part of the property, including the parking lot. Smoking is also not permitted on field trips. Our program will not tolerate drug use, which may jeopardize the employees' and children's health and well-being. This includes



- ◆ Illegal or Prescription Drugs
- ◆ Controlled Substances
- ◆ Alcohol
- ◆ Smoking

Our smoke and drug-free environment includes all areas around the school and on field trips. By law, if a parent is under the

substance of any drug, the CDC will not release the child, and another person on the emergency contact list will be contacted. If the CDC cannot contact anyone, then the CDC will contact the Whittier Police Department.

MANDATED CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT REPORTING

Effective January 1, 1985, the child abuse reporting law in the State of California requires all employees who work in positions where they may observe suspected child abuse victims to sign a statement acknowledging such a reporting requirement and consent to abide by it. All staff will report any and all suspected child abuse and maintain confidentiality. By law, the staff is not required to inform parents of any reports. All staff are required to take the Mandated Reporter training every two years as required by law AB 1432.

ADULTS AUTHORIZED TO PICK UP

Any adult (age 18 or older) authorized on the Enrollment Card by the enrolling parent. A photo I.D. will be required. Authorization for Pick-Up – Your child will only be released to authorized individuals. Initial authorization must be made on the Identification and Emergency Information and/or Enrollment Card form provided. Any changes to this form must be made in writing, either to add or delete an individual. When an authorized person arrives at the center for pick-up for the first time, his or her photo ID will be checked at the reception area and the child's file checked to verify information. This can occur for the first several visits as staff becomes acquainted with the new person, so please ask those assisting you with pick-up to be patient with us and always have their ID ready. All persons authorized to pick up your child must be at least 18 years of age. If an unauthorized person should arrive at the CDC, the parent will be called immediately, and the child will not be released except to an authorized individual. If necessary, the Whittier Police Department will be notified. If a parent or other authorized person arrives to pick up a child and appears in the judgment of the staff in any way to be intoxicated or under the influence of drugs, the Whittier Police Department will be called immediately. A child will not be released to any person under the influence of alcohol or drugs. The CDC staff will attempt to call someone from the child's emergency list to pick up your child.

LEGAL CUSTODY

If you are experiencing custody difficulties, we strongly urge you to keep the CDC director and staff fully advised of circumstances that might affect the CDC and your child. It is the responsibility of the Parent to keep the authorized list of people allowed to pick up a child current and accurate. Unless legal documentation is submitted to the contrary, the CDC assumes that both Parents/Families listed have equal rights to drop off and pick up a child. If there is a change in legal custody and one parent is granted sole custody of your child, and the other parent is no longer authorized to pick up your child, you must inform the Center of this fact and provide the Center Manager with a copy of the court order confirming custody. The copy will be placed in the child's file, and we will follow the court's instructions.

SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDELINES & BOUNDARIES

For the safety of all children, we ask all families to refrain from sharing and/or posting children and staff images without prior consent to any social media sites. Additionally, we ask that you please refrain from "friending" staff members through social media. We want to establish these boundaries to maintain a professional environment. We ask you to respect these boundaries and guidelines to help us protect our school community. All families signed a media release and consent form during enrollment, acknowledging these guidelines. The CDC asks each family to sign a photo release, allowing the CDC to use photographs or other images of children/ adult students for documentation, art projects, displays, the CDC website and school promotional materials. As a model lab school at the college, observing students sometimes photograph children as part of their class assignments. If you are opposed to having your child's image used in any way, please make note of this on your CDC contract/paperwork.

PARKING LOT SAFETY

Please practice extreme caution while driving or walking to and from the Center. Hold children's hands, use crosswalks where available, and model safe practices for your child. When car-pooling, keep your adult-child ratios safe, and discuss and agree on safety rules with adults and children. During hot days, please do not leave your cars idling (running) in the parking lot. It is recommended that children under 100 pounds ride in the back seat away from air bags.

Never leave any child alone in the car!
NO matter how short the time! It is not only unsafe, but illegal.

Always watch for children and moving vehicles!

EVACUATION & EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

In an emergency/epidemic outbreak, it may be necessary to evacuate the center completely. If necessary, the CDC center staff will take your child to student Parking Lot C until it is safe for you to come and pick up your child. Your child's safety and well-being are our primary concerns. All public employees are declared emergency disaster service workers during an emergency/disaster. Please be assured that we will take care of your child.

As part of your enrollment process, we ask that all families provide an emergency kit, including emergency clothes and a family portrait for your child. The CDC staff will keep the emergency kit in a safe place for one year and provide a list of emergency kit items upon enrollment. The kit will be returned to you at the end of each school year or when your child leaves the program. Our program will utilize unclaimed kits or donate them to other charitable organizations.

The CDC provides an emergency supply of water and food during an emergency. The program also performs monthly evacuation, lockdown, active shooter, fire, and earthquake drills. An Evacuation Plan is available for viewing on the Parent Bulletin Board, in the Office, and near the entry doors in each classroom. At least one staff member with pediatric first aid, including rescue breathing, is always present. All staff must have current CPR and First Aid training. First Aid kits are readily available in each classroom and are maintained monthly. A Defibrillator is located in the front office, and the staff has been trained to use this equipment.

ENROLLMENT AND ADMISSION PROCEDURES

ENROLLMENT PROCESS

Certification of Enrollment

The enrollment process is the same for both subsidized and private pay families. If a family meets eligibility and needs criteria, the next step is to certify their enrollment into the program. Before certification is complete, Parents/Families must complete necessary enrollment forms and bring in relevant documentation. An application for services will be completed by staff in consultation with the Parent/Family. Once certified, a family is eligible for not less than 24 months. **Exceptions:**

- Families who are certified as income eligible & during their certification period, their income exceeds (CCTR 85%)/(CSPP 100%) of the state median income (SMI)
- Families who do not follow agency policy (Attendance policy, delinquent fees, etc.).

Required Documentation

Each need and eligibility criterion requires distinct documentation for verification. Center Administrative Staff will let you know what documentation your family will need in order to complete the enrollment process. No family will be enrolled until all required forms are completed and all required documents are submitted.

Documentation and Determination of Family Size **(5 CCR 18100 and 18083)**

The CDC shall use the information provided on the application for services to determine family size. A parent shall provide the parents' names and the names, gender, and birthdates of children under 18 in the family. The parent shall provide supporting documentation regarding the number of children and parents in the family. The number of children shall be documented by providing one of the following documents, as applicable:

- a. Birth certificates;
- b. Court orders regarding child custody;
- c. Adoption documents;
- d. Records of Foster Care placements;
- e. School or medical records;
- f. County welfare department records; or
- g. Other reliable documentation indicates the relationship of the child to the parent.

****When only one parent has signed an application for enrollment and the information provided indicates there is a second parent who has not signed the application.***

Total Countable Income (5 CCR 18078 and 18084, 18096)

The parent is responsible for providing documentation of the family's total countable income. For consistent income it is the one to two month window and for inconsistent or intermittent income it is 12 months worth of income. The RHC CDC staff is required to verify the information for all the individuals counted in the family size, as described below:

- | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| • Gross Salary/ Wages | • Child Support | • Financial Assistance for |
| • Public Assistance | • Survivor Benefits | Child |
| • Disability/ Unemployment | • Retirement Benefits | • Veterans Pension |
| • Workers Compensation | • Dividends/ Interests | • Annuity/ Pension |
| • Spousal Support | • Rental Income | • Inheritance |

- Housing Included in Pay
- Grants/Scholarships Living Expenses
- Insurance Settlements
- Auto included in Pay
- Net Gain From Property
- Other Income

Changes in Status

As a participating parent, you must notify the CDC when your income exceeds 85% (CCTR)/100% (CSPP) of the SMI within 30 days. Parents/Families have the right to voluntarily report changes in order to

- Reduce family fees
- Disenroll from the program due to no longer needing services
- Change service schedule (days and/or hours of service).

Recertification of Enrollment

After initial certification and enrollment, the CDC shall verify eligibility and need and recertify each family/child once each contract period at intervals not less than twenty four (24) months.

Notice of Action

A Notice of Action will be sent to Parents/Families to:

- 1) inform them of the agency's decision to approve or deny services;
- 2) when any changes are made to the service agreement.

- Application for Services –Approving or Denying Services (5 CCR 18081, 18083, 18094, and 18095)
- After initial certification, a decision to approve or deny services will be communicated to the family through a written NOA, Application for Services, in accordance with 5 CCR 18118.
- Instructions for the parent(s) on how to request a hearing if they disagree with the contractor's decision as stated in the NOA, Application for Services in accordance with procedures specified in 5 CCR 18120 and 18121 and the Due Process section.
- An appeal process is clearly defined on the back of the Notice of Action and explains how to appeal the agency's decision. It is not connected to certification or recertification of families. [CCTR Appeal](#) (English)(Spanish)
- If a parent/ guardian proceeds with an appeal, the Notice of Action must be completed, signed, and returned to: 3600 Workmill Rd., Whittier, CA 90601, 562- 908-3494. Please address the appeal to Cindy O'Neill, Director of the Río Hondo College CDC.

SUBSIDIZED CARE INFORMATION

The California Department of Education/Early Education Division (CDE/EED) and California Department of Social Service (CDSS) funds a portion of our full day programs. According to the State Funding Terms and Conditions for Child Development Programs, fees are assessed based upon the family's adjusted gross monthly income, family size, need and contract for services provided. Most families enrolled at the CDC will have to meet CDE/EED or CDSS eligibility requirements in order to qualify for services.

ELIGIBILITY AND NEED CRITERIA

The CDC offers subsidized services to families who meet eligibility criteria and who demonstrate a need for child care.

Subsidized Eligible Enrollment

RHC CDC uses the most recently approved [family fee schedule](#) prepared and issued by the California Department of Education and California Department of Social Services when determining whether a family fee is applicable and the amount of a family's fee. The following factors determine the fee for each family: *Please refer to the countable income section for all countable income.

1. The total adjusted monthly family income;
2. Family size;
3. The certified family need, based on the total number of hours approved.

Eligibility and Need Criteria

Eligibility is based on either family or child eligibility. Parent's/Guardian's must provide documentation of eligibility in 1 or more of these categories: **Families** must meet one of the following eligibility criteria in order to qualify for services:

- **Public Assistance** – The family is a public assistance recipient
- **Income** – The family meets state income guidelines based on family size and income
- **Homelessness** – The family is experiencing homelessness
- **Categorical-** Medi-Cal •CalFresh •California Food Assistance Program •California Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) •The Federal Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations •Head Start •Early Head Start

-OR-

Child must meet one of the following eligibility criteria in order to qualify for services:

- **Child Protective Services** – The child has an open case and is receiving Child Protective Services (CPS).
- **At-risk of abuse, neglect, or exploitation**– The child has been identified as at-risk of abuse, neglect or exploitation.
- **Child has an identified disability and is receiving services (IEP/IFSP)* CSPP ONLY**

Need Criteria for Full Day Program

Parents/Guardians, and all adults in the family's household, must meet and provide documentation of at least one of the following need criteria:

- **Employment** – a family member must be employed and employment must be verifiable. If the parent (or any other adult counted in the family unit) works in the home, the nature of the work must preclude supervision of the family's children. Therefore, child care providers are not eligible for child care services.
- **Seeking Employment** – Child care services for the purpose of seeking employment may occur:
 1. No more than 5 days per week
 2. Less than 30 hours per week
- **Vocational Training** – a parent may participate in a training or education program leading directly to a recognized trade, paraprofessional, or profession.
 - Continued eligibility under this need criterion is contingent upon Parents/Families meeting certain academic progress requirements. The Center Administrative Staff will provide additional information as needed.
- **Engaged in an Educational Program** –Parents/Families engaged in an educational program for English Language Learners (ELL) or a program to attain a high school diploma or general educational development (GED) certificate.
- **Seeking Permanent Housing** – Parents/Families need time to seek permanent housing for family stability. Child care services for the purpose of seeking permanent housing may occur:

1. No more than 5 days per week
 2. Less than 30 hours per week
- **Homelessness** – Documentation must include a referral letter from a legal, medical, or social services agency.
 - **Parental Incapacitation** – The temporary or permanent inability of the child's Parent(s)/Family to provide care & supervision of the child for part of the day due to a physical or mental health condition.
 1. No more than 5 days per week
 2. Less than 50 hours per week
 - **Welfare to Work Activities (CalWORKs programs)**
 - **No need** - last enrollment priority **CSPP ONLY*

ENROLLMENT PRIORITIES (18106)

(CSPP PRIORITIES)

- *Education Code* sections 8210(a) and 8211(a) specify that the first priority for CSPP enrollment must be families with children who are receiving child protective services, or children who are at risk of abuse, neglect, or exploitation. Second priority for services is for children with exceptional needs whose family's income is below the income eligibility threshold. After the first two priorities, families must be enrolled following *EC* sections 8210 and 8211 and use the Income Ranking Table when enrollment priority is based on income ranking. Beginning July 1, 2024, at least 5 percent of a CSPP (Preschool) funded enrollment must be reserved for children with exceptional needs.
- **Beginning January 1, 2023:** Families who have a member of their household who is certified to receive benefits from Medi-Cal, CalFresh, the California Food Assistance Program, the California Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, the federal Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations, Head Start, Early Head Start, or any other designated means-tested government program, as determined by the department, will be categorically eligible. The CDE has determined that CalWORKs is a means-tested government program that families can use also under this provision to get categorical eligibility. **(New eligibility category beginning January 1, 2023)**

(CCTR PRIORITIES)

1. First priority:

- a. Must be given to families whose children are recipients of child protective services, or who are at risk of being neglected, abused or exploited or at risk of being neglected, abused, or exploited, upon written referral from a legal, medical, or social services agency.
- b. Within the first priority for services children receiving protective services through the local county welfare department shall be enrolled before children identified as at risk of being neglected or abused, or exploited.
- c. If an agency is unable to enroll a child in this first priority category, the agency shall refer the child's parent or guardian to local resources and referral services so that services for the child can be located.

2. Second Priority

- a. All children and families who are not within the first priority for admission shall be admitted in accordance with family income, with the lowest income ranked families admitted first.

b. Eligible families whose primary home language is a language other than English after families that have a child with exceptional needs when two or more families have the same priority.

c. For purposes of determining the order of admission, families with the lowest gross monthly income in relation to family size as determined by the income ranking schedule adopted by the CDSS shall be admitted first. Public assistance grants are counted as income.

d. When two or more families have the same income ranking, the family that has a child with exceptional needs shall be admitted first.

e. If there is no family of the same income ranking with a child with exceptional needs, the family with the same income ranking that has been on the waiting list the longest shall be admitted first.

WAITING LIST AND SIBLING PRIORITIES (18106- CSPP & CCTR)

Applicants will be contacted in order of priority from the waiting list as vacancies occur. Families shall be enrolled following the admission priorities above. Eligibility factors determine the ranking for subsidized services established by the California Department of Education (CDE).

Children are not enrolled on a first-come, first-served basis. Siblings of children currently enrolled in the CDC will receive special consideration, but no guarantee is made that siblings will be enrolled.

RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT

A child must live in the State of California to receive services. Any evidence of a street address or post office address in California will be sufficient to establish residency. A person identified as homeless pursuant to section 18078(h)(2) is exempted from this requirement and shall submit a declaration of intent to reside in California.

The determination of eligibility for child care and development services shall be without regard to the immigration status of the child or the child's parent(s).

RECERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT

(a) Families shall be recertified for services by the contractor no later than 50 calendar days following the last day of the 24-month certification period, which starts with the day the agency's authorized representative signed the last application for services.

(b) In order to recertify families, the contractor's authorized representative shall:

(1) Notify the parent in writing in the final 30 days of the 24-month certification period, which starts with the day the contractor's authorized representative signed the last application for services, of:

(A) The requirement that the families be recertified in order to receive ongoing services;

(B) The date that the recertification must be completed by;

(C) The recertification appointment date, which can be no earlier than one day following the last day of the 24-month certification period;

(D) Information on the recertification process;

(E) Required information/documentation needed for the recertification appointment; and

(F) A telephone contact number and an optional email address in the event the parent may have any questions regarding the recertification process.

(2) Recertify or deny each family's/child's eligibility and need for early learning and care services after reviewing the completed application and documentation contained in the family data file, as provided for in chapter 19, subchapter 3, (commencing with section [18077](#)); and

(3) Issue a Notice of Action pursuant to section [18095](#) to recertify eligibility for services or disenroll the family.

(c) Once recertified as eligible to receive services, except as otherwise provided in law or regulation, the contractor shall consider the family to meet all eligibility and/or need requirements for 24 months, at which point the family's eligibility and/or need must be recertified as set forth in this section.

(d) When a family is recertified as income eligible, the contractor shall at the same time provide notice to the family of the requirement to report if their income exceeds the income threshold, as provided in section 18082.2.

Potentials Changes Identified during Recertification:

(e) Except as otherwise provided for in law or regulation, disenrollment cannot occur prior to the end of the 24-month certification period, even if disqualifying information is discovered during the preliminary collection of documentation for recertification, with the following exceptions:

(1) When the recalculation of income, pursuant to section 18082.2, based on the provided documentation indicates that the family's adjusted monthly income, adjusted for family size, exceeds the income threshold set forth in Education Code section 8263.1 and the family does not meet the requirements for another eligibility basis pursuant to section [18083](#); or

(2) When the parent changes residency outside of California, as reported by the parent; or

(3) When there is substantiated evidence of fraud that invalidates the initial certification or recertification; or

(4) When the family has abandoned care pursuant to section 18066.5.

(f) Families disenrolled prior to the last day of the 24-month initial certification or recertification period shall be issued a Notice of Action for disenrollment pursuant to section [18095](#).

(g) The contractor shall make every effort to make the recertification process convenient for families by providing early morning, evening, weekend appointments, or appointments at alternative locations as needed. The contractor may use technology to complete the recertification process if there is no reasonable way for the family to complete the process in person.

(h) Per California Code, Education Code 8214, If families have to be disenrolled from subsidized preschool services, families shall be disenrolled in reverse priority order for services, as specified in Sections 8210 and 8211, as applicable.

MISLEADING INFORMATION

Fraudulent, false, incomplete, deceitful or misleading information provided to the Río Hondo College Child Development Center regarding status of income, family size, employment, seeking employment, school/training program enrollment, and /or medical incapacitation that is used to determine initial or ongoing eligibility for subsidized child care services or parent fees, may be grounds for termination of childcare services. Families who provide misleading information to obtain services will be removed from the waiting list and may not reapply for services for six months.

FAMILY FEES, TUITION, AND LATE FEES (5 CCR 18108, 18109)

Fee-Based Enrollment Tuition Rates for Private Pay Families

\$237.50 per week Monday through Friday/Full time

Families who do not qualify for subsidized programs may enroll in the Fee Based Program, provided space is available.

***Tuition rates may be increased annually at the beginning of each fiscal year (July 1) or at other times of the year, to cover the costs of increased expenses. Parents/families will receive a minimum of one month's notice of tuition increase.*

**Please note: Need and eligibility criteria do not apply to fee-based families.*

Family Fees

In accordance with EC 8273 families will be assessed a flat monthly fee at the time of initial certification and only be reassessed when a family is recertified or when the family data file is updated due to a self-reported change in income. Fees will be assessed and collected in accordance with California Code of Regulations, Title 5 (5 CCR) Section 17734 (CSPP) and (5 CCR) Section 18109 (CCTR). Disclaimer: Collection of fees subject to change. Families will be assessed only at certification, recertification, or request of parents, either a flat monthly full-time fee or part-time fee, based on hours of care certified for the month, income, and family size. Families with a certified need of 130 hours or more per month will be assessed a full-time fee. Contractors cannot, under any circumstances, recalculate fees based on a child's actual attendance.

Billing

Tuition for subsidized and fee-based families is due on the 7th of each month. Our operating budget is set up on a 12-month basis, divided into 51 segments. Río Hondo College CDC does not offer any credits for holidays, sick days, or vacation days. On the 20th of each month, bills for the following month are issued. Payments are due in ADVANCE of services. Parent/guardian may make payments at the Río Hondo College Cashier's Office or by using the online Family Portal.

Delinquent Fees

If payment has not been received by seven calendar days after the due date, a Notice of Action (NOA) with a termination of services date will be given to the family. All past-due fees must be paid by the date on the NOA to avoid termination. All payments must be made at the Cashier's Office.

Payment Plans

Payment plans must be agreed upon, prior to billing due dates. All payments must be made at the Cashier's Office. Failure to make payments may result in termination of services.

No Refund Policy

The Child Development Center has a "No Refund" policy for fees paid. Please note that there is no credit/ refund on family fees paid for any type of absence including but not limited to illness, family emergency, best interest, vacation, etc. Additionally, there are no refunds for unforeseen or unexpected closures. All paid fees are final and there will be no refunds or adjustments issued for any situation. Furthermore, Río Hondo College does not distribute refunds for any paid fees.

Other Fees (Late Pick-up)

The center's business hours are from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The CDC will charge late fees for hours of care that exceed the center's business hours. The child development center closes at 5 *pm* each day. Río Hondo College procedures and state **Title 22 regulations** require that we notify the proper authorities if you are more than one-hour late picking up your child and we have not received any communication from you. The CDC is required to contact the Whittier Police Department if need be. Please make every effort to pick your child up on time. **A fee of \$10.00 will be assessed for the first 10 minutes, plus an additional \$1 for every minute after that.** All late fees must be paid within a week of receiving the invoice.

TERMINATION POLICY

Either the parent or the RHC Child Development Center may initiate termination of services. A **two-week** notice must be given by the parent when terminating services. An Notice of Action and "Exit form" must be used to give notice of termination. If the parent does not provide a two-week notice, the parent will be charged the required fees for child care for the two weeks. All fees must be paid during that billing period.

Río Hondo College Child Development Center/Lab School aims to provide opportunities for every child/family enrolled in the program to be successful. Nevertheless, some situations may cause the termination of a child's enrollment in the program. These situations are as follows:

1. Excessive late child pick-up, absences, or absences without notification to the Center.
2. Providing fraudulent information at the time of enrollment regarding eligibility information, i.e., income, family size, family situation, etc.
3. Disorderly conduct, verbal abuse, or profanity towards anyone present at the program may cause termination of services. See Center Safety.

Additional grounds for termination of enrollment include but are not limited to Guidelines, Fees & Contract:

- Failure to provide necessary paperwork such as recertification paperwork requested to determine need and eligibility criteria or falsifying paperwork.
- Failure to make fee payments in a timely manner. (Please communicate with us if you are experiencing financial difficulties)
- Failure to continuously complete attendance records such as signing in/out.
- If services are abandoned by the family, as stated in the abandonment policy above.
- Failure of parent/guardian to continuously pick up their child from school outside business hours.

Parents/Guardians Conduct:

- Disorderly conduct that threatens the mental and physical wellbeing of the children and/or staff.
- Parents swearing, cursing, calling staff out of their name, or using foul language towards staff or others, specifically in front of children.

- Verbal or written harassment toward other parents, their children, and/or staff.
- Arguing or mistreating children and/or staff.
- Using drugs, alcohol, or tobacco.

Families who have fees are still responsible for any balance on their account until written notice is received. Failure to pay could result in grades, transcripts, diplomas, and registration privileges, or any combination thereof, will be withheld from any student or former student who has been provided with written notice that he/she has failed to pay a proper financial obligation. Any item(s) withheld shall be released when the student satisfactorily meets the financial obligation.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

Río Hondo College follows the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, which prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in employment, public services, including public and private transportation, public accommodations, and telecommunication services. Our program welcomes all children and does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, religion, age, disability, medical condition, marital status, ancestry or national origin, sexual orientation, and status as a Vietnam-era veteran. We strive to make reasonable accommodations for children. If it is determined that this program cannot meet the needs of a child, we work with the family to find an appropriate placement.

NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY

The program intends to fully comply with all applicable state and federal laws and regulations. Individuals, agencies, organizations, students, and interested third parties have the right to file a complaint regarding the Río Hondo College Child Development Center's alleged violation of federal and/or state laws. This includes allegations of unlawful discrimination (ED Code sections 200 and 220 and Government Code section 11135) in any program or activity funded directly by the State or receiving federal or state financial assistance. Complaints must be signed and filed in writing with the State Department of Education at the following address: Early Education and Support Division Complaint Director, 130 N. Street, Suite 34-10, Sacramento, CA 95841, 916-322-6233

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

1. mail:
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
2. fax:
(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. email:
Program.Intake@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

12/09/2022 obtained from:
<https://www.fns.usda.gov/civil-rights/usda-nondiscrimination-statement-other-fns-programs>

PARENTS' RIGHTS (LIC 995)

As a Parent/Authorized Representative, you have the right to

1. Enter and inspect the child care center without advance notice whenever children are in care.
2. File a complaint against the licensee with the licensing office and review the licensee's public file kept by the licensing office.
3. Review, at the child care center, reports of licensing visits and substantiated complaints against the licensee during the last three years.
4. Complain to the licensing office and inspect the child care center without discrimination or retaliation against you or your child.
5. Request in writing that a parent not be allowed to visit your child or take your child from the child care center, provided you have shown a certified copy of a court order.
6. Receive from the licensee the name, address, and telephone number of the local licensing office.
Licensing Office Name: Department of Social Service
Licensing Office Address: 1000 Corporate Center Dr., Suite 200B, Monterey Park, AC 91754
Licensing Office Telephone #: 323-981-3350
7. Be informed by the licensee, upon request, of the name and type of association to the child care center for any adult who has been granted a criminal record exemption, and that the name of the person may also be obtained by contacting the local licensing office.
8. Receive, from the licensee, the Caregiver Background Check Process form.

NOTE: CALIFORNIA STATE LAW PROVIDES THAT THE LICENSEE MAY DENY ACCESS TO THE CHILD CARE CENTER TO A PARENT/AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE IF THE BEHAVIOR OF THE PARENT/AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE POSES A RISK TO CHILDREN IN CARE.

For the Department of Justice "Registered Sex Offender" database, go to www.meganslaw.ca.gov

PERSONAL RIGHTS (LIC 613A)

Child Care Centers Personal Rights. See Section 101223 for waiver conditions applicable to Child Care Centers.

- (a) Child Care Centers. Each child receiving services from a Child Care Center shall have rights which include but are not limited to the following:
- (1) To be accorded dignity in their personal relationships with staff and other persons.
 - (2) To be accorded safe, healthful, and comfortable accommodations, furnishings, and equipment to meet their needs.
 - (3) To be free from corporal or unusual punishment, infliction of pain, humiliation, intimidation, ridicule, coercion, threat, mental abuse, or other actions of a punitive nature, including but not limited to: interference with daily living functions, including eating, sleeping, or toileting; or withholding of shelter, clothing, medication or aids to physical functioning.
 - (4) To be informed and to have their authorized representative, if any, informed by the licensee of the provisions of law regarding complaints, including, but not limited to, the address and telephone number of the complaint receiving unit of the licensing agency and information regarding confidentiality.
 - (5) To be free to attend religious services or activities of their choice and to have visits from the spiritual advisor of their choice. Attendance at religious services, either in or outside the facility, shall be on a completely voluntary basis. In Child Care Centers, decisions concerning attendance at religious services or visits from spiritual advisors shall be made by the child's parent(s) or guardian(s).
 - (6) Not to be locked in any room, building, or facility premises by day or night.
 - (7) Not to be placed in any restraining device, except a supportive restraint approved in advance by the licensing agency.

THE REPRESENTATIVE/PARENT/GUARDIAN HAS THE RIGHT TO BE INFORMED OF THE APPROPRIATE LICENSING AGENCY TO CONTACT REGARDING COMPLAINTS, WHICH IS:

Name: Department of Social Service

Licensing Office Address: 1000 Corporate Center Dr., Suite 200B, Monterey Park, AC 91754

Licensing Office Telephone #: 323-981-3350

THANK YOU AND WELCOME TO Río HONDO CDC

The Child Development Center would like to thank you in advance for taking the time to select our school to help your child grow and develop to become a lifelong learner. We would like to welcome you to come and visit or volunteer in the classroom or for any special events. Working together, we can make a difference in your children's lives.

**All policies and procedures in this Family Handbook are subject to change. You will receive addendums as needed.*

**Family Handbook revisions were made in collaboration with the Río Hondo College Child Development Center Admin Team and Dean of Behavioral and Social Sciences.*

Receipt of Family Handbook and Enrollment Information Sign-Off Sheet

Child's Name: _____ Birthdate: _____

Child's Name: _____ Birthdate: _____

I have participated in an enrollment orientation and received e-mailed materials from the Parent Handbook. I agree to read the Family Handbook carefully and keep the document readily available for future reference regarding the Child Development Center Policies and Procedures. I agree that I am responsible for adhering to the Child Development Center's Policies and Procedures.

___ I have received a family handbook and have read all policies and procedures.

___ I agree to follow all policies and procedures outlined in the family handbook.

___ I agree to follow the pick-up & drop-off policy.

___ I agree to follow the illness policy if my child is ill.

___ I agree that if my child's behavior seriously threatens the health and safety of him/herself or other children at the center, my services may be terminated. Every effort will be made on behalf of the CDC to ensure that the child's needs are met.

___ I attest under penalty of perjury that all the information on my application forms are true and correct.

*Please initial next to each statement above and sign an acknowledgment below.

Parent / Guardian Name: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Staff/ Name: _____

Date: _____

Staff Signature: _____

Date: _____